

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 1

*Led by The Spirit of God Pt. 10*

**Romans 8:14**

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

We have been talking about being led by the Holy Spirit. If we can hear from God, we have it made. He will lead us to be successful in every area of life. The Word and the witness are the foundational ways He leads. We must be aware of our spirit. The more aware of our spirit we are, the more aware of the Holy Spirit we'll be. **I Corinthians 2:11** says, *"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."*

There is a connection between your mind and your spirit. Whatever you put your mind on, you open your spirit up to. It is written in **Romans 8:5-9**, *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."*

According to this scripture it is important what you set your mind on. It is a matter of life and death. You can tell what people have been thinking on by looking at them. If you are minding the things of the spirit, it will minister life and peace to you. **Isaiah 26:3** says, *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee..."* Whatever you put your mind on, you open your spirit up to. Your mind is the doorway to your spirit. That's the way things get into your spirit, through the door of your mind. This is why it is so important to renew your mind to the Word of God (**Romans 12:2**).

God communicates to us through our spirit, not our mind. He doesn't bear witness with our mind or body. I want to remind you

to say this every day. I am a spirit, I have a soul, and I live in a body. In **Acts 10:19-20** we have an example of setting your mind on something and opening your spirit up to hear something from God. *"While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them."* The Holy Spirit is leading Peter.

This is a principal. Peter put his mind on the vision God gave him, so his spirit was open to it. When you put your mind on a thing, it opens the door for the Holy Spirit to speak to your spirit. The Holy Spirit will bring it up to your mind and give you illumination. When you put your mind on God's Word, you open your spirit up to it. He is then able to give illumination to your mind concerning that Word you are thinking on. If you need direction concerning any area of your life, get yourself in a quiet place and begin thinking on that which you need direction about. Do not worry, but ask the Lord for guidance. As you do the Holy Spirit can give illumination to your mind. He will lead you into success.

***Faith Confession:*** *I am a spirit, I have a soul, which is made up of my mind, will, and emotions, and I (my spirit) live in a body. I am in the Spirit and the Spirit of God dwells in me. I am after the Spirit and I mind the things of the spirit. I set my mind on things above and I enjoy life and peace. The Holy Spirit is leading and guiding me each day into success.*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 2

**Led by The Spirit of God Pt. 11**

**Romans 8:14**

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

As we are talking about being led by the Holy Spirit, it is important to be easily turned by the Holy Spirit. If He says stop, what do we need to do? Stop! If He says, go right, then we need to yield to Him. **Psalm 16:7** says, *"I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons."* The word "reins" in this verse refers to the reins on a horse. It also means "insides". This is giving us a picture of a horse that has been rein trained. A horse that has been trained well does not need a bit in its mouth. You only have to lightly tap the horse with the reins and the horse will turn. This is how we are to be with the Holy Spirit.

In **Psalm 32:8-9** we can see how we are not to be. *"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee."* He is saying the horse or the mule has to be forced to come to you. We do not want to be that way with the Lord. We want to be submissive and yielded to Him. We want to quickly obey Him.

**Psalm 4:3-4** says, *"But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto Him. Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah."* We're talking about hearing from the Lord. Take time to get alone by yourself and get quiet. You do not have to quote scriptures or pray in tongues. Just simply be still. Just focus on your insides, your spirit, where the Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit. We can see it again in **Psalm 77:6** *"I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search."* Again, this is where the Holy Spirit is going to bear witness with your spirit.

How did the writers of the New Testament know to write the books they wrote? You can read **Luke 1:1-4**. In **verse 3** Luke says, *"It*

*seemed good to me also...*" It seemed good; it's a spiritual sense, an awareness. Like the horse that is rein trained. Check your heart, your "seemer". When you think about doing something, how does it seem? If it doesn't seem right, stop. Don't do anything until God shows you what to do. **Acts 15:25,28** talks about "it seemed good". Follow the inward witness. Your born-again spirit will not lead you wrong.

***Faith Confession:*** *I am spirit-led. I am easily turned by the Holy Spirit. I am rein trained. I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit makes diligent search. I take time to get myself quiet. I focus on my insides, my spirit, where the Holy Spirit bears witness with my spirit.*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 3

**Led by The Spirit of God Pt. 12**

**Romans 8:14**

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

The Holy Spirit will always lead us to walk in the spirit. **Galatians 5:13-18** *"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust (strong desires) of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law."*

It is very clear that Paul is talking about being led by the spirit, the inward man, that is led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not lead you to fulfill the lusts (the strong desires) of the flesh. Reading on in **Galatians 5:19-21** we can see what the Holy Spirit will not lead us into. He will not lead us into the works of the flesh, which are *"...Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."*

In **Galatians 5:22-23**, we are told what the Holy Spirit will lead us into. *"But the fruit of the Spirit (the new man) is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

**Galatians 5:24-26** says, *"And they that are Christ's (Praise God, that is us) have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."* That means there is nothing we love more than the Lord, His people, and His things. *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in*

*the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."*

If you are not going to be led by the Spirit, you'd be better off to yield to the law, such as thou shalt not steal, then to yield to the flesh. Let's run our race well and not allow anyone to hinder us from obeying the truth. How do we run this faith race? **Hebrews 12:1-2** says, "...let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith (race)..." Keep your eyes upon Jesus, upon His Word, He is at the end of the race. He is at the finish line!

**Faith Confession:** *I'm a son of God and I'm led by the Spirit of God. I have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts, the strong desires of the flesh. I live in the spirit and I walk in the spirit. The Holy Spirit is leading me to yield to love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Because I yield to these, I inherit the kingdom of God, and God is glorified!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 4

### *Hearing with Accuracy*

#### **Romans 8:14**

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

We can be just as led as Jesus. He never missed it and Jesus has given us everything He had. It is important that we call things that be not as though they were (**II Corinthians 4:13**). Every morning say, *"I'm just as led by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was led"*. Even when you miss it, it is important to keep saying *"I'm just as led by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was led."* Maybe you do not believe that at this present moment. The more you say it the more real it becomes to you, and you will be that. People often say, I don't know what I'm going to do. I don't know what to do. Stop saying that! When you say "I don't know what I'm going to do." and say it, and say it, you end up having faith for not knowing what to do.

Are we supposed to be just like Jesus? Absolutely! That is the call **I John 2:6**, we are to *"...walk, even as he walked."* Christian means Christ-like. This is our call, to be Christ-like. Jesus said if you've seen me you've seen the Father. We say if you've seen me you've seen Jesus. The more aware you are of your spirit, the more aware of His witness you will be. The more carnal or natural you are the more you look to hearing in the natural, a voice, or a feeling, or seeing. The witness is what you want, you just have this sensing, this knowing on the inside of you.

Many people are wanting a Word from the Lord. We can hear from God for ourselves. We don't have to have someone speaking to us such as a prophet. Two reasons why He may have someone speak to us. 1.) Because you are dull of hearing. 2.) There is rough sailing ahead and you need something to anchor you. Simeon is an example of a man that heard from God (**Luke 2:25-27**). The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Then he came by the Spirit into the temple. That sounds like being led by the Spirit doesn't it?

In **Acts 20:22-25** is an example of someone that was literally going to have rough sailing ahead. Paul, an apostle, was going

through the known world at that time preaching. Everywhere he went there was either revival or riots. **Acts 20:22** "... I go bound in the spirit ..." Paul is saying I've got to do it. The Holy Spirit will never make you do anything. You have to yield to Him. A person committed to God will do it no matter what the cost (**Acts 20:23-24; Acts 21:13**). He had gotten two things from the Spirit. 1.) He had a compelling, a strong sensing, I've got to do this. 2.) I've gotten this in every city. (He got it by the inward witness and the Lord confirmed it through the Prophet Agabus.) "...bonds and afflictions abide me (are waiting on me)." **Acts 20:25** "And now, behold, I know..." How did he know? First by the inward witness, a knowing. The closer you walk with God through fellowship with Him in His Word, prayer, and obedience, the more you know. We know that Paul did go and people say that Paul missed God. Did he? I don't think so. (**II Timothy 4:6-8**)

**Faith Confession:** *I'm a son of God and I'm led by the Spirit of God. I call things that be not as though they were. I am just as led by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was led. I have the same Holy Spirit that Jesus had. He has given me everything I need to follow Him accurately. I am called to walk even as Jesus walked. I have an anointing from the Holy One and I know all things. I know everything I need to know to do the will of God. I am a hearer and a doer of the Word of God and I am blessed.*



## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 5

*Sons of God*

**Romans 8:14**

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

In this scripture we see that those who are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. It is important that we grow up and become sons in order that we might enjoy our inheritance. It is written in **Galatians 3:29-4:2** *"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father."*

What he is saying is that even though everything belongs to you, as a child, you live as though nothing belongs to you. This is seen in the parable of the lost son. **Luke 15:11-32 (verses 11-12)** *"And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he (the father) divided unto them his living."* According to this they both received their inheritance.

The younger son took his inheritance and wasted it with riotous living. When he came to himself, he returned to his father's house (**verses 13-19**). This younger son returned and confessed his sin to God, His heavenly Father, and to his natural father. Because of this he was restored to sonship, and not just a servant. This shows a maturing, a growing up (**verses 20-24**). The older son, however, stayed and worked for his father all the time. Even though all belonged to him, he acted like nothing belonged to him (**verses 25-31**). This older son showed his immaturity by his actions. Instead of rejoicing that his younger brother returned home, he becomes angry and acts like a baby. He yielded to the works of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21**). We've all yielded to the works of the flesh at one time or another, but it is time to grow up so we can enjoy our inheritance.

All belongs to us. All that is the Father's belongs to Jesus and we are joint-heirs with Jesus (**Romans 8:9-17**). According to **John**

**16:15** Jesus said, "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he (speaking of the Holy Spirit) shall take of mine, and shew it unto you." The Holy Spirit is showing us what belongs to us as joint-heirs with Christ. What is the "all" that belongs to us? When we were born-again we were restored back into fellowship with the Father through Jesus Christ, and everything Adam had before the fall was restored to us as well. Our inheritance is revealed in **Luke 15:22-23**. He gave us the best of everything we would ever need. We must grow up through the developing of our human spirit and the renewal of our minds. This only happens as we do **Joshua 1:8**. We must speak the Word, meditate upon it day and night so that we may observe to do it. As we do this we will come to see and know what belongs to us and have the ability to receive it by faith. The Holy Spirit is leading us into the truth about what belongs to us as sons of God.

**Faith Confession:** *I'm a son of God and I'm led by the Spirit of God. I have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts, the strong desires of the flesh. I am Christ's. I am Abraham's seed, and an heir according to the promise. Because I am a son, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son, into my heart crying, Abba, Father, Father. Wherefore I am no more a servant, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 6

***Blessed Is the Man***

***Psalm 94:12***

*"Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law."*

The person whom the Lord chastens is blessed, happy. What is the blessing you receive from the chastening (disciplining) of the Lord and Him teaching you out of His law (direction, instruction)? If you read on in the next verse you will see the blessing. ***Psalm 94:13*** says, *"That thou (the Lord) mayest give him (the person whom the Lord chastens) rest from the days of adversity..."* Oh what a blessing to have days of rest from adversity!!!! A lot of people do not like to hear about the chastening of the Lord. You should want Him to chasten, to discipline you, it is for your good and not for your harm.

It is written in ***Hebrews 12:5-8*** *"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."*

The chastening of the Lord is for our profit, that we might be partakers (sharers) of His holiness (***Hebrews 12:10***). Do you want to be a partaker of His holiness? I do!!!! Holiness simply means being like Him. Being chastened does not make you want to jump up and down for joy at the time you are receiving it, but after it is done you will have joy again. Because it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it (***Hebrews 12:11***).

How does the Lord chasten us? Some people believe that He chastens or disciplines us with sickness and disease. That is not true. The Lord is the Lord that heals us (***Exodus 15:26***). Satan is the one that puts sickness and disease upon people. What the Lord is saying is that if you will allow Him to chasten, discipline you through His instructions and His teachings that comes from His

Word and through His ministers, you will have rest from adversity. This includes rest from sickness and disease, everything bad! The reason bad things happen to people is because of disobedience. Every good thing that happens to a person is because of their obedience.

Sometimes you can read something in God's Word and it bring correction to you. It doesn't make you feel good at the time. If you will receive the love of that truth and begin doing it you will be glad. You will be blessed through the doing of it. If you read something in God's Word and it makes you mad, or even if you read something in one of these devotions, or hear your pastor say something and it makes you mad, you need to ask yourself this question, "Why is this making me mad?" If you could receive that Word, you would find it is the very thing that would help you. It is the very thing that would bring you rest from your adversities that you have been experiencing.

Let's allow the Lord to chasten us through His teachings, whether it be from His Word as you are reading it, or whether it comes through your pastor or another minister. God loves those whom He chastens, disciplines! The result of His chastening is for our profit that we may be partakers, sharers of His holiness, of being like Christ!

***Faith Confession:*** *I am a blessed, happy person because the Lord loves me and disciplines me through His teachings, whether it comes from His Word while reading it or through my pastor and those over me. Because I receive His discipline, He is enabled to give me rest from the days of adversity! The chastening of the Lord is for my profit and enables me to be a partaker of His holiness! Glory to God!!!!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 7

### *The Perfect Will of God*

#### **Romans 12:2**

*"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

Can you know the perfect will of God for your life? According to **Romans 12:1-2** you can. This happens as "...*you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service.*" You might be thinking, what does presenting my body to Him a living sacrifice have to do with knowing God's perfect will for my life? Everything!

When you present your body to God as a living sacrifice, it means you are no longer living your life for yourself. It means you are denying yourself your own interests, the things the world does, so that you might give yourself to the study of God's Word, that you may be transformed by the renewing of your mind. The result of doing those two things is, you can "...*prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*" There is great peace in knowing the will of God for your life.

Many times, we are desiring to know His perfect will but if we have not been willing to do His written will, which is revealed in His Word, then there is no reason for Him to show us anything more. Stop being conformed to this world. Stop doing things the way the world does things and be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Do God's Word. As you do this then He can show you more.

Everything Jesus did was God's revealed will. Jesus always did the perfect will of God so if we will look at Him, we will see God's perfect will. Do as He did! What is His perfect will? Doing **Romans 12:1-2** is part of His perfect will. Being transformed, and becoming like Christ is His perfect will. As you do this, you will come to know that healing and wholeness is His perfect will for your life. Peace of mind is His perfect will for you. No fear is His perfect will for you. Going about doing good and healing all that are oppressed of the devil is His perfect will for you. Loving one another is His perfect will for you. Gathering together as the church each week is His perfect will

for you. Being blessed and being a blessing is His perfect will for you. Finding and filling your place in the body of Christ is His perfect will for you. Serving in His church, doing the work of the ministry is His perfect will for you. Giving of tithes and offerings is His perfect will for you. Being filled with the Spirit is His perfect will for you. Rejoicing in the Lord always is His perfect will for you. Giving of thanks is His perfect will for you. Hating sin is His perfect will for you. Being a doer of His Word is His perfect will for you. Setting your mind on things above and not things on the earth is His perfect will for you. Having a pastor is His perfect will for you. In addition to all of that there is much, much more of God's perfect will to learn about and apply to your life. As you do this, you, your family, and all the people you come in contact with will be blessed!

***Faith Confession:*** *I present my body to God a living sacrifice holy, acceptable unto God, which is my reasonable service. I am not being conformed to this world because I am being transformed, becoming like Christ by the renewing of my mind. Because I am a doer of **Romans 12:1-2** I may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is for my life and I will be a blessing to many.*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 8

### *The Greatest Expression of Love I*

#### **John 3:16**

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

According to **John 3:16**, the greatest expression of love is giving. God showed His love through the giving of His only begotten Son. It is written in **Genesis 1:26-27** that we are made in His image and after His likeness. We are created in the image of God. What does that mean? We are like Him.

For those who are born-again we are told in **I John 3:1-2** *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, **NOW** are we the sons (The Greek says children.) of God, and it doeth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."* **Ephesians 5:1-2** says, *"Be ye therefore followers (imitators) of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling Savour."*

We see that God gave us His only begotten Son and then in **Ephesians 5:2** we see that Christ gave Himself for us. Christ was imitating God, His Father and our Father. We are talking about the greatest expression of love. When you give, it brings great joy. Jesus said in **John 15:10-11** *"**If** (That is a conditional word.) ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."*

There is a connection between love, which gives, and joy. The opposite of love is selfishness, which thinks only of oneself. The most unsatisfying life to live is thinking of yourself all the time. What I want, what I have or don't have, how people are treating me, how I feel. The most satisfying life is the life of giving, and not thinking about oneself, which is being like the Father and Christ.

Reading on in **John 15:13-14,17** The Master said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends *if* (there is that conditional word again.) ye do whatsoever I command you." "These things I command you, that ye love one another." He is speaking to Christians. He desires that we fully obey Him just as any parent desires for their children to fully obey them.

One of the things that brings the greatest joy in my life and is so satisfying is giving. Giving to the Lord and His Kingdom business and those He has told us to give to. We should first give ourselves to the Lord and to His Kingdom business (**II Corinthians 8:5**). We can give of our time, our finances, our resources, gifts, talents, and food, just to name a few things. Jesus said in **Matthew 10:8** "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils, freely ye have received, freely give." **Ephesians 4:28** says, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." **Acts 20:35** says, "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." We are seeing what The Word says about giving and this is only a few scriptures. The greatest expression of love that can be shown to people is giving. Give so the Gospel can be preached. Also remember that we show our love to the Lord by keeping His commandments. Another way I show you my love is by keeping His commandments, His Word (**John 14:21,23**).

**Faith Confession:** Take some time and write your own confession of faith.



## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 9

### *The Greatest Expression of Love II*

**John 15:13-14**

*"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."*

Another expression of love is, laying down your life for your friends by doing what the Lord has commanded you to do. We are laying down our lives for our friends, our loved ones when we do what He tells us to do. Jesus is the greatest example of this. He laid down His life for us by fully obeying the Father. He did not do His own will. Jesus did have a will of His own but He chose to lay it down and submit to the Father's will (**Matthew 26:39**).

I am showing my love to my friends, the body of Christ, every time I obey God's Word and follow the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in **John 14:21** and **23** *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" "...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him."*

There are people that say they love the Lord, but they will not keep (value, remember, and do) His Word, His commandments. Jesus said in **Mark 7:6-9** *"...Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such things ye do. And He said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."* He wants us to wash our pots and cups. He does not want us to believe a lie that this is what keeps a person from being defiled (**Mark 7:16-23**).

To say that you love the Lord and not keep His commandments and Word means you are a hypocrite and that you are only giving Him

lip service. It is the things in your heart that motivates your actions.

When you tell someone that you love them, that should mean that you are obeying the Lord by doing what He has commanded you to do in His Word and by His Spirit. For example, we have a Word in **1 John 2:15-17** *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust (strong desires) of the flesh, and the lust (strong desires) of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."* According to this verse, not everybody will abide for ever, only those who do the will of God. God's will is first and foremost revealed in His Word. When you see something in His Word and do it, you are walking in the light and you are keeping the love commandment.

Let's remember our main text in **John 15:13-14**, *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."* Jesus said in **John 15:17** *"These 'things I command you, that ye love one another."*

**Faith Confession:** *I choose as an act of my will to lay down my life for my friends by doing whatsoever the Lord commands me. He has commanded that we love one another, therefore I will love the Lord and my brothers and sisters in Christ by doing His will for my life. I also choose as an act of my will to lay aside and reject the tradition of men that I may keep and hold to the commandment of God.*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 10

***Seek and You Shall Find***

***Jeremiah 29:13***

*"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."*

In **John 1** you can read about some men that were seeking Jesus. John came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through Him might believe. In **John 1:29,35-36** John saw Jesus coming unto him, and said, *"...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* *"Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold, the Lamb of God!"*

We see in **John 1:37-38** that two of John's disciples heard him speak, and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, *"What seek ye?"* In that time people were truly seeking Jesus! One of the two which heard John speak, and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. Andrew first found his brother Simon, and said to him (**vs 41**), *"We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ (the Anointed)."* Again, we can see that they were seeking Jesus. This is revealed when they said we have found. If you are not seeking, you will not find. If you are not seeking Truth, you will not find The Truth.

Andrew brought Simon to Jesus (**John 1:40-42**). By the Spirit Jesus knew who Simon was and called him Cephas, being interpreted, A stone. The following day Jesus went to Galilee, and found Phillip and said to him, follow Me. Next, we see Phillip finding Nathanael and saying to him (**vs. 45**), *"We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."* So, Nathanael was also seeking Jesus. In those days people were seeking Jesus and they found Him. They went and told those who were seeking that they had found Him.

Seek and you shall find! There is so much more for us to find concerning the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Just today I asked myself the question, what does God laugh at? Maybe that is not important to you. It was something that I desired to know.

There are things He laughs at and things He tells us to laugh at. I began to seek and I found! It is written in **Ephesians 5:1** "*Be ye therefore followers (imitators) of God, as dear children.*" I want to be a doer of that Word, because I know I will be blessed in the doing of it (**James 1:25**).

**Job 5:22** says, "*At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh...*" It is written in **Psalms 2:4** "*He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.*" Who will the Lord laugh at and have in derision? It is found in **Psalms 2:1-3**, the heathen, those who imagine a vain thing. The kings of the earth that set themselves, and the rulers that take counsel together against the Lord and against His anointed, saying break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. **Psalms 52:6** says, "*The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him.*" Laugh at who? Read **Psalms 52:1-5** and **7**.

In **Psalms 126:1-6** it says, "*When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy (or in singing), He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*"

This is just a few scriptures that I found and if you desire, you too can seek the scriptures about what He laughs at. There is so much for us to seek and find concerning our Lord. The Lord has told us in **Matthew 6:33** "*But seek ye **first** the kingdom of God (the domain where He is King, where He rules), and his righteousness (His way of being and doing right); and all these things (the things the world seeks for) shall be added unto you.*" The more you know His way of doing right, the more you will enjoy things being added to you. Seek and you shall find!

**Faith Confession:** *And I shall seek Him, and find Him, when I shall search for Him with all my heart. I seek first the kingdom of God and His way of being and doing right and God is adding to me all the things the world is seeking for. Today I am thankful that someone told me about Jesus! I am thankful that I know Jesus as my Lord, Savior, Healer, Deliverer, Provider, Victor, Shepherd, Peace, Righteousness, and the God who is present with me all the time.*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 11

***Obey Them that Have the Lead***

***Hebrews 13:17***

*"Obey them that have the rule (lead) over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."*

We are instructed to obey them that have the lead over us, and to submit ourselves. In this verse the writer of Hebrews is referring to those who are speaking the Word of God to us. Our pastors. We can see this in **Hebrews 13:7** the original Greek says, *"Remember those leading you, who spoke to you the Word of God; of whom considering the outcome of [their] way of life, imitate [their] faith."* We know the writer is talking about the pastor in this verse as it is the pastor's responsibility (stewardship) to lead, feed, and protect the sheep. The pastor of the local church is the one that will stand before God and give an account of how he/she led, fed, and protected His lambs and sheep. If the pastor loves the Lord, the pastor will feed the lambs and the sheep (**John 21:15-21**).

It is important to understand this word "submit." Submission and agreement are not the same. When do you need to obey and submit? When you do not agree! It is easy to obey when you agree. It is another thing to obey and submit when you do not agree. You can submit to your pastor and do what is asked as long as your pastor is not asking you to sin. If your pastor is wrong, he/she is the one that will have to answer to God, not you. Also, if your pastor is wrong and you submit, you give God a legal right to deal with your pastor, to change your pastor's heart and mind, and God will protect you.

Paul wrote to the church of God which was at Corinth that they were to submit themselves to those of the house of Stephanas, to such as addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints and those who help and labour (**I Corinthians 16:15-16**). In one of David's psalms of praise found in **II Samuel 22:44-45**, he said, *"Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me to be head of the heathen: a people which I knew not shall serve me. Strangers (Sons of the strangers) shall submit (shall*

show obedience) unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me." It is written of Solomon, David's son, in **I Chronicles 29:23-24**, "Then Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him. And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king."

Both David and Solomon were people who first submitted themselves to God and then to those over them and now we see that they are reaping the same in their leadership. Peter wrote to the elders and ministers in **I Peter 5:1-5**, Peter is talking to the elders who are the pastors. He said, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble."

Submission is a good thing. As we submit, yield unfeigned obedience to those God has instructed us to, we are being humble and are able to resist the devil and he will flee from us (**I Peter 5:5-10; James 4:6-10**).

**Faith Confession:** I obey them that have the rule (lead) over me, and submit myself. That means I submit to them when I do not agree with them and I do it with the right attitude, for they watch for my soul, as they that must give account. I desire that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for me. As I submit to those that are over me, then those who are under me will submit. As I do this, I am able to resist the devil and he has to flee from me and I will live in victory!

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 12

*Walking in Him*

**Colossians 2:6**

*"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him."*

How did you receive Christ Jesus the Lord? It is written in **Romans 10:9-10**, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* This is how you walk in Him. You speak the Word and believe in your heart. Then as you speak what you believe in your heart out of your mouth, it will come to pass.

This works in the negative too. When you speak negative things, they will get in your heart and you will believe those negative things. The next thing you do is speak out the negative things you believe from your heart and they come to pass. It is so important to speak the Word of God and get it down into your heart, not your head, but in your heart. For with the heart man believes, not with the head (**Romans 10:10**). How do you know what you believe in your heart? It is written in **Matthew 12:34**, *".... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."* It is the words you speak without stopping to think about what you are saying.

**Romans 10:17** says, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* Everything you believe has come as a result of hearing and hearing. This is a Bible principle and it works for the positive and the negative alike. It is said in **Proverbs 18:20-21**, *"A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."* Whatever words you love, that is the fruit you will eat whether it be God's Word which is life, or the words of the world which is death.

**Matthew 12:35-37** says, *"A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That*

*every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*" What you speak is important as to what kind of fruit you will bring forth. **Romans 16:19** says, *"For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple (innocent, unmixed, unmingled, of mind without a mixture of evil) concerning evil."*

It was never God's plan for man to know evil, and He is an unchanging God (**Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8**). In **Genesis 2:17**, God gave a command to Adam. *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* Man was already experiencing good and that was all God wanted for his people. God never intended for you and I to know the depths of Satan (**Revelation 2:24**).

What kind of words are you filling your heart and mind with? It is important to fill your heart and mind with the Word of God so you can walk in Him. To walk in Him is to walk in life and peace. **Romans 8:5-7** says, *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded (minding the things of the flesh) is death; but to be spiritually minded (minding the things of the Spirit) is life and peace. Because the carnal (fleshly) mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."*

Whatever you are hearing and hearing you will believe. The next step is you will speak it out of your mouth, and then you will act upon it. Be a doer of **Colossians 2:6-7** *"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."*

**Faith Confession:** *As I have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk I in Him. Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith. I am abounding with thanksgiving. I confess God's Word with my mouth and I believe it in my heart. As I believe in my heart what God said and I confess it with my mouth it will come to pass and I will be blessed.*



## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 13

### *Reign in Life I*

#### **Romans 5:17**

*"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."*

As sons (this equally refers to female believers) of God we were created to reign in life just as Jesus did. It is written in **Galatians 4:7 (NKJV)**, "Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." According to **Romans 5:17-18 (NKJV)**, in order to reign in this life through Jesus Christ we must first understand what has been made available to us. "For if by the one man's offense (sin, disobedience) death reigned through the one (Adam), much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as through one man's (Adam's) offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life." Justification simply means that through Jesus' righteous act, which is the act of love, it is just as though you never sinned. Isn't that Good News!

If you have a sense of condemnation which comes through sin, which is disobedience, you will never reign in life through one Jesus Christ. This is why Satan is always tempting believers to sin, to be disobedient. He knows where there is sin there will be a sense of condemnation, and he can keep you defeated. If you do sin, be quick to repent. Do **1 John 1:9** confess your sins, and believe that He is faithful and just to forgive you of your sins, and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness just as He promised. If you will believe that, then there should be no sense of condemnation.

It is written in **1 John 3:21-23**, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."

He has promised you, the believer, if you will receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness that you will reign in life through one Jesus Christ. We can only receive what has been given to us. **John 3:27** says, "...A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." The first thing that has been made available to us in **Romans 5:17** is the "abundance of grace." Notice it does not say a little grace, but abundance, which means overflowing, something above the ordinary, a great measure, more than necessary, or to be rich beyond measure. Grace is defined as God's unmerited favor or we could say all of His blessings, His ability. We cannot earn His blessings.

Grace is something we are to receive and according to **II Peter 1:2-4** grace can be multiplied. "*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these (His great and precious promises) ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*"

Grace and peace are multiplied to us through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord that comes through His Word. We can grow in grace. It is written in **II Peter 3:18** "*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...*" **James 4:6** says, "*But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*" **I Peter 5:5** says, "*Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*"

**Faith Confession:** *I receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness and I reign in life through one Jesus Christ. I reckon myself dead indeed to sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. I let not sin reign in my mortal body. Sin shall not have dominion over me, I am under grace!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 14

### *Reign in Life II*

#### **Romans 5:17**

*"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."*

We have seen that we are to reign in life through one Jesus Christ and this happens as we receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. Yesterday we focused on the abundance of grace. Today let's focus on the second part of this which is to receive the gift of righteousness.

Along with receiving the abundance of grace we are also to receive the gift of righteousness, right standing with God. We cannot earn or attain our right standing with God. We cannot develop into right standing. Righteousness or right standing with God is a free gift from God, which is to be received by faith. **Ephesians 2:8-9** says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* **II Corinthians 5:21** tells us, *"For He (God) hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

It is also said in **I Corinthians 1:30-31** *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."* The only way we can be righteous is to be in Christ Jesus. You can read in **Romans 10:8-10** how this happens. The moment a person believes that Jesus is the Son of God and that God raised Jesus from the dead and confesses Him as Lord, this person comes into right standing with God. What does that mean? Yes, we are saved from hell, but it means much more than that. We've been made righteous. We've been made a child and a son of God, not just a servant. Yes, we are to serve Him, but we are sons and have been given sonship privileges. God Almighty, the creator of the heavens and the earth claims us as His children, as His sons just like He does Jesus. In His sight we are just as righteous as Jesus is righteous. It is His righteousness that is given to us as a free gift.

We are just as accepted as Jesus is accepted (**Ephesians 1:6**)! All that He is, we are in Him. **I John 4:17** says, "...that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." **I John 3:1-2** says, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons (Greek – the children – anyone living in full dependence on the Heavenly Father, relying upon the Lord in glad submission) of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons (children) of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Jesus is completely loved by the Father and as He is, so are we in this world. We are just as completely loved by the Father as Jesus is. We are just as righteous as Jesus is. Why? Because God has accepted us in Him. Our righteousness is not our own, it is His. The blood of Jesus has completely washed all of our sins away. There is no guilt, no shame, and no condemnation that is more powerful than the blood of Jesus.

When we know who we are in Christ Jesus and that we are just as righteous as Jesus is, it gives us boldness. **Hebrews 10:19-22 (NKJV)** says, "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." It is also written in **Hebrews 4:16** "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. You will have boldness to stand against Satan, his demons, sin, and the consequences of sin.

**Faith Confession:** *I receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness by faith. When I believed on Jesus and confessed Him as Lord I became the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Now I can rule and reign in Jesus Name! As He is so am I in this world!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 15

### *How to Reign in Life*

#### **Romans 5:17**

*"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."*

So many times, we are told that we are to do something but never given the instructions on "How to". Our Heavenly Father did not do that to us. He has given us instructions or we could say the "How to" in His Word and Jesus was our example.

Let's read **Romans 5:12-14,17**, and **21**. In those verses you will see that we are to reign in life through one Jesus Christ. What are we to reign over and how are we to reign in life? We see in **Romans 5:14,17,21** that sin and death reigned! According to **Romans 6:12-14** we are not to let sin reign in our mortal bodies, for sin shall not have dominion over us. Death was the result of sin. Sickness, disease, poverty and everything bad are all manifestations of sin and death. These are all the things we are to reign over. When you reign over sin you are reigning over the one who brought sin and death and all the manifestations of death.

In **Romans 5:21** it says, *"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."* Remember that **Romans 5:17 (NKJV)** says that *"...those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."* So, we see that grace reigns through or by the instrumentality of righteousness. Righteousness simply means being and doing right.

How are we to reign over sin and death? It is written in **Ecclesiastes 8:4** *"Where the word of a king is, there is power (authority)..."* How does a king reign? He uses words. If the king wants a house built, what does he do? He speaks words to someone. He wants to build a house and he gives orders to have that done. It is written in **Job 22:28 (NKJV)** *"You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways."* Are you a king? According to **1 Timothy 6:15**, **Revelation 17:14**, and **19:16**, Jesus is the King of kings and the

Lord of lords. In **Revelation 1:6** it is written, "*And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*" We are kings! Jesus is our example. He led the way for us. He has shown us how we are to reign in life. Jesus reigned in life and as He is, so are we in this world (**I John 4:17**)! Where the Word of Jesus, the King of kings is, there is authority.

Jesus reigned in life with righteous words. This is exactly how you and I are to reign in life. Jesus reigned over Satan, his demons, the things Satan tried to enforce in people's lives, and sin with righteous words (**Luke 4:4-12; Luke 4:32-35**). Jesus reigned over sickness and disease (**Luke 5:17; Luke 4:38-41**), death (**Matthew 11:5; Luke 7:12-15; John 11:40-44**), nature (**Luke 8:23-24; Mark 11:12-14,20-23**), and lack (**Mark 6:34-44**). The disciples did the same works that Jesus did (**Luke 10:17-20; Acts 3:6-7; Acts 9:33-41; Acts 14:8-10**). And finally, you and I are to do the same works and greater works (**John 14:12**).

Is there some hindrance in your life? My prayer is that you will receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. That you will know that you are just as righteous as Jesus is righteous and rise up to reign in your life through the one Jesus Christ. Do this with righteous words!!!! Speak to the mountains, the hindrances in your life and tell them where you want them moved to. Speak to the trees and storms, to sickness and disease. Speak to fever, to lack. They all have ears and can hear and must obey the name of Jesus. Everything was created with words and with words can be changed. Be a doer of His Word and be blessed!

**Faith Confession:** *I receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. Jesus has made me a king and priest unto God and His Father. I reign over sin, death, and all the manifestations of death in my domain in Jesus Name. Where the word of the king (that's me) is there is power, authority. I shall decree a thing and it shall be established for me! He said it, I believe it, and that settles it!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 16

### *Hindrances to Reigning in Life*

#### **Matthew 17:19**

*"Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him (the evil spirit) out?"*

Here in **Matthew 17:14-21** we see the story of a father who had brought his lunatic son to the disciples to get his son free from a demon. The disciples were not able to cast the demon out. So, the father takes his son to Jesus and the boy is set free. Later the disciples go to Jesus and ask Him why they could not cast the demon out. They saw that Jesus rebuked the devil and it departed out of the boy (**Matthew 17:18**). In **Matthew 17:20** *"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief..."* Unbelief will hinder you from reigning in life. Jesus went on to say in this same verse, *"...If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say, (sounds like **Ecclesiastes 8:4** and **Job 22:28**) unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."* One cure for unbelief is found in the very next verse. Prayer and fasting. Notice Jesus did not say that the demon did not come out because they did not pray and fast. He said it was because of their unbelief.

You can overcome unbelief through prayer and fasting. I have shared on this in previous devotions, but I will share it again. You can read Marks account of this same story in **Mark 9:14-29**. One of the reasons for their unbelief was because they had been in pride concerning who should be greatest (**Mark 9:33-34**). Pride is a faith drainer. The best cure for pride is prayer and fasting. When you pray and fast you are denying your flesh what it wants.

Let's look at another hindrance to reigning in life. Go with me to **Mark 11:22-26**. In these verses you will see that unforgiveness can hinder you from reigning in life. *"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and*

*ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, **forgive**, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."*

Unforgiveness is a hindrance to reigning in life. If the Lord says to forgive if you have ought against any, and you don't do it, you are in disobedience. You are in sin and your faith will not work, and Satan and his demons do not have to obey you. Sin will hinder you from reigning in life. What is sin? **James 4:17** says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." It is good to forgive people that you have things against. To know to do this and not do it, to you it is sin. Worry is sin (**Philippians 4:6-8; I Peter 5:6-7**).

**I John 5:17** says, "All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death." It is written in **I John 3:4** "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." **Romans 14:23** says, "...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." That simply means that whatever is done without a sense of God's approval is sin to you. For example, if I believe it is wrong for me to drink coffee and decide to drink it, then I am not doing it in faith. To me it is sin. Finally **Proverbs 21:4** says, "An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing (light) of the wicked, is sin." God hates pride and we should hate it too (**Proverbs 8:13**). It is written in **James 4:6-7** "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Being submitted to God through humility will enable you to resist the devil and he will have to flee from you.

We saw in **Romans 5:17** that those who receive the abundance of grace (you get more grace when you humble yourself by doing what He says in His Word) and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life through one Jesus Christ. When these hindrances are removed from our lives, our faith will work!!! We will reign over circumstances, over Satan, over sin, over all the works of the devil and we will be victorious!!! We must always remember to pass all the praise, and honor, and glory to our good, good God!

**Faith Confession:** *Father I come to You in Jesus name and I ask You to forgive me of any and all sin, whether it be a sin of omission or commission. I receive my forgiveness by faith. Amen. I choose as an act of my will to be a hearer and a doer of the Word of God.*



*As I do this, I will keep the hindrances out of my life. I will reign in life through one Jesus Christ!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 17

*For I know the Plans I Have for You*

**Jeremiah 29:11**  
(NIV)

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

These are the words of the letter Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the elders who were carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon. While still in captivity God was letting them know that His plans are good plans. This has been God's Word for His people from the beginning of time and will always be His Word. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**).

Yes, there are tests in life but He has told us in **James 1:2-4 (NKJV)** *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."* When you are in the middle of a test the last thing you may feel like doing is being joyful, that's why he said to count it all joy. The word "count" means to "rule over". Why rule over the test with joy? First it is another occasion for God to work a miracle. Secondly the strength that comes from joy will put us over. Make the devil sorry he fooled with you. Let him know he picked the wrong person to fool with. As long as you stay in joy, you'll stay strong. If you start crying and feeling sorry for yourself, you are going down.

You can read in **Acts 16:16-33** where Paul and Silas ended up being beaten with rods and thrown into the inner prison and their feet put in stocks for doing a good work. A woman had been set free from Satan's bondage. This was the perfect opportunity for Paul and Silas to count it all joy. I'm pretty sure they did not feel like being joyous. How did they count it all joy or rule over their circumstances? **Acts 16:25** says, *"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."* The end result was a great earthquake shook the foundations of the prison, all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were

loosed. That was a great miracle but the greatest miracle was the jailer and all his household were saved that night. If Paul and Silas had cried and whined about their circumstance neither they nor anyone else would have been saved that night.

Satan has plans for us, plans to steal, kill, and destroy; God's plans are plans to prosper and not to harm. The Holy Spirit will bring a song up in your heart right when you need it as you keep your mind stayed on Him. Just the other day, as I was sitting at my desk working, a song rose up in my heart and I began to sing "Let God arise and His enemies be scattered." I believe as we sing praises to our Lord and about Him that we are letting God arise and His enemies are scattered. We are exhorted in **Philippians 4:4** to "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Why? Because He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (**I Corinthians 15:57**).

**Faith Confession:** *My God has plans to prosper me and not to harm me, plans to give me hope and a future. I will count it joy when my faith is being tested and tried. I will let patience have her perfect work, that I may be perfect and complete lacking nothing. I will rejoice in the Lord always because my God gives me the victory through my Lord Jesus Christ!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 18

*Live in The Spirit - Walk in The Spirit*

**Galatians 5:25**

*"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

The Lord is calling us to walk in the spirit and to allow Him to manifest Himself by His Spirit to this world. Since the day of Pentecost, we have had the potential to walk in the power and authority that Jesus walked in. We are God's children, His ambassadors, and we have been sent to do the same works that Jesus did and greater works (**John 14:12**). This will happen as we walk in the spirit.

Therefore, the question is, how do we get to this place of walking in the spirit? We want to please God, to serve Him with our whole heart, but we have to overcome the weakness of the flesh. It is written in **Galatians 5:16-17**, *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."* Our heart is to do the right thing. Because of the weakness of the flesh, which is Satan's only weapon against us, often we do not do those things we know to do and even desire to do. I am thankful that God has given us a way to overcome the weakness of the flesh by walking in the spirit.

For example, Peter thought he would never deny the Lord but because of the weakness of the flesh he failed. In **Matthew 26:40-41 (NKJV)** Jesus spoke something to Peter that would help him walk in the spirit. *"Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."* Jesus was tempted in all things just like we are, but He knew the importance of prayer. He was praying Himself and because of that He did not yield to the weakness of the flesh. Whatever you give your attention to that's what your flesh will be trained to do. The more you give your attention to the things of God the more you will behave and walk after the Spirit of God.

**Romans 12:1-2** says, "...ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." It is written in "**Romans 8:5-6 (NKJV)**" *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."* The whole world around us is pushing the things of the flesh. The devil pulls at your flesh to get you to go the direction of the world because he is interested in you being body ruled. The world puts the body and mind before the spirit. The world is geared to pamper the body. Paul said in **I Corinthians 9:27 (CJB)** *"I (speaking of the man on the inside) treat my body hard and make it my slave so that, after proclaiming the Good News to others, I myself will not be disqualified."* God is interested in us dominating our body through our recreated spirit. This happens as we give attention to the things of God and practice godliness, (being like God). God's order for man is spirit, soul, and body (**I Thessalonians 5:23**).

As we expose our flesh to the Word of God and prayer, we will find ourselves walking in the spirit. Prayer includes praise and worship, which is the highest kind of prayer. Walking in the spirit means you have spiritual things on your mind. As we walk in the spirit, we will not fulfil the lusts (strong desires) of the flesh mentioned in **Galatians 5:19-21**. We will find ourselves walking in the fruit of the Spirit, which is *"...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"* (**Galatians 5:22-25 NKJV**).

I encourage you to spend time every day in the Word of God and in prayer especially praising and worshipping and praying in the spirit. Your life and the life of others will be blessed!

**Faith Confession:** *I am a spirit, I have a soul, and I live in a body. Since I am a spirit, I live in the spirit and I walk in the spirit. As I do this I will not yield to the strong desires of the flesh. I can rule over my body as I expose my flesh to the Word of God, and prayer, which includes praise and worship. As I do this, I will find myself walking in the spirit.*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 19

### *Be Filled with The Spirit*

#### **Ephesians 5:18**

*"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."*

**Ephesians 5:17-21** says, *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."*

As I was reading through the book of Acts, which is really the Acts of the Holy Spirit, I noticed the will of the Father that was evidenced in the believer's lives. When we stay filled with the Holy Spirit and yield to Him, we will see the very same things happening in our lives that happened in the believer's lives. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and stay filled, our lives will be different. Our walk will be that which pleases the Father. The Father's will shall become our will. Jesus said in **John 14:12** *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."* It was necessary that Jesus go to the Father so He could send the Holy Spirit to help us. Let's take a look at what happened on the Day of Pentecost and in the days following after the Holy Spirit was poured out.

**Acts 2:4** *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* This was the first sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit. One of the results of speaking in other tongues is that you will speak of the wonderful works of God in this language that you never studied to learn (**Acts 2:7-11**). You will magnify God and not man, and not yourself.

Another thing that is evident is boldness. It is written in **Acts 2:14** *"But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at*

*Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:*" That is boldness! Read **Acts 4:8-13, 31**. Peter is the one that had denied Jesus just days before the Holy Spirit was poured out. Now we see him boldly speak the Word of God. We also see in **Acts 2:41** the adding of people to the kingdom of God. *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."*

When reading **Acts 2:42-47** we can see many characteristics that are the result of being filled with the Holy Spirit. In **verse 42** it tells us that *"...they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (teaching) and fellowship, in breaking of bread (communion), and in prayers."* **Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:31-37, and Acts 11:27-30** exemplifies a spirit of giving and love. **Romans 5:5** says, *"...the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."* God is love, and this love that has been shed abroad in our hearts is not selfish.

In **Acts 2:46-47** we see that *"...they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, (they went to church every day), and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat (food) with gladness and singleness of heart."* I used to read **verse 46** this way, "So they continued daily IN one accord..." but it says WITH one accord. Is there a difference? Yes, there is. *The American Heritage Dictionary* gives this definition of the word "with". "As a companion of: accompanying: as a possession, attribute or characteristic" while the definition of the word "in" means, "within the limits, bounds, or area of." The Greek word for accord is "mind". So, we could read **verse 46** this way, "They continued daily with one mind in the temple..." They were in agreement or harmony with one another. The Word and the Holy Spirit agree. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and we are yielded to Him, we will be in agreement with God. If we are in agreement with God, we will automatically be in agreement with each other. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will be praising God and having favor with all the people, and the Lord will add to the church daily those who are being saved.

These are just a few things that characterize being filled with the Holy Spirit. As we are filled, stay filled, and yield to the Holy Spirit we can expect to see the same things today.

**Faith Confession:** *I am not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. I am filled and stay filled with the Holy Spirit. I speak to myself in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing*

*and making melody in my heart to the Lord; giving thanks always  
for all things unto God and the Father in Jesus name!*



## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 20

### *The Goodness of God*

#### **Psalm 31:19**

*"Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!"*

God's goodness is a theme that can be seen from Genesis to Revelation. The simple truth that God is good is the foundation of our faith in Him. The more we know God's goodness, the more we trust Him. The more we trust Him, the easier it is for us to completely put our lives in His hands. When we place our lives in His hands, we open the way for Him to save us, bless us, and work through us, so that His will can be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Luke 12:32** says, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." **Psalm 84:11b** says, "...no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

He is not withholding things. He wants us to enjoy His benefits of healing, prosperity, peace, joy, and all of His manifold blessings that have already been given to us (**Ephesians 1:3**). When we see His goodness, it is easy to relax and receive what He has provided for us and what we need from Him. Many people believe that they are waiting on God to give them what they need. The truth is He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (**II Peter 1:3**). He is waiting on us to believe in His goodness and receive what He has provided.

Until you settle the fact that God is good and that He only does good, and that you can trust Him with your life, your faith is never going to be great. You will always draw back in fear. Your thinking will be, "What if He is not listening to me?" What if He doesn't come through for me?" "What if He asks me to do something I don't like?"

Once your heart grasps the goodness of God, you will be confident that He will never hurt you, leave you, or let you down as long as you follow Him. When you follow Him, He will always be there, loving you, helping you, and blessing you.

In **Mark 4:35-40 (NKJV)** we can see an example of not trusting in the Lord's goodness. *"On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them (His disciples), "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"*

The disciples questioned the goodness of their Lord. They thought Jesus did not care about their lives. He spoke a word to them in **verse 35**, *"Let US cross over to the other side,"* Today we have the Word of God in written form. There are many things He has told us to do and things He has told us not to do. The things He has written to us are all for our good. We never have to question His goodness toward us. When we know Him, we trust Him, which means we can trust what He has told us to do in His Word.

David understood the goodness of God. In **I Samuel 13:14** and **Acts 13:22** God calls David a man after His own heart. As a young shepherd boy tending his flocks, David fellowshiped with God and came to know His nature. He knew He was a loving God. He knew He was good, kind, and patient. David believed that God would take care of him, provide for him, and deliver him from danger. Take time to read **Psalms 23**. It gives you insight into God's goodness! It reveals what God wants to do for us here on earth in the "valley of the shadow of death," where we must deal with our enemy, the devil.

The more you understand the truth of **Psalms 23** the more you will be able to trust God in every area of your life and in every circumstance. The revelation of this Psalm will fill you with confidence in God! Knowing the goodness of God is the foundation of your faith! Give thanks to the Lord for His goodness every day. Read **Psalms 107**.

**Faith Confession:** *My heavenly Father is a good God. He only does good. He has laid up goodness for me because I reverence Him and trust in Him. His goodness follows me all the days of my life. He withholds no good thing from me because I walk uprightly. I praise the Lord for His goodness!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 21

**Do Not Fret**

**Psalm 37:7**  
(NKJV)

*"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass."*

**Psalm 37:7-9 (NKJV)** *"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret (Another way to say it is, don't get upset.) because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret (or get upset) - it only causes harm. For evil doers shall be cut off; But those that wait upon the Lord, They shall inherit the earth."*

Take time to read the whole 37<sup>th</sup> chapter of Psalm. The Lord has instructed us to not fret or get upset. If He said not to do it, then we know it is possible to do that Word. God would be unjust to give us instructions of what to do and what not to do if it were not possible. The empowerment to do His Word is in His Word. Not only is there empowerment, but our protection and blessing is attached to the doing of the Word. Find out what He has instructed you to do and begin doing it. When you do your part, God will do His part.

A person of faith will not fret or get upset. The definition of "upset" means "to defeat unexpectedly". It means your capacity for clear thinking has been destroyed. The enemy desires for us to yield to being upset and worried. If he can get us mad, upset and worried, then it is possible for him to get us off of God's path onto the path of the destroyer. If we continue to rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him, we will inherit the earth. **Micah 7:7** says, *"Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me."* When Micah said "I will", he was doing it as an act of his will. He made the decision to look to the Lord and wait for the God of his salvation instead of trying to make his own way.

There are many things going on in the world today, but we can rest in the Lord because of what the Lord has promised us. It is written

in **Psalm 37:9 (NKJV)**, "For evil doers shall be cut off..." and in **verse 10**, "For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more..." "...you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more..." **Verse 13** says, "The Lord laughs at him..." at who? **Verse 12** "The wicked who plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth." Why does the Lord laugh? **Verse 13b** "... For He sees that his day coming." If the Lord laughs at the wicked who plots against the just (the righteous), what should we do? We already know we are not to fret, get mad, upset and worry. Just laugh at the devil. He is the one influencing people for evil. We must remember that people are not our enemy. According to **Ephesians 6:12**, Satan is the enemy. I am not saying that we are not to pray, but it is important not to pray from a place of fear or anger. We must pray from the place of faith and victory. Jesus said in **Luke 10:19**, "Behold, I give unto you power (authority) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over ALL the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Do you believe that? If you do, you will take your place of authority and pray from that place of faith and victory. If you are in faith, joy will be evident. Look to Him, the author and finisher of your faith (**Hebrews 12:1-2**).

**Isaiah 54:14-15,17 (CJB)** says, "In righteousness you will be established, far from oppression, with nothing to fear; far from ruin, for it will not come near you. Any alliance that forms against you will not be my doing; whoever tries to form such an alliance will fall because of you. No weapon made will prevail against you. In court you will refute every accusation. The servants of Adonai inherit all this; the reward for their righteousness is from me. says Adonai. It is written in **Psalm 37:34 (NKJV)** "Wait on the Lord, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it." The way to keep from fretting and getting upset is by looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher of your faith. Faith trusts God and love obeys God. Every time you see something in the Word that God says to do and you obey, you are building your house upon the solid Rock, Jesus Christ. When the storms of life come you will stand.

**Faith Confession:** *I rest in the Lord; I wait patiently for Him. I do not fret or get upset because of him who prospers in his way. I keep my eyes upon Jesus the author and finisher of my faith. My faith, my trust in God, is revealed by joy and peace!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 22

**Be Not Troubled**

**Matthew 24:6**

*"And you shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."*

We have a command from the Lord to "see that you be not troubled," when you hear of wars and rumours of wars. Now it is up to us to obey this command of the Lord. He has already made it known to us that we will hear of wars and rumours of wars, so don't be surprised when you hear these things. Remember, the end is not yet!!!!

What is a rumour? It is a circulating story or report of uncertain or doubtful truth. It is gossip, hearsay, talk of something but it may not be true. The news casters may be speaking of war and other things but don't let yourself be troubled by it. The Lord said that these things must come to pass. So, He has prepared us for what is to come. Let's read on in **Matthew 24** and see what else the Master has said.

**Matthew 24:7-14** says, *"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."*

There has been nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There have been famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in different places. We have seen this and people have been sorrowful. People have gotten offended, and betrayed one another and hate one another, but we are not supposed to be in

that number!!! Christians have waxed cold and will wax cold but that should not surprise us nor should it trouble us. Let's be sure that we endure unto the end, and be saved. The end will come when *"this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations..."* Instead of focusing on what the news is saying, we need to focus on preaching the gospel of the kingdom in all the world.

What is the gospel of the kingdom? The gospel of the kingdom is **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* You can be saved and enjoy eternal life, life like God's right here, right now on earth. The gospel of the kingdom is **I Peter 2:24** *"Who his own self (Jesus) bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."* The healing message is part of this gospel. The gospel of the kingdom is **II Corinthians 8:9** *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."* The message that God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (**Philippians 4:19**) is part of the gospel that we are to preach in all the world. Has this gospel been preached in all the world? Is this the gospel that you are preaching? What did Jesus preach? That is what we are to preach! When this is done, then shall the end come.

We have a work to do. If we will focus on preaching the gospel to all the world instead of sitting and watching the news about the wars, and rumours of wars, and all the bad things that's going on in the world, we will endure to the end and we shall be saved! Keep your eyes upon Jesus the author and finisher of your faith (**Hebrews 12:1-2**).

**Faith Confession:** *I am a hearer and a doer of the Word of God. I obey His commands; therefore, I will see that I am not troubled. I will keep my eyes upon Jesus the author and finisher of my faith, enabling me to endure to the end. I will preach the gospel to the world, which includes Jesus took the punishment for your sin so you can be saved. Jesus took your sickness so you can be healed. Jesus became poor so you can be rich! I will preach the full gospel just like Jesus did. As I do this I will be blessed and a blessing to many.*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 23

*He Was Very Sorrowful*

**Luke 18:23**

*"And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich."*

Here in **Luke 18:18-30** is the story about a rich ruler who had come to the Master asking Him what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus talks to the rich ruler about the commandments. The rich ruler spoke to Jesus and said, *"All these I have kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me"* (**Verses 21-22**). Jesus is offering this rich ruler a place in His ministry just as He had to the other disciples.

Suddenly this man was not excited about inheriting eternal life any longer. When he heard the words of the Master to go and sell all that he had and give it to the poor, he was very sorrowful, for he was very rich. Some people would use this scripture to say that God does not want His people to be rich, and certainly not very rich. This is not true. He does want us to be rich and very rich. What He does not want is our riches to have us, as was the case with this rich ruler. There are people that have misquoted **I Timothy 6:10** saying that money is the root of all kinds of evil. The scripture reads, *"For the love of money (which is covetousness) is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* That sounds like the rich ruler.

Let's go back and read **Luke 18:28-30**. *"Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world (age) to come life everlasting."* The Master was not wanting to take something away from this rich ruler. He was wanting to get something more to him along with being very rich. This rich ruler must not have been familiar with **Proverbs 19:17** *"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath*

*given will he (the Lord) pay him again."* He would not have lost all his wealth. The Lord would have paid him back plus given him eternal life, which means life like God's. That is abundance, plus!!!

It is also written in **Luke 6:38**, *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."* There are many things that people hold to and it makes them very sorrowful when the Master asks them to give it up and follow Him. The worst thing is the rich ruler and other people like him will never know, down here on earth, what they missed out on by holding onto things the Master asks them to give up.

Some people hold to their homes and family or to their traditions. In **II Kings 18:4** we are told that the children of Israel ended up worshipping the serpent on the pole. The thing that God used as a type and shadow of the Lord Jesus, to bring deliverance to the children of Israel, they ended up worshipping. It became their idol. Just as that became their idol so money and other things that God has given us to bless us with can become an idol. There are people that are saddened when the Word of the Lord comes forth and it isn't what they want to hear and do. They reject the Word of God to hold to their traditions (**Mark 7:6-7**). A tradition can be an idol. The definition of a tradition is something you have received to hold. Something that has been passed down but there is not one verse in the Bible to support it. Something you would fight someone for. People say, "Well there are a multitude of Christians doing it, it can't be wrong." Really? What about Jesus' disciples in **John 6:53-68**? If you were following the multitude, you would have left Jesus that day.

Let's not be like the rich ruler or like the children of Israel and have anything in our lives that keeps us from fully following the Master. If the Master asks you to give something up (He often does this through your pastor or through other ministers), know He is interested in getting something more and greater to you.

**Faith Confession:** *I love the Lord my God with all my heart, and with all of my soul, and with all of my mind, and with all of my strength. I will have no other gods before me. I worship the Lord my God and Him only will I serve!*



## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 24

### *The Purpose of Money*

#### **Deuteronomy 8:18**

*"But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day."*

It pleases our Heavenly Father when we prosper. It is written in **Psalm 35:27** *"Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant."* The Hebrew word for prosperity here is "Shalom" which means "completeness, soundness, welfare, which includes health and prosperity. It means peace, safe, secure, contentment, friendship, and peace with God, especially in covenant relationship."

I believe we do favour His righteous cause, therefore we are to shout for joy, and be glad. We are to say continually, "Let the Lord be magnified, which has pleasure in my peace with Him, especially in covenant relationship, completeness, soundness, welfare, health, prosperity, peace, safety, security, contentment, and friendships." This is what He said under the Old Covenant concerning His servants, so how much more for us who are His sons under the New Covenant! God takes pleasure in our prosperity. Why? Because His Kingdom business will be financed. We cannot finance His Kingdom business if we are poor. He cannot establish His covenant if we are poor.

Religion has taught that money is unholy, that it is evil. Money is not evil. The love of money is the root of all evil (**I Timothy 6:10**). Money takes on the characteristics of the one who possesses it. Let me explain that. If a person is evil, they will use their money for evil causes. If a person is righteous, they will use their money for the righteous cause of establishing His covenant on the earth. So, it has to do with the person that possesses the money, not the money itself.

God wants all of your needs supplied abundantly (**Philippians 4:19; John 10:10**). It pleases the Father when you have more than enough. As a parent, do you want your children to be poor?

Of course not. We are created in God's image; we get the desire for our children to be blessed from Him. It comes from our Heavenly Father. God has shown us in **Matthew 6:24-34** that He is interested in our every need being supplied. The things the world seeks for we are not to seek. We are to seek first His Kingdom and His way of being and doing right. The result of doing that Word is, He has promised to add to us all the things the world seeks. The question is do we believe what He said? If we did, we would be sure to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness. In order for this to be true in your life you will have to take time to speak these verses and meditate upon them. The result is that you will observe to do them, then you will succeed in what He said (**Joshua 1:8; III John 1:2**).

The sure cure for lack is the Word of God. If you get behind financially it is important to increase your intake of the Word of God and acting upon that Word. Many believe that their need is more money, so they go and get more jobs and work longer hours. If the Lord told you to do that, then obey, but do not leave out increasing the intake of God's Word. If it was God that told you to take on more work, know that God will not steal from your family time or your church time. He will not steal from your time serving in your local church because of a job. If you are serving in your local church, He will not steal from your time to give your best service. God will not tell you to get more work to take you away from doing His work. You will know if it is God. It is written in **Proverbs 10:22** *"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."*

Your job is not your provider. God is your provider. Your job and career are simply avenues through which God blesses you. If your job or anything or anybody is your provider you have limited God. Don't limit God. He has promised those who obey His Word in **Deuteronomy 28:12** that He would open unto us His good treasure, the heaven to give the rain (rain is representative of His blessings) unto our land in His season, and to bless ALL the work of our hand: and we would lend to many nations, and we would not borrow! Can a poor person lend to many nations? No! Remember the purpose for money. It is God that gives you the power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant! His covenant is His Word.

**Faith Confession:** *Write your own confession in line with the Word of God.*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 25

### *More Precious Than Gold*

#### **I Peter 1:7**

*"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."*

What is precious to God? Your faith, and there are other things the Bible tells us is precious to God. The blood of Jesus is precious (**I Peter 1:19**). Jesus is precious (**I Peter 2:4**). The promises of God are precious (**II Peter 1:4**). You are precious (**James 5:7**).

Your faith is precious. **Hebrews 11:6** tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Since our faith is precious then we can know that it is a threat to Satan. It is written in **I John 5:4** "*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*" It would be correct to say that through faith we overcome sickness, disease, poverty, destruction, sin, fear, depression, and anything that steals, kills, and destroys. Through faith we overcome the world. This means we overcome Satan because he is the god of this world (**II Corinthians 4:4**).

If Satan can get your faith, he can defeat you. The only way he can get your faith is to steal the Word out of your heart. In **Luke 8:11-15** it is clear what Satan is after. He wants to get the Word out of your heart. His first attempt is to take the Word away lest a person believes and is saved. If he cannot get that accomplished then he endeavors to get them to fall away through temptations. If that does not work then he tries to choke the Word out of the heart through the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, or the pleasures of life.

Good ground is the heart that is noble or honest. The Word is heard and kept, which means you receive it, value it, and do it. This is the heart that brings forth fruit with patience. **Hebrews 6:12** tells us that we inherit the promises through faith and patience. Faith alone is not enough; you must add patience to your faith along with the other things listed in **II Peter 1:3-10**. In doing this you will

not stumble or get offended when temptations and trials come your way (**Matthew 13:21**).

It is written in **James 1:2-4 (NKJV)** *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials..."* The word "count" means to rule over. We are to rule over the trial with joy, why? Because we know *"...that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."* Joy comes from the Word of God (**Romans 15:13; Acts 2:28**). Joy is a fruit of our recreated spirit (**Galatians 5:22**). Finally, Paul encourages us in **Philippians 4:4-9** to rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice! He goes on to tell us to be anxious for nothing, pray, give thanks, and keep your thoughts on things that are praiseworthy, His Word. Joy is important to overcoming the trial of your faith. **Nehemiah 8:10** tells us that the joy of the Lord is our strength. Where there is no joy, there is weakness. So, we see the importance to rejoicing in the Lord always so that we keep our strength.

There will be tests. Satan's plan is to defeat you. God's plan is for you to come out with a stronger and brighter faith. He has given us everything we need to overcome any test whether it is sin, sickness, lack, destruction, depression, relationship issues, loss, or fear. Jesus told Peter in **Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)** *"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."* In **Matthew 26:40-41** Jesus was trying to let Peter and the other disciples know how not to enter into temptation. We are to watch or guard our hearts and pray. It is written in **Jude 1:20** *"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost."* Put the Word into practice and you will overcome every trial that comes your way.

If Satan can't get the Word out of your heart, he can't get your faith, if he can't get your faith, he can't get your joy, if he can't get your joy, he can't get your strength, if he can't get your strength, then you will stand, pass the test, and enter the rest.

**Faith Confession:** *My faith is precious. When I encounter tests and trials, I believe I will overcome them by faith. I will continually feed my faith with the Word of God and do it. As I do this, I will keep my joy, my strength, my health, my finances, and my stuff. I am a hearer and a doer of the Word of God and I am blessed!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 26

### *To Know the Love of Christ I*

#### **Ephesians 3:19**

*"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."*

It is the Father's will for us to know for ourselves, experientially, the love of Christ. Do you really know how much Christ loves you? He loved you so very much that He was willing to lay down His own life for you. He was willing to lay aside His own interests to do that which pleased the Father. Not doing His own will, but doing the will of the Father. Out of His love for you He crucified His flesh. He did not allow His flesh to rule Him. If He would have allowed His flesh to rule, He would not have gone to the cross in your place. He would not have testified that the works of the world were evil.

It is written in **John 7:6-7** "*Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*" Jesus was speaking to His own brothers. He said, "...*the world cannot hate you; but me it hateth...*" He was not trying to get the approval of His own family, or of the world. Jesus said why the world hated Him. "...*because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*" This is the love of Christ. This is how much He loved us.

Many times, in our attempt to win the lost we end up following them instead of being an example to them. I would rather the world hate me and be with Christ. In **John 7:10** we see that Jesus did go up to the feast, not openly, but in secret. His purpose was to go to the temple and teach (**John 7:14**). This is the love He wants us to know.

In both the Old and New Testaments, we can read of others the world hated. People did come to the Lord when men and women stood for the truth. Daniel was thrown into the lions den but he did not fear, because he knew the love of God (**Daniel 6**). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were thrown into the fiery furnace because of their stand for the truth. The world hated them. They did not fear men. They feared God. They knew experientially the

love of God. They did not try to be friends of the world in hopes to win them to the Lord. When they took that stand and spoke the right words, God was able to protect them and deliver them. When the world saw the miracles even kings changed and acknowledged God (**Daniel 3**).

John the Baptist knew the love of Christ for himself. He did not fear men. He testified that people's works were evil (**Matthew 14:3-4; Luke 3:19-20**). Paul is another one that the world hated. He knew for himself the love of Christ. He trusted God to deliver him out of trouble, and God did. He was not afraid to testify that the world's works were evil.

That is just a few who knew experientially the love of God and Christ. When you know how much God loves you and you know for yourself the love of Christ, you will not fear men. You will not care that the world hates you. You will not feel like you have to buddy up with the world to win them to Christ. I encourage you to come and know for yourself the love of Christ. This was Paul's prayer for the saints at Ephesus and the result of knowing the love of Christ experientially is, "...that ye might be filled with the fulness of God."

**Faith Confession:** *God is granting me, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in my inner man; That Christ may dwell in my heart by faith; that I, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that I might be filled with all the fulness of God!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 27

### ***Know the Love of Christ II***

#### ***Ephesians 3:19***

*"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."*

It is important for us to know the love of Christ. We must come to know how much He loves us. How do we do that? We come to know Him through His Word, by the help of the Holy Spirit. We saw in yesterday's devotion how men and women in the Bible, who knew the love of Christ, would take a stand for the truth. They did not fear man. They did have a reverence for God and His things.

Jesus is our example and to be like Christ is our ultimate goal in life. We saw in **John 7:6** what Jesus said to his brothers when they wanted Him to go up to the feast with them. He said, *"...My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready."* We know from scripture that Jesus spoke what He heard the Father say. He said in **John 7:16-18**, *"...My doctrine (teaching) is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine (teaching), whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself (meaning you are speaking your own words and not His) seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him."* When we say what He says, we are seeking His glory and not our own glory.

Because Jesus did not buddy up with the world, He did not agree with the world, it enabled God to keep Him. In **John 7:28-29**, Jesus said, *"...Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me."* What happened after He said those words? It is written in **John 7:30**, *"Then they sought to take (kill) him..."* They hated Jesus. They hated what He said to them. Even though they hated Him, they could not kill Him before His time. Isn't that what He said in **John 7:6**? *"My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready."* What did He mean by that? He meant that they were in Satan's hands and Satan could kill them any time he wanted to because of their sin. But Satan could not kill Jesus because He was in God's

hands, under His divine protection, because He was righteous and always obeyed the Father.

Let's read **John 7:30** again and see the result of His faith (trust in God His Father and our Father) and His obedience. *"Then they sought to take (kill) him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come."* We know that people tried to kill Jesus several times but they could not kill Him (**Mark 11:17-18; Luke 20:18-19; John 5:16-18; John 8:59**).

When you know the love of Christ you too can trust in Him to keep you and deliver you from evil. Even though people might not like it when you speak the truth in love to them, you can trust His love for you. Remember what Paul wrote to the believers in **Ephesians 5:11**, *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."* I am not saying that you should always say everything that comes to your mind. Check your heart. Be sure it is the leading of the Holy Spirit. We know that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit and we too can be just as led by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was. Let's be doers of **James 1:19-20**, *"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man (person) be swift to hear, SLOW TO SPEAK, SLOW TO WRATH: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."* Jesus always worked the righteousness of God!

**Faith confession:** *As I read and study God's Word each day, meditate in it, and pray this prayer Paul prayed, I am coming to know the love of Christ. God is granting me according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. That Christ may dwell in my heart by faith; that I, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that I might be filled with all the fulness of God.*



## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 28

***Be Not Weary in Well Doing***

***Galatians 6:9***

*"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*

What was Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit speaking concerning? Let's back up to **verse 6** and read it in context. *"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."* **Young's Literal Translation** says, *"And let him who is instructed in the word share with him who is instructing -- in all good things."* If the man/woman of God has instructed you in the Word, Paul is saying by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that you, the one being instructed, should share in all good things.

Let's read on in **Galatians 6:7-10**, *"Be not deceived (Greek - go astray, get off course, to deviate from the correct path, roaming into error, wandering; be misled); God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

You will reap what you sow. Every seed produces after its own kind. What do you want to reap? Sow that kind of seed. You have a choice. You can sow to your flesh by using your money, your things, your seed for things that please your flesh. When you sow to your flesh, you will reap decay. If you want to reap life like God's, sow to the Spirit, and you will of the Spirit reap life everlasting (that is life like God's). You are sowing to the Spirit when you give to your pastor and the ministers that share the Word of God with you.

When you bless your pastor financially, it pleases God. It is written in **Ephesians 4:8**, *"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."* We see in **Ephesians 4:11** the gifts the Lord gave to us, His people. This is the ministers job description. *"And He gave some, apostles; and*

some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." For what purpose did He give us these gifts? Let's read on in **Ephesians 4:12-16** "...For the perfecting (maturing) of the saints, for the work of the ministry (service), for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect (mature) man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ; From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." This is why the Lord gave us these precious gifts, to grow us up spiritually. When we grow up spiritually then we can receive the inheritance that God gave us! If you remain as a child you will never fully receive your inheritance even though it all belongs to you (**Galatians 4:1-2**).

Our pastors have sown the most precious gift to us all year long. That most precious gift is the Word of God. Now it is time for us to give something to those who have ministered the Word of God to us. I am not saying this is the only time you should bless your pastors. This should be something we do all year long. Some people believe it is God's will for the ministers to work for free. Where is your scripture? We do have scriptures where the ministers are to be taken care of and when you do, God is pleased and He will bless you in return for your giving (**Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 9:7-11**).

**Faith Confession:** *I am blessed to be taught in the Word. I am a hearer and a doer of the Word of God; therefore, I share with those that teach in all good things. I will not be deceived or mock God. I will sow to the Spirit and of the Spirit reap life everlasting, life like God's. I will not grow weary in well doing, for I know God cannot lie and He has promised me that in due season I shall reap, if I do not faint. I do good unto all men, especially to them who are of the household of faith! I am blessed to be a blessing!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 29

**Do unto Others**

**Luke 6:31**

**(AMPC)**

*"And as you would like and desire that men would do to you, do exactly so to them."*

The Message Bible says, *"Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!"* Many times, we are looking to see what others should do for us. This is selfish thinking and there is no blessing in thinking of yourself. Christ our Lord and Savior did not come to earth to see what we could do for Him. He came to give us life. He came to do something for us. Our goal in life is to become like Christ.

Ask yourself this question. What do I want people to do for me? Am I doing for others what I would like people to do for me? If not, then it would be a good time to change! As parents you would like for your children to clean their rooms, and to leave things the way you like them. Are you doing that for other people? Are you doing that in your work place, or do you run off and let others do it? As we saw yesterday in **Galatians 6:7**, *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*

It is written in **Colossians 3:17** and **23-25**, *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."*

If we will meditate upon these scriptures so that we can observe to do them, we will be blessed. Notice that Paul said by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the person that does wrong shall receive for the wrong which he has done. You reap what you sow. That is not a blessing. The blessing is for those who choose life, which means I choose to do the Word of God, which is His will. Just knowing that should inspire us to want to do the right things. If you do

everything you do as unto the Lord then you will want to do your very, very best.

Remember, when you give your very best, you will reap the very best. That is God's promise to us. God gave us His very best, now we can give our very best to Him and to others. What do you want people to do to you? Grab the initiative and do it for others. You will be glad you did!

***Faith Confession:*** *I am a hearer and a doer of the Word of God and I am blessed. I do unto others what I want others to do unto me. I want people under me to obey me so I take the initiative and obey those who are over me. I want people to give me their best, so I take the initiative and give others my best, knowing that I reap what I sow. I delight to do the Father's will!*

## THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

September 30

*For the Work of The Ministry*

**Ephesians 4:12**

*"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"*

Each time I sit down to write the devotions I seek the Lord as to what I am to write. This morning in a time of fellowship with Him He spoke these words to me. I don't mean I heard an audible voice, just that still small voice from within. This is what He said, "There is a work to be done for the Kingdom of God, and there is a people that has been called to do that work." When I heard those words, I was reminded of **Ephesians 4:12**.

Many times, people believe it is the pastor and his wife's job to do all of the work. That is far from the truth. As we have seen in a previous devotion, the job description of the pastor and the other four of the five-fold ministry gifts is found in **Ephesians 4:12-16**. Your pastor and the other gifts the Lord gave the body of Christ are, *"For the perfecting of the saints..."* The word "perfecting" in this verse means "to prepare, to equip, to bring to a condition of fitness (speaking of spiritual and natural fitness), to bring to an exact adjustment which describes how (enables) the individual parts of the body of Christ to work together in correct order, a complete furnishing, maturing." This is the first part of the apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers work.

What are they equipping the saints, the holy people of God for? *"...for the work of the ministry..."* Just exactly what does that mean? It means they are equipping you to serve. First of all, to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of the body. Secondly, and equally as important, to serve the body of Christ. To do the work in the church. There are many things that need done in the local church Monday through Sunday. We all have a part, a supply to bring (see **verse 16**). God has gifted every believer with a talent or talents depending on how faithful you have been with what He has given you (**Matthew 25:14-30**).

God did not call anybody, any body part just to come and receive the Word of God, have some fellowship and go home. The body

parts that do only that will not be healthy like they should be. Think about your natural body. Every part has a supply to bring to the other parts of the body. When one body part shuts down, decides it does not want to work anymore, what happens to your body? It is not as strong as it should be. The rest of the body parts suffer because they have to take on a work they were not called to do (**I Corinthians 12:25-27**). Take a chain for example, let's say this chain is representative of the body of Christ or your natural body. If one link in the chain is weak, that is how strong the chain is. When that one link breaks, the chain is no longer effective as it should have been. It can no longer do what it was intended to do. If every link is strong, and connected, the chain is very effective.

So, it is with the body of Christ. That's what **Ephesians 4:16** is saying. The **Good News Translation** says it this way, *"Under his control all the different parts of the body fit together, and the whole body is held together by every joint with which it is provided. So when each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love."*

As a member of the body of Christ, you have a supply to bring to the church. Maybe you can clean or maybe you are good at cutting things out, or maybe you have several talents. Men, maybe you are good with electrical work. Or maybe you can mow the lawn in the summer and shovel snow in the winter. Maybe you are a good carpenter. Everybody can do something. Make yourself available to your pastor and his wife. Serve in the local church with your gift. If they ask you to do something, be willing and obedient to do what they have asked you to do (**Isaiah 1:19-20**). Be sure you do it the way they want it done. You will be blessed. As you bring your supply, you will receive a supply. This is important to your own physical health.

**Faith Confession:** *I am a hearer and a doer of the Word of God and I am blessed. I am so thankful to be a part of the body of Christ. God has given me gifts, one being my pastor. My pastor is equipping me to do the work of serving in the church so the body of Christ is built up in love. I am a faithful servant of the Lord and I choose life by bringing my supply to the body of Christ. As I bring my supply, I believe I will receive my supply. As I bring my supply, I believe my natural body will be strong and healthy. That is one reason God wants me healed, so I can serve Him with joy, which is my strength!*