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1 September 2010

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Praise the Lord! We are blessed to be able to study God's Word. You will have the opportunity to have God speak to you personally from His Word this month. When He does speak to you make sure to remember what He says because He is speaking to you because He loves you.

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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Wednesday September 1

Scripture Reading: Psalms 148-150
1 Corinthians 11:16-34

Praise the Lord! We are blessed. Psalms 71:3 says, **Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.** Do you see why I said we are blessed? God is our rock and we know it! Lots of people know they need help but they don't know where to turn. We know that God is the One who can and will help us. I also really like the part of this verse that tells us that we can always go to God for help!

In our reading from 1 Corinthians 11, Paul wrote about Communion. Look at verse 26, **For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.** We probably shouldn't need to be reminded of what Jesus did for us on the cross but we often do. You see, we live in the world and we sometimes get worn down. The world and worldly people certainly aren't reminding us of Spiritual truths so we have get what we need from God.

So, God gives us Communion as a time when we can slow down and really think about all that He has done for us. Jesus willingly laid down His life for us. He allowed His body to be broken and His blood to be shed. He did all these things because He loves us and He wants us to be blessed. We can have healing, forgiveness of sins and all of His benefits because He paid the price for our sins on the cross. Keep those things in mind when you are taking Communion.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You are my fortress and I am thankful that I can always run to You. I know that I need the stability only You can bring to my life. I also thank You for Communion. I am so blessed because of all that You have provided for me. Please continue to teach me Your ways and help me to really live for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Thursday September 2

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 1-2
1 Corinthians 12**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:4 says, **Deliver me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of evil and cruel men.** Deliverance, real deliverance, comes from God. Some people probably never get set free because they never turn to the One Who could really set them free. John 8:31-32 say, **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."** Real deliverance comes from God!

1 Corinthians 12, talks about Spiritual gifts. Verse 1 says, **Follow the way of love and eagerly desire Spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.** For today, I only want to emphasize the part of this verse where it says we are to desire Spiritual gifts. You see, some people teach that the gifts have passed away and others teach that they are more trouble than they are worth. Paul said we should desire them!

The last verse of the chapter says, **But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.** Again, I want you to notice that Paul tells us to eagerly desire the gifts. So, here's my point. We should desire (and eagerly desire) Spiritual gifts. Matthew 7:11 says, **If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!** God only has good gifts for us.

Prayer: Lord, I am glad for all the freedom You have given me and I want more. I am going to continue in Your Word and Your ways because I know that doing those things will bring me more freedom. I also want to be a doer of Your Word. So, I ask You to give me the gifts of the Spirit. I know they are good because they come from You and I trust You with every aspect of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday September 3

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3-4
1 Corinthians 13**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:5 says, **For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.** I hope you have been living for God a long time. People who have should possess a great deal of confidence in Him. You see, He is always faithful and it is good to hear that but there is even more confidence to be gained when we live it out for a long period of time. If you haven't been living for God a long time just keep living for Him and you will get there.

1 Corinthians 12-14 talk about Spiritual gifts. Chapter 13 is all about love and it is right in the middle. You see, everything we do needs to be done in love or we will miss the mark. Now, please know that Paul didn't say to ignore the gifts. He said to eagerly desire them but he knew we need to operate in love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 say, **If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.** So, desire the gifts and operate in them but never forget love! Ephesians 5:1-2 say, **Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am glad I have given my life to You. I know that Your ways are always right. Help me to love others more and help me to use the gifts in love all the time. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Saturday September 4

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 5-6
1 Corinthians 14:1-20**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:6 says, **From my birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.** When we rely on God we will find that He is always faithful. Then we should praise Him! Don't ever take the blessings of God for granted. They are always there and we should always be thankful.

1 Corinthians 14:1 says, **Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.** This verse reinforces the two things I have been talking to you about concerning the gifts. First, we should do everything in love. If we leave love out we will always miss the mark. Secondly, we should eagerly desire Spiritual gifts. Desire is a powerful force and it will motivate us. And here is some good news. When we desire the Spiritual gifts, God will give them to us because it is His will. You see, He wants to use us in the work of the ministry and He will give us what we need to get the work done.

Look at the last two verses of 1 Corinthians 14, **Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.** Don't forbid the gifts and make sure they are being used orderly.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I have given my life to You. I really am relying on You and I thank You for always helping me. I also ask You to give me the Spiritual gifts and help me to use them in love. I know that Your ways are always right and I trust You to teach me Your ways. Please bless Church tomorrow and help us to do everything we do in love. Help me to see opportunities to serve You and help me to put the needs of others above my own. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday September 5

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 7-8
1 Corinthians 14:21-40

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:7 says, **I have become like a portent to many, but you are my strong refuge.** The word portent here means someone who kind of sticks out and doesn't quite fit in. Look at Malachi 3:18, **And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.** Because we belong to God we will sometimes stick out and not quite fit in with the world. What should we do in times like that? We should be like David and know that God is our strong refuge. So, we should keep praising Him and living for Him no matter what we face.

Look at 1 Corinthians 14:26, **What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.** There are two things I want to comment on from this verse.

First, I have said many times that God wants to use all of His people in the ministry and this verse sure shows that. We might not all preach but we can all share what we know with others. You might not even share in the public meeting but you should be willing to impart what you are learning to others. Secondly, everything we do should be done to build others up. This goes right along with what we have been saying about doing everything in love. Love others and make sure everything you do builds others up.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am thankful for everything You are doing in my life. I know that the distinction between my life and people in the world is becoming greater and I am determined to live for You. I also want to help others to grow in You. Help me to be willing to share the wonderful things You have taught me with others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday September 6

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 9-10
1 Corinthians 15:1-32**

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, we talked about there being a distinction between God's people and those who are in the world. For today, Psalms 71:8 says, **My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.** Because we love God we will praise Him. That will make us different than people who don't know Him. Haven't there been times when you have said, "Praise the Lord!" and those around you didn't have a clue what you were talking about?

1 Corinthians 15 is all about the resurrection. Verses 3-4 say, **For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.** Let's talk about some of the things Paul said here.

First, Paul said that he preached the resurrection of Jesus as a matter of first importance. You see, the resurrection of Jesus is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions. We have a risen living Lord! Secondly, Paul said that Jesus was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures. You see, the resurrection of Jesus was prophesied in the Old Testament and He was raised from the dead just like God said! This might not seem like a big point but it is. God was totally in control and He accomplished His will exactly like He said. We can trust God because He is still in control and He will always take care of us!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I don't mind when others know it. I know some of them won't understand but I am not living for them. I am living for You! I am also so thankful for the resurrection of Jesus. I know that He is alive because I know that He is working in my life and I am never going to quit living for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Tuesday September 7

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 11-12
1 Corinthians 15:33-58

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:9 says, **Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone.** Thank God we know that God will never cast us away or forsake us. I am not sure the person who wrote this had that revelation but we do. As New Testament believers we know that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us. Thank God for what we know. Let's keep learning!

1 Corinthians 15:33 **"Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."** If you are around unsaved people and they are influencing you or hurting your faith then you need to stop spending so much time with them. Now, here's what you need to do. You need to get stronger in the Lord so you can be around them and influence them rather than letting them influence you. The next verse says, **"Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God--I say this to your shame."** We need to be strong enough to influence them for the Lord!

The last verses of our reading are 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 **"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."** We need to be strong in the Lord and then we can really live in the victory that He has for us. When we live like that we will be light and salt to those we are around.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You love me and that You will never leave me nor forsake me. Help me to have the confidence that this truth should bring me. I also really do want to be a good witness for You. Help me to be strong enough to influence others and help me to know when I am spending too much time with others and being influenced by them. I love You so much! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday September 8

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 13-14
1 Corinthians 16**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:9-10 say, **“Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone. For my enemies speak against me; those who wait to kill me conspire together.”** He didn’t want to be cast away because his enemies wanted to kill him and he knew that his only real safety was in God. Some people put their trust in God as a last resort and that is probably better than nothing but there is a much superior way to live. We need to put our trust in God all the time and we need to keep trusting Him no matter what we face.

1 Corinthians 16:10 **“If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am.”** Paul was basically telling the Church in Corinth to take good care of Timothy while he was with them. Think about this. Paul could have reminded them that they needed to take care of him but he was telling them to bless Timothy. Do you know of any ministers who use their influence to bless others? When you know someone like that remember that they are being like the Apostle Paul and that is sure a good thing.

1 Corinthians 16:13 **“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”** This was great advice back then and it is still great advice today. Thank God that Paul wrote it to them and that God preserved it for you and me. We need to take this advice and put it into practice in our lives. God really is speaking directly to you!

Prayer: Lord, I want to stay close to You no matter what I face in life. I know that I need You in the good times and I certainly need You in the hard times. Help me to honor those who are in the work of the ministry and help me to take the things You are speaking to me from the Word personally. I want to be a doer of Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday September 9

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 15-16
2 Corinthians 1**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:11 **“They say, “God has forsaken him; pursue him and seize him, for no-one will rescue him.”**” This man was being pursued by his enemies and this shows us what they were saying about him. Now, get this. His enemies said that no one was going to rescue him but they were wrong. You see, this man was crying out to God and God was going to rescue him but his enemies didn’t know that. If they had known that God was coming to his rescue they might have quit fighting against him.

I have such a wonderful truth for you today. **2 Corinthians 1:20 “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.”** If you have ever wondered if the promises of God are for you the answer is “YES in Christ Jesus”! All the benefits of being God’s child are yours because of what Jesus has done for us.

Romans 8:16-17 say, **“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”** When we gave our lives to Jesus, God adopted us into His family. We are now children of God and we are heirs of all His benefits. All these things are true because Jesus paid the price for our sins. So, all the promises of God find their YES in Jesus. Also, don’t miss the part where we add the “Amen” to all this. That means we believe what God is saying here and our words line up with His Word.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the times You have come to my rescue and I am going to continue to trust You. I also ask You to teach me more about all the benefits that You have provided for me. I don’t want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Friday September 10

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 17-18
2 Corinthians 2

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:12 **“Be not far from me, O God; come quickly, O my God, to help me.”** God is never far from us and He is always willing to come and help us! Praise His Name forever more. Revelation 3:20-21 say, **“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”** When we opened our lives up to Jesus, He moved in and now we can be overcomers!

2 Corinthians 2:14 **“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.”** I am sure some people read this and think it is a promise that we will never go through anything hard but that is not what is promised here. We are promised that we can spread the Good News all the time. Even when we go through hard things we can be good witnesses for God and His good purposes for our lives.

You see, we may have to go through hard things but we will never have to go through them alone. Jesus will always be with us and that means we will always have victory because Jesus is our victory! Look at what Paul wrote in Philippians 4:4 **“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”** When Paul wrote this he was in jail for preaching the Gospel and yet he was being a witness there and so he had victory in Jesus!

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I have opened my life to You and I never regret making You my Lord and Savior. Please rule and reign in every area of my life and help me to be a good witness for You all the time! I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me and I know that Your ways are right. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday September 11

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 19-20
2 Corinthians 3**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:13 **“May my accusers perish in shame; may those who want to harm me be covered with scorn and disgrace.”** We need to commit our enemies to God and let Him take care of them. Romans 12:19 **“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.”** Commit them to God and let Him take care of them. This is what God wants us to do and it is good for us as well. You see, this is the path for us to learn trust and we can have peace in Jesus when we do this.

Look at 2 Corinthians 3:16 **“But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”** This is talking about our being able to understand the Word more when we get saved. Before I was saved I couldn’t understand why people loved the Word so much but after I gave my life to Jesus I loved the Word too.

Now, we need to keep growing. 2 Corinthians 3:18 **“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”** As we study the Word and put what we learn into action we will be more and more like Jesus. I know that might seem almost too good to be true but it is already happening in your life. Hasn’t God spoken to you from the Word about things that need to be stopped in your life? That is God working to make you more like Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, I really meant it when I gave my life to You and now I want to give my enemies to You too. I ask You to take care of them and I am going to concentrate on living for You. Help me to learn everything You are teaching me from the Word and help me to be changed. I know that You are the only One who can change me and I look forward to it. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Sunday September 12

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 21-22
2 Corinthians 4

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 71:13-14 for today, **“May my accusers perish in shame; may those who want to harm me be covered with scorn and disgrace. But as for me, I shall always have hope; I will praise you more and more.”** We need to be like this. Commit your enemies to God and then live for Him! In Him we will always have hope and we should be praising Him MORE AND MORE! You see, I don’t know how much you praise Him but I know that you would do better if you would praise Him MORE AND MORE.

2 Corinthians 4:7 **“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”** Paul was making the point that we need to remember it is God who is working in our lives. If there is anything good it is all from Him. I bet you already knew that. You see, most of us don’t think we are much without God and that is a good attitude unless we go too far with it. You see, we are nothing without Him but we are not without Him! Now, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

2 Corinthians 4:18 **“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”** Keep your eyes on that which is eternal. Jesus, His work and His Word are all eternal and you will do much better when you focus on those eternal things.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be like the guy who wrote our verse from Psalms for today. I want to keep my hope in You and I want to praise You MORE AND MORE! I am well aware that anything good in my life is all You and yet I know that You and Your goodness are plenty to bring all Your blessings to me. In love You! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Monday September 13

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 23-24
2 Corinthians 5**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:15 **“My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long, though I know not its measure.”** We know that God is wonderful and we should go ahead and tell people about it. Their reaction really isn't as important as our telling them. You see, some people may not accept what we have to say but we are still planting seeds. When we sow the seed of the Word it is up to God to give the growth. So, do your part and God will always do His part and you never know who is ready to hear.

There is a very interesting word in 2 Corinthians 5:14 **“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.”** The word I am referring to is the one translated “compel” here.

The interesting thing is that this word can be defined in two ways that are almost opposite of each other. The word compel means to restrain as in holding back AND it means to thrust forward. Here is what I want to point out for today. God’s love sometimes holds us back from doing wrong things AND it sometimes pushes us forward to do good things. You have felt God’s love doing those things in your life haven’t you? We need to let God lead us and we need to obey Him no matter what He is telling us to do. Obeying Him is always the right thing to do.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. I really do want You to rule and reign in every area of my life. Please hold me back when I need to be held back and please push me forward when I need that. I am also so thankful that You lead me by Your love. I want to be sensitive to all the ways You lead me and I know that I will be a good witness as I do these things. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Tuesday September 14

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 25-27
2 Corinthians 6

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:16 **“I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O Sovereign LORD; I will proclaim your righteousness, yours alone.”** Something stood out to me from this verse and I want to comment on it. We need to proclaim God’s righteousness not our own. Now, I know we should live righteously and I know that God is helping us to do that but it is God and His righteousness that we should proclaim. And we can proclaim His righteousness no matter how we are doing.

2 Corinthians 6:1 **“As God’s fellow-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.”** Praise the Lord that we are in this together. We are fellow-workers and thank God for His grace.

The next verse says, **“For he says, “In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favour, now is the day of salvation.”** Many things could be said about God’s grace, but for today this verse points out that God’s grace brings His favour. We were saved because God had favour on us and today is still the time of God’s favour. Thank God for all the blessings He brings to us. Psalms 103:2 says, **“Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”** Don’t forget the benefits we have because God has grace for us and because Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your righteousness and I want to tell others about it. I am also thankful that any righteousness that I have is all because I have You in my life. Help me to live like a righteous follower of Yours should. Thank You for Your grace and favour. I know that all Your benefits come to me because Jesus paid the price for my separation from You and I am never going to forget it. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Wednesday September 15

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 28-29
2 Corinthians 7

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:17 **“Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.”** Thank God for all that He has taught us. Now, we need to be willing to share what we know. Here is some really good news. As we share what we know, we position ourselves to receive more from Him. You see, it is the law of sowing and reaping. Sow what you know and you will receive more. Thank God for this truth and thank God that we know it. Now be a doer of God’s Word and not a hearer only.

2 Corinthians 7:1 **“Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”** Thank God for all the promises we have! It is always right to thank God for all that He does for us but there is more that we should do. We should also live for Him. This verse says we should purify ourselves and live holy. How are you doing at those things?

2 Corinthians 7:16 **“I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.”** Paul had confidence in them and I have confidence in you. You see, I know that You are in the Word every day and I know that Jesus is working in your life. So, I believe You are going to make it. Thank God that we know Who it is working in our lives.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all that You have taught me. Help me to consistently choose to live like You want and help me to share what I know with others. I know others need to learn the same things I have learned and I want to help them. I also want to live a life of purity and holiness. Please help me because I know that I can't do anything without Your help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday September 16

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 30-31
2 Corinthians 8

Praise the Lord! Yesterday the writer of Psalms 71 talked about his youth and now look at what he says in Psalms 71:18 **“Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.”** We should be committed to living for God forever. When we are young and when we are old the Lord is the same and living for Him is the best life there is. We can also see that it is always the time to be sharing the Good News of the Gospel with others.

In our reading from 2 Corinthians, Paul is writing about giving. Specifically he is writing about money. With that in mind, look at 2 Corinthians 8:9 **“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”** Now, I know some people read this and only think about spiritual things and this does include spiritual things but it is not limited only to them.

You see, God wants to bless you so you can be a blessing in every area including finances. Look at what God said to Abraham in Genesis 12:2 **“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”** You can read Genesis and you will see that Abraham was rich and he blessed others. He was blessed to be a blessing and God wants to bless you so you can be a blessing too.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am committed to living for You all of my life. I am never going to quit learning Your ways and I want to praise You more. I also ask You to teach me how to be blessed so I can be a greater blessing to others. I want to be blessed so I can be a blessing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday September 17

**Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 1-3
2 Corinthians 9**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:19 **“Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God, you who have done great things. Who, O God, is like you?”** Have you ever felt like this? Sometimes God’s greatness and spender just overwhelms us and that is a good thing. We should be aware that He is so much greater than anything we could ever comprehend and He loves us. Thank God that we have given our lives to Him!

2 Corinthians 9:8 **“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”** What do you think Paul was writing about when he said we will abound in every good work? He was talking about money and our being able to give generously.

Look at the verses right before this, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 **“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”** Yesterday, I said that God wants to bless you so you can be a blessing and that is exactly what these verses are talking about. As we sow, we will reap and then we can sow more. Then we will be blessed more and the process goes on and on. Here is a key. We need to start right where we are. Lots of people think they would be faithful givers if they had more but they are missing the point. We need to be faithful with what we have now and that will position us for more. When we are faithful in the little God can know that we will be faithful with more.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much. Please help me to be faithful with what I have now so I can reap more. Then I am committed to being faithful with more. I want to be blessed to be a blessing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Saturday September 18

**Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 4-6
2 Corinthians 10**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:20 **“Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.”** We may have to go through some hard things but we need to keep drawing near to God. He is the One who can and will help us and believe me when we spend all eternity with Him it will be well worth it.

2 Corinthians 10:17-18 **“But, “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.”** If we ever do any boasting it should be in the Lord. You see, He has done so many wonderful things for us and it is ok to boast about Him. We should always remember that we are totally and completely lost without Him and yet He loves us and has saved us. So, go ahead and boast about Him and all that He has done.

Now, I want to make a point about the fact that we are covering 2 Corinthians. You see, Paul was working with these believers and He was helping them over the long haul. He was there when the Church was formed and he continued ministering to them over many years. He had visited them and he had written several letters to them. Here’s my point. We need people who will invest in our lives for the long haul. I want to be one of the people that God uses to help you to grow in the Lord and I want to be a part of your life for many years.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You have saved me and You have kept me. I know that my eternity is secure in You and I wouldn't have it any other way. I also thank You for all the people You have brought into my life to teach me the Word. I ask You to bless them and help them to know that their labor has born fruit in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday September 19

**Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 7-9
2 Corinthians 11:1-15**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:21 says, **“You will increase my honour and comfort me once again.”** He knew that God was going to come through for him and everything was going to be all right. We really need to remember this when we go through hard things. It sometimes feels like our struggles will never end but they will end. They will end and you will still be serving Jesus. You will probably even grow through those hard things and growing in Him is always a good thing.

2 Corinthians 11:1-3 **“I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”** There is a really important truth for us to see in these verses.

Eve was led astray in her mind. You see, the only real power the devil has is the power of deception. He lied to her and got her to believe the lie. We need to know the truth and it will protect us. The Word will protect us from the devil and his deceptions. Now you know why I write these devotions for you. We need to know the truth of God’s Word. It really is a matter of life and death. So, keep reading and studying God’s Word every day and you will be safe.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am glad I have given my life to You. I am never going to quit on You and I am so thankful that You are never going to quit on me. Help me to learn all that You want to teach me from the Word and help me to reject any deception the devil might try to trick me with. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Monday September 20

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 10-12
2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:22 **“I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.”** You probably don’t play either one of those instruments but you still need to praise God! Psalms 150:6 **“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.”** If you are breathing (and I know you are) then you are supposed to praise the Lord! Hebrews 13:15 **“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.”** Praise the Lord and praise Him continually!

I am glad you are doing your Scripture Readings every day. I have laid them out in a way that will help you to read the whole Bible in a year. For today, Paul was talking about some of the things he had been through. He had seen some wonderful things and he had been through some really hard things but he was determined to live for God no matter what he faced. This should be our attitude too.

2 Corinthians 11:30 **“If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.”** Isn’t this interesting? If most people had seen the wonderful things Paul had seen they would boast about those things but not Paul. You see, He wanted Jesus to be lifted up and not himself. So, he emphasized his weaknesses so the strength of Jesus would be focused on.

Prayer: Lord, I know that You always deserve my praise and I want to give it to You more consistently. I also want You to be lifted up by everything in my life. I know that anything good in my life is all You and I don’t ever want to neglect letting people know it. I also ask You to bless my Pastor and his family today. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Tuesday September 21

**Scripture Reading: Song of Solomon 1-3
2 Corinthians 12**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:23 **“My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you--I, whom you have redeemed.”** Now, he might be getting a little carried away, don't you think? No way! We should praise God and SHOUT FOR JOY! Don't worry about getting carried away. If you do, I will go with you because God is so worthy of our praise and worship!

Yesterday, we started talking about Paul and his decision to boast in his own weaknesses so Jesus and His strength could prevail. Now, look at 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 **“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”**

Now, please don't miss this point. Paul was not saying that he wanted to be weak and ineffective. He just knew how the power of God would flow through his life. He knew that making Jesus number one and giving Him all the credit would mean that God would be strong through him. You see, Paul did end up being strong but he got there God's way. Most of the time the world's ways are in direct contradiction to God's ways. We humble ourselves and then God lifts us up and uses us.

Prayer: Lord, I really do love You and I want to praise You more. Help me not to hold back when I praise You. I even want to shout Your praises! I am also thankful that You keep teaching me Your ways. I do want to be used in mighty ways and I know that I need to get there Your way. So, teach me Your ways and I will follow You and Your plan for my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday September 22

**Scripture Reading: Song of Solomon 4-5
2 Corinthians 13**

Praise the Lord! The last verse of Psalms 71 is, **“My tongue will tell of your righteous acts all day long, for those who wanted to harm me have been put to shame and confusion.”** He was committed to praising God “all day long” and you know it lasted in the night time too. He had kept drawing near to God and God had delivered him and now he was going to praise God. We need to be more thankful when God helps us and we need to show our thanksgiving.

Some people think it is their job to judge everyone else. Look at what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 13:5 **“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?”** Paul tells us to “Examine yourself!” So, the people who run around judging everyone else are not doing what Paul told them to do. Now, I am not saying you shouldn’t have spiritual leaders who can speak into your life but you should avoid people who are always putting you down.

2 Corinthians 13:11 **“Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”** Aim for perfection! Live in peace! I know there are many other things I could comment on in this verse but get this one thing. When you live in peace you are aiming for perfection in your life.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all that You have done in my life and I want to tell of Your righteous acts more! Please lead me when to speak and give me the boldness I need. I also want to live at peace as much as it depends on me and I know that I will do better as I aim for Your perfection. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday September 23

Scripture Reading: Song of Solomon 6-8
Galatians 1

Praise the Lord! Psalm 72 was written by Solomon. Look at how he started in verse 1, **“Of Solomon. Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.”** I am sure you probably know the story where Solomon asked God for wisdom and God gave it to him. In this verse, Solomon asked God to help him rule in justice. Asking for wisdom worked and now Solomon is asking for something else. Has God ever answered your prayers? Well then, be like Solomon and know that you can ask for more.

Galatians 1:11-12 **“I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”** Thank God that He is willing to reveal His ways to us. You see, if God was hiding His ways from us we would never learn how to live for Him. So, when Paul said these things were revealed to him straight from God we can know that God is speaking to us too.

You see, we need to take the Word personally. I want to encourage you to read the Word with an expectancy that God is going to speak to you and He will. He really is wanting to reveal His will and His ways to you. The more you know that and prayerfully expect God to speak to you the more often you will hear what He is saying to you.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the times You have answered my prayers and I am encouraged to bring more of my requests to You. I also want to be like Solomon and ask for things that will bless others and not just myself. Help me to keep learning. I want to know Your will and I want to be quick to obey all of what You teach me. I love You and I know I am blessed to have You speak to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Friday September 24

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 1-3
Galatians 2**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:2 **“He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.”** Solomon was actually talking about himself judging people in righteousness and justice. You see, he had just asked God for these things and now he was saying that he would use them to bless others. When we ask we need to believe that we will receive. Then we need to use what God blesses us with to bless others. We should want to be blessed so we can be a blessing.

John 3:30 **“He must become greater; I must become less.”** John the Baptist made this statement. He knew that the more he let Jesus rule and reign in his life the better he would do. Now, look at what Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20-21 **“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. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”**

Paul wanted his whole life to be Jesus and nothing but Jesus. I am sure you remember when Paul said he would boast in his weaknesses so the strength of Jesus could be on display. Well, this is Paul really living that out. We can live in our own strength or in God's strength and His strength is much better.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You that You answer my prayers. Help me to be more-like Solomon. I also want to go ahead and speak what I believe. I want You to increase in my life. I know that happens as I submit my will to Your will. I also know that Your will is always right. Help me to know when I am starting to rely on my own strength and help me to get back on track where I am trusting You and letting You live Your life out through me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday September 25

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 4-6
Galatians 3**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:3 **“The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.”** Solomon is talking about the blessings that flow when God is ruling His people through His righteous people. You see, it has always been God’s desire to bless His people and that includes us. We need to trust Him and live like He wants. Then we will be blessed. We are able to do that as we stay in His Word and do what He says.

I have written to you several times lately saying that we should be blessed so we can be a blessing. I even told you that Abraham was blessed so he could be a blessing. Genesis 12:2 **“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”**

Now, look at what Paul said about the blessing of Abraham in Galatians 3:14 **“He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”** We have been redeemed from the curse. Now the blessing given to Abraham is for us. The verse before this says, **“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”** We are redeemed and blessed because Jesus died on the cross for our sins! Now, don’t forget that you are blessed so you can be a blessing.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the blessings You have brought into my life and I know there are more. Help me to really believe Your Word and help me to use all the blessings You bring into my life to bless others. I also ask You to bless my Church tomorrow and let Your blessings flow to everyone who is there. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Sunday September 26

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7-9
Galatians 4**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:4 **“He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.”** Thank God that He is looking out for those who need help. Sometimes He does these things Himself and other times He accomplishes His will through people but either way God is working. I know you have had times when God has protected you. We should always be thankful for all that He does for us.

Galatians 4:4-7 **“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.”** Those verses are so so wonderful. You probably should read them again and think about the fact that they are talking about you! (Go ahead and read them again.)

God sent His Son to die on the cross for us so we could be made sons of God too. Isn't that amazing? Here's something for you to think about. The law of sowing and reaping says that what we sow we get back in greater number. God sowed a Son and got many sons back as a harvest! Meditate on that and you will more fully realize how blessed we are and you will want to so sow some good things expecting a harvest.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for all the times You have looked out for me and protected me. Help me to live like a son of God should live. I also want to represent You well all the time. Please bless Church today. Help us to learn about You and Your ways and help us to be quick to put what we learn into action in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Monday September 27

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 10-12
Galatians 5

Praise the Lord! Do you want to see how long God is going to take care of us? Psalms 72:5 **“He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.”** God will actually live longer than the sun and the moon because they will eventually pass away but God is eternal. Thank God that we have given our lives to Him. Let’s let Him rule and reign in every area of our lives today and every day.

Galatians 5:1 **“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”** God called you and set you free. Don’t put up with any bondage in your life. God paid the ultimate price for your freedom. He sent Jesus to die on the cross for you so you could be free. We are going to pray at the end of this devotion and ask God to show us if we are tolerating any bondage in our lives and I want to encourage you to get rid of any in your life.

Galatians 5:22-23 **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”** These are the things that should be growing in your life and there is no bondage in any of these things. We often have times when we need to choose to let these things develop. As an example, when you have the choice to love, choose to love and you will be right in line with God’s perfect will for your life.

Prayer: Lord, I love You! Holy Spirit please reveal any bondages I have in my life and help me to get rid of them in Jesus’ Name. I want all the freedom You paid such a huge price for me to have. I also ask You to help me to know how to choose to walk in the fruit of the Spirit. I pray that now and I ask You to remind me of this prayer when I am in a situation where I need to make a good choice. Help me to choose well! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Tuesday September 28

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 13-15
Galatians 6

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:6 **“He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.”** Praise the Lord! When the rain falls it fall on everyone and everything and God is like that. He loves everyone and He wants to bless everyone. His love and care are for “whosoever will accept it”. I don’t know why some people don’t accept it but I am sure glad you and I have. We need to live like He wants and tell others that they can know Him and His blessings too.

Galatians 6:6 **“Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.”** Be a doer of God’s Word and not a hearer only. James 1:25 **“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.”** We are blessed in our doing!

Galatians 6:7-9 **“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”** Be a doer of God’s Word and never quit. There is a harvest and we will have it if we don’t give up.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that You are always extending Your blessings to people. I don’t want to miss out on anything You have for me. I also know that many of Your blessings are released in my life as I do the things You ask me to do. Please continue to speak to me from the Word and help me to be a doer. I also thank You for the strength that You supply me and I know that doing things in Your strength will help me to avoid weariness. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Wednesday September 29

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 16-18
Ephesians 1

Praise the Lord! I sure want to walk in the fullness of Psalms 72:7 **“In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.”** Don’t you think it would be good to flourish and have prosperity? Now, these things mean more than having a lot of money but money is included. I want to flourish and prosper spirit, soul and body. I want that for myself and I want it for you and now we have God’s Word promising it for us.

You are blessed and chosen by God. Ephesians 1:3-4 **“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”** I don’t know why God chose us but I am sure glad He did.

These verses also say that we are already blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Here is another verse that confirms this. 2 Peter 1:3 **“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”** God has already given us everything we need for life and godliness. This should change how we pray. We shouldn’t be asking God for things that His Word says He has already given us. We probably need to pray and ask God to teach us about what He has already given us.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for all the blessings You have provided for me that I am walking in and those I am just learning about. I want to flourish and prosper so I can bless others. I also ask You to teach me about all the things I have in Jesus that I am not walking in because I don’t know about them. Please continue to teach me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Thursday September 30

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 19-21
Ephesians 2

Praise the Lord! Psalms 72:8 **“He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”** God is in control of all things and He rules. Matthew 6:9-10 say, **“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”** His Kingdom comes as we let His will be done in our lives. So, pray and obey! That is the best way to live.

I am glad you have made it to the end of another month of these devotions. 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.’”** That is how important Jesus said the Word of God is and you are doing your part.

Ephesians 2:8-10 say, **“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”** God saved us and now He is teaching us His ways through the Word. He also has work for us to do and we will be prepared for that work as we spend time in His Word. 2 Timothy 2:15 **“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.”**

Prayer: Lord, I do pray for Your Kingdom to come and for Your will to be done in my life. I know that I allow this all to happen as I let You have Your way in my life. Please continue to speak to me from the Word and help me to be a doer of Your Word. I thank You for everyone You have called to teach me the Word. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.