

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 1

Riches, Honour, and Life I

Proverbs 22:4

"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life."

Riches, honour, and life are three things that every person desires. According to this scripture it is not wrong to desire these things, but there is a right way to go about obtaining them. In order to enjoy riches, honour, and life we must understand what humility and the fear of the Lord is and then live in accordance with it.

Humble means to bow low. It is about what you are doing with yourself. It means meek, mild, and gentleness. True humility deals with reality. Throughout the Bible we have examples of people who were humble. As we read and study their lives, we will understand what true humility is and does.

Our number one example of a person who was humble is Jesus. He said in **Matthew 11:29** *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."* **Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)** says, *"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."* Another example is Moses. **Numbers 12:3** *"(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)"* As you study Moses' life you will see what true humility is. He was the most humble or meekest in his generation.

It takes faith to be humble. A humble person becomes obedient. Notice that Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient. In **James 4:6-7 (NJKV)** it says, *"But He gives more grace. (Grace is God's ability to do His will.) Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.' Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* The opposite of humility is pride. This is what caused Lucifer, who is now called Satan, the devil, to be cast out of heaven down to the earth. He lifted himself up and was brought low because of his pride. God resisted him. One word we should get out of our vocabulary is the word "proud". God never uses the word proud in speaking of His children. God

hates pride and being proud (**Proverbs 6:16-18; Proverbs 8:13**)! Concerning Jesus, God said in **Matthew 3:17; 17:5; Mark 1:11**; and **II Peter 1:17** "...my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." We can be well pleased with our children or with others.

Pride will not enable you to enjoy riches, honour, and life. Humility will. The humble submit to God or we could put it this way, the humble will obey the Word of God. Doing things God's way is being humble. Pride says, "I can do it myself, my way." That is the way down and not up. It is the way of destruction (**Proverbs 16:18**).

There are four things we need to know about ourselves in order to remain humble.

1. In myself I am nothing (**Galatians 6:3; John 5:19**).
2. In myself I know nothing (**I Corinthians 8:2**).
3. In myself I have nothing (**I Corinthians 4:7**).
4. In myself I can do nothing (**John 15:5**).

We are completely dependent upon Him for everything, including our next breath (**Acts 17:25**). This is humility. Humility trusts God.

Faith Confession: *By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life. I choose to humble myself under the mighty hand of God and submit myself to His will for my life. As I do this, I will enjoy riches, honour, and life. I am a doer of the Word. I am obedient to God and His Word.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 2

Riches, Honour, and Life II

Proverbs 22:4

"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life."

Yesterday we saw the importance of living a life of humility in order to enjoy riches, honour, and life. Today I want to focus on "the fear of the Lord." We need both humility and the fear of the Lord working in our lives because by these two things are riches, honour, and life.

Psalm 33:8 says, *"Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him."* A person that fears the Lord stands in awe or has great respect for Him, His Word, His Spirit, His people, and His things.

In **Psalm 34:8-16 (NKJV)** we have been given instructions concerning the fear of the Lord. *"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! **Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints!** There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. Come, you children, listen to Me; **I will teach you the fear of the Lord.** Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil..."* (Read **I Peter 3:10-12.**)

First, He asks *"Who is the man who desires life and loves many days?"* You need to determine if that is you. I encourage you to speak and meditate upon these verses. In **Joshua 1:8** God gave Joshua some instructions for prospering and having good success. He told Joshua to not let His Word depart from his mouth. God wanted Joshua to say what He says and then he was to meditate (mutter, ponder, imagine yourself doing) that word day and night in order that he may observe to do them. By doing the Word he would make his way prosperous and have good success. We can apply this same Word to our lives.

After you have determined to be a person who desires life and loves many days that you may see good, the next step is to keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. God's Words are truth. The opposite of the truth is a lie. As you speak His Words you will stay away from speaking evil and deceit. Here are some things our tongue should speak. Our tongue should speak of His righteousness and of His praise all day long (**Psalm 35:28**). Of wisdom and justice (**Psalm 37:30**); His Word (**Psalm 119:172**); *we are the wise and our tongue should promote health* (**Proverbs 12:18**); *death and life are in the power of the tongue* (**Proverbs 18:20-21**). You choose life or death according to the words that you speak. Speak the truth in love. His Words are truth (**Ephesians 4:15; John 17:17**).

As we choose to speak right words, we are being humble and fearing the Lord which will enable us to enjoy riches, honour, and life.

Faith Confession: *I am a person who fears the Lord. I am not afraid of Him, but I have great respect and awe for Him, His Word, His people, and His things. I desire life and love many days, that I may see good. I keep my tongue from evil, and my lips from speaking deceit. I speak the truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**). Your Word says to let the weak say, I am strong, (**Joel 3:10**) therefore I say, I am strong. You said I am rich; therefore, I say I am rich (**II Corinthians 8:9; Revelation 2:9**). You said by His stripes you are and were healed, therefore I agree with Your Word and say I am healed (**Isaiah 53:5; I Peter 2:24**). I am blessed of the Lord. I am the righteous and the eyes of the Lord are upon me!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 3

Riches, Honour, and Life III

Proverbs 22:4

"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life."

In **Psalm 34:8-16 (NKJV)** we have learned that we have been given instructions concerning the fear of the Lord. *"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. Come, you children, listen to Me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous; and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil..."* (Read **1 Peter 3:10-12.**)

Today I want to focus on the next step necessary for enjoying the benefits of riches, honour, and life. We saw that we are to keep our tongue from evil and our lips from speaking deceit. Next, we are to "Depart from evil and do good." We are to depart, leave, go far from evil. Go from bad, worthless, evil people and things. Go from bad conduct and character, wickedness, and crime, and all sin. Do not participate in evil or evil speaking. **Proverbs 8:13** says, *"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."* Then we are to do good in place of the evil. We know that Jesus went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil. He came to destroy the works of the devil and not to participate in his works.

Joseph is a good example of someone who departed from evil. You can read in **Genesis 39:7-15** about how Potiphar made Joseph overseer of his house and all that he had in the house and in the field. One day Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to lie with her, but he refused saying he could not do this great wickedness and sin against God. Notice he said against God, not against Potiphar. When you truly fear the Lord, you do not want to sin against Him,

because of your love and great respect for Him. Potiphar's wife then tries to catch Joseph and he leaves his garment in her hand and flees from her. This is what Satan tries to do to every believer. He wants to lure you into some sin but we should be just as wise as Joseph and flee from all sin.

We are told to flee from sexual immorality (**I Corinthians 6:18**), flee from idolatry (**I Corinthians 10:14**), flee from the love of money, greed, and covetousness (**I Timothy 6:10-11**), and to flee also youthful lusts (**II Timothy 2:22**). As we resist these things, we are resisting the devil and he has to flee from us. As we resist sin, we are to do good by pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness, and peace (**I Timothy 6:11; II Timothy 2:22**).

People that fear the Lord do not want to do anything that would displease the Lord. Our hearts desire is to please Him like Joseph did and also as Jesus pleased the Father. In doing this Word we will be enabled to enjoy riches, honour, and life.

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word of God. I depart from evil and choose to do good. I choose to flee from all that displeases my Heavenly Father because I love Him and do not want to destroy our fellowship. As I do this Word, I can expect riches, honour, and life. As I submit myself to God and His Word, and put myself under His Lordship, then I can keep the devil under my feet where he belongs.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 4

Riches, Honour, and Life IV

Proverbs 22:4

"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life."

Psalm 34:8-15 (NKJV) says, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! **Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints!** There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. Come, you children, listen to Me; **I will teach you the fear of the Lord.** Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (Read **I Peter 3:10-12.**)

Today, we will look at the third thing we must do to enjoy riches, honour, and life. **Psalm 34:14b** says, "Seek peace, and pursue it." Notice that we are instructed to "seek and pursue" peace. He is letting us know we are to diligently search for, to go after, as if your life depended on it. According to this scripture, your life does depend on you keeping peace.

According to **I Corinthians 14:33** the opposite of peace is confusion. **James 3:16-18** says, "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." Where there is strife and confusion you will find the manifest presence of the devil. If you read the first part of **James 3** you will see how our tongue is connected to either strife and confusion, or peace.

It is important to know that Your abundant supply is attached to peace. Abraham was one that was humble and feared the Lord. Abraham knew the importance of keeping strife and confusion out of his life and family. He enjoyed riches, honour, and life because

he valued peace and hated strife. In **Genesis 13:1-9** we can see that Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. As he obeyed the Lord, he continued to prosper and enjoy honour and life. As soon as he was aware of the strife between his herdsmen and Lots herdsmen, he made it a point to separate from the strife and keep peace (**Vs. 8**). When Abram did this, you can see the Lord was pleased with his choice. God honored Abram and blessed him with more (**Genesis 13:14-18; Genesis 24:34-35**). The Lord did not say, "Now Abram, I see that you have plenty, just enjoy what you have." No, He gave Abram more. God is not a respecter of persons (**Acts 10:34-35**). Notice in **verse 35** who is accepted with the Lord: it is those who fear Him and work righteousness. He is a respecter of faith, and faith does the Word.

Our divine health is connected to peace. We can see this in **Isaiah 53:5** "*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement for our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*" Jesus dealt with the root cause of fear, worry, strife, and confusion, which is the opposite of peace. He dealt with the devil and He defeated him. When we keep peace in our lives we will walk in divine health. Most causes of sickness are rooted in fear, worry, strife, and confusion. When you keep peace, you are resisting the devil, which enables you to enjoy health.

Faith Confession: *I seek peace and pursue the things that make for peace and edification (**Romans 14:19**) because God has called us to peace (**I Corinthians 7:15**). Peace is my nature, for He Himself is my peace (**Ephesians 2:14**). Jesus left His peace with me; He gave me His peace (**John 14:27**). As I seek and pursue peace, I will enjoy riches, honour, and life, which includes health, and wealth.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 5

One Thing

Luke 10:42

"But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Just one thing is needed! **Luke 10:38-42 (NKJV)** *"Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.' And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'"*

Martha was serving Jesus, which seems like the right thing to do. Jesus Christ has come to your home, so you want to prepare Him something to eat. That does not seem like a bad thing, but let's see what was behind her distraction.

#1 Jesus said that Martha was distracted with much serving. Serving is good, but you can get busy with too many things. Even though Martha was serving Jesus, she was being distracted. She was distracted from the Word that Jesus was bringing forth that would bring faith to receive freedom, healing for her body, provision for her needs, answers to her questions, and all that He has provided.

You can also get distracted with the things of this world. There are many things that will try to get your time and attention to distract you from the one thing you need, the Word of God in your personal time, and from church. The food that Martha was preparing was about the flesh (**John 6:27**). Mary was interested in the spirit food Jesus was serving. You will have to decide which is more valuable to you.

#2 Martha has approached Jesus and asks Him if He doesn't care that Mary has left her to serve alone. Then she proceeds to tell Him

to tell Mary to help her. This was not something Martha should have done. It is possible to get too familiar with someone that is over you and you begin to tell them what they should do.

#3 Jesus says to Martha, (**Luke 10:41**) "...Martha, Martha thou art careful and troubled about many things." Martha had gotten over into worrying and being troubled about many natural things (**I Peter 5:5-9; Mark 4:18-19**). You can put the Word into your heart but if you are worrying, that Word will never produce any fruit in your life (**Isaiah 26:3-4; Matthew 11:28-29**). Worry is the offspring of fear and it is sin. He said to cast all your cares upon Him (**I Peter 5:7**). If He has your cares, then you do not have them and there is no worry.

#4 Martha was more concerned about what she wanted to do for Jesus. She should have asked Jesus what He wanted her to do. Many times, we can get caught up in doing things He has never instructed us to do. This is a tool of the enemy to get us so busy that we do not have time for the one thing that is needed, the Word of God. Jesus is saying the Word of God is the good part, which will not be taken away (**Luke 10:42**). Satan knows if you do not have time for the Word, you will not have any faith to receive the promises of God. Without faith the devil is able to defeat you instead of you enforcing the defeat that Jesus already fought and won for you (**Colossians 2:15**).

Make a decision today to cast all your cares upon Jesus and make time to sit at Jesus' feet. This Word to Martha is for every believer. It is not just for single men and women. It is for every person who will believe it and act upon it. If Jesus is truly your Lord, you will ask Him what He wants you to do instead of just deciding to do things. You'll be glad you did! You will have money and you will have things by sitting at Jesus' feet, hearing His Word and then doing that Word. I am not saying that is all you do is sit at Jesus' feet. Just don't be busy doing things He never instructed you to do!

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word of God. I choose the one thing that I need which will not be taken away, His Good Word. I will seek the Lord to find what He wants me to do. I delight to do Thy will Oh Lord!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 6

The Truth Will Make You Free I

John 8:32

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

It is the truth you know that shall make you free. Jesus said in **John 14:6** "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." The more truth you know, the freer you will be. We could say it this way, the more of God's Word you know and do, the freer you will be. The same is true in the opposite direction. The less truth you know the more bound you will be. The opposite of the truth is a lie and lies bind (**John 8:42-47**). What are you going to be free from? You will be free from Satan and his lies. Satan wants to put you in bondage to sin, sickness, poverty, fear of death and anything else that steals, kills, and destroys. Jesus, the truth, came to destroy the works of the devil (**I John 3:8**).

The word "know" in this scripture is not talking about natural knowledge, but revealed knowledge. No man can reveal truth to another. As a person shares the Word, which is truth, the Holy Spirit will then reveal it as the listener values and receives it. Only the Holy Spirit can reveal truth (**I Corinthians 2:10-12**). It is written in **John 16:13 (NKJV)** "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

Jesus is the truth. **John 17:17 (NKJV)** says, "Sanctify (separate) them by Your truth. Your word is truth." The more of His Word you have revelation of the freer you will be. If you are in bondage today to sin, sickness, poverty, or habits of any kind or to anything that is stealing, killing, and destroying, how will you get free? The revealed truth will make you free.

Jesus said in **John 8:31** (this is conditional) "... if ye continue (stay, abide, and remain) in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." Jesus went on to say in **Verse 32**, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." It is necessary to continue, to

stay, abide, and remain in His Word. Abide means to dwell or live in. It does not mean just a casual glance quickly before getting busy with your daily routine. It is the place you spend quality time. Think about a natural home or where you dwell. It is the place you spend quality time and where you are comfortable. It is a place you know. When you go into a place you have not dwelt before you have to look around to find things. The same is true of the Word. The more you dwell in God's Word the more familiar and comfortable you become with it or we could say the more familiar and comfortable you become with Him because Jesus is the Word, He is the truth!

John 8:36 (NKJV) *"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."* It is written in **Luke 4:18-19** *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised (oppressed); To preach (proclaim) the acceptable year of the LORD."* This is freedom. Jesus is the head and we are His body. We are His voice, His hands, His feet, His body in the earth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He is upon you and you are to be a witness of the gospel of truth so others can be set free. *"...freely ye have received, freely give"* (**Matthew 10:8**).

A witness testifies of things he has seen, heard, and experienced personally (**John 3:11,32; Acts 22:15; I John 1:3**). Another words you were there, you saw it, you heard it, you experienced it. You were there when you received Jesus. You were there when you were healed. You were there when you were delivered. That is what you share. That is being a witness. You do not have to prepare a sermon and preach it. The truth that you share with others will make them free as they value the Word and receive Him.

Faith Confession: *I abide in Him and He in me, therefore I shall know the truth, and the truth shall make me free. I am a doer of the Word of God. I value His Word because His word is Jesus speaking to me. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He lives in me and reveals the truth to me. He shows me things to come. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life to me. Jesus, the truth makes me free. In Him I live and move and have my being.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 7

The Truth Will Make You Free II

John 8:32

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (**John 14:6**). It's the truth that we know and do that makes us free. In **John 8:31-32** Jesus said, *"...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* The more of His Word we know and do, the freer we will be. The less we know and do the more bondage Satan is able to hold us in. The opposite of truth is a lie. If the truth makes free, then it is obvious that lies bind. Receive the love of the truth, and you will be saved (**II Thessalonians 2:9-13**).

Many Christians are sick and held in bondage to sickness because they do not know the truth of **Isaiah 53:4-5** and **I Peter 2:24**. They don't know that Jesus bore their sickness and carried their diseases for them and that by His stripes they were and are healed. There are other Christians that are held in bondage to sin because they do not know the truth that sin shall not have dominion over them (**Romans 6:1-22**).

There are Christians that have made a decision that they don't want to be in bondage to anyone so they choose to do what they want. Satan causes them to believe the lie that if they obey the Word and submit to God, His Word, and those He has instructed us to obey that they are being held captive. Obeying the Word of God is what makes us free. Submitting to those He has instructed us to submit to truly makes us free. Here is a prayer we can pray for others and ourselves. **II Timothy 2:25-26** ask the Lord *"...if perhaps He would grant (Insert the names of people) repentance, so that we (they) may know the truth and that we (they) may come to our (their) senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will."*

The truth will preserve or protect us from getting caught in Satan's traps. **Psalms 40:11** says *"Withhold not thou thy tender*

*mercies from me, O Lord: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me." **Psalm 61:7** "He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him." **Psalm 91:4** "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler."*

Faith Confession: *I am progressively coming to know the truth and walk in the truth. It is the truth that makes me free. I am free from sin, sickness, poverty, and everything that binds in Jesus Name, Amen!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 8

Our Purpose in the Light

Psalm 36:9

"For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light."

I remember as I was growing up, I would hear people say they were looking for the fountain of life. Well, I have found it. The fountain of life is with the Lord. Light is life; therefore, the purpose of the light is life. Darkness is death.

There are Christians that grow quicker and stronger than other Christians. When a person walks in the light they have, they will receive more light. To walk in the light you have, simply means you are doing the Word you know.

1 John 1:5-7 (NKJV) says, *"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."*

When you walk in the light, you have fellowship with Him. During those times of fellowship, He reveals more of Himself and His ways to you. Another word for light is revelation. As He reveals more and you walk in that light, or do that truth, then He will show or give you more revelation, which is light. Each time you are in His light and do it you will see more light. This is growth.

There are people that have been Christians for twenty, thirty, or more years and they still have the same problems they had when they first became a Christian. They might read their Bible faithfully every day and pray every day and go to church every time the doors are open and this is good. But why do they still have the same problems twenty and thirty years later? It's because they are not doing the Word they heard. It is the doer of the Word that is blessed in what he does (**James 1:25**).

To grow properly, you need both the Word and the Spirit. In the parable of the ten virgins (**Matthew 25:1-13**) there were five wise virgins and five foolish. The five wise took their lamps but they also took oil with them. The oil is representative of the Holy Spirit and this is necessary to keep the lamp burning. The Holy Spirit is the One that guides us into the truth of God's Word and He takes what is the Lord's and declares or shows it to us (**John 16:7-15**).

The reason we are to stay in the light is so we will see more light and walk in more life. As we see more light and walk in it we become more and more like Christ, which is our ultimate goal.

Faith Confession: *In Your light I see light. I am a doer of the Word of God. As I hear the Word and do the Word I grow stronger and I'm changed more and more until I look like Jesus and talk like Jesus. I am a hearer and doer of the Word of God and I am blessed!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 9

Light

John 9:5

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

What is the purpose of light? Light is for the purpose of dispelling darkness so you can see where you are going and not stumble (**John 11:10**). If you walk in a dark room and turn the light on, darkness is immediately pushed back. Light never struggles to overtake darkness.

James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." **Psalms 27:1** says, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" **Psalms 43:3** says, "O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles." It is written in **Psalms 119:105,130** "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

The truth gives light and light gives life to men (**John 1:4**). Life quickens and rejoices the heart. The opposite of truth is lies. Lies darken and the darkness brings depression. The result of depression is loss and death. Jesus said in **John 12:46** "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." He came so we could abide in light and life and be children of light (**John 12:36**).

Once we believe in Him we are no longer darkness but are light in the Lord. Now we are to walk as children of light (**Ephesians 5:8**). **1 Thessalonians 5:5** says, "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." As sons of light our purpose is to walk in the light and to shine as lights in the world (**Philippians 2:13-15**). We are to let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (**Matthew 5:16**).

As you do His Word you are walking in the light. If you will walk in the light that you have, many will be affected by it, many will be blessed, because the light shines and spreads and infects others.

Faith Confession: *I walk in the light as He is in the light and I have fellowship with Him. I am a son of light. I am not of darkness. I let my light so shine before men, that they may see my good works and glorify my Father in heaven.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 10

Jehovah-rapha

The Lord who heals you.

Exodus 15:26
(NKJV)

"...If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."

The Lord revealed Himself to His people as Healer. *"...For I am the Lord who heals you."* He is the Lord who heals, present tense. It is written in **Hebrews 13:8** *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."* He never changes. His part is complete. There is nothing more He needs to do to heal you. Healing is available to every person that will receive.

Notice the Lord did not simply say I am the Lord who heals you. He first said, *"If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God..."* This little word "if" is a conjunction and is used to say that a particular thing will happen only after something else happens or becomes true. There are two things a person must see and do to obtain the promise. You, not your neighbor, not your mom or dad, not your spouse, or a friend, or your pastor, but you are to diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God.

The first part to focus on in this verse is *"the Lord your God"*. You will not diligently heed the Lord's voice if He is not truly the Lord your God. The Blessor and the blessing go hand in hand. It is impossible to receive the blessing without the Blessor. When you receive Jesus as your Lord you also receive the Healer. **Psalms 107:20 (NKJV)** says, *"He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions."* It is written in **John 1:1-2 (NKJV)** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."*

Before going any further if you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord, I would like to give you that opportunity. **Romans 10:8-13**

(NKJV) says, "But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." That word "saved" not only means you will go to heaven when you die, it also means, deliverance, safety, preservation, healing, and soundness. It means having life like God's life.

If you need healing in your body, at the same time you receive Jesus as Lord, you can also receive your healing. Simply pray this prayer and believe you receive. Father God, You said in **Romans 10:9** that if I confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in my heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead, I will be saved. Right now, I call upon Your name Jesus. I confess You as my Lord, Savior, Healer, Deliverer, Protector, Preserver, and my Soundness. You are all I need. I believe in my heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead. Thank You, Jesus for saving and healing me, in Jesus name, Amen!

Faith Confession: *Jesus is my Jehovah-rapha, Jesus is my Lord and Healer, Deliverer, Protector, Preserver, and my Soundness. I will diligently heed the voice of the Lord my God because it is the doer that is blessed. I am blessed (James 1:22-25)!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 11

By His Stripes You Are Healed

Isaiah 53:5
(NKJV)

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

Healing is part of our inheritance that Jesus Christ bought and paid for. Today you and I can live free from sickness and disease. Many times, we do not walk in the fullness of His blessings because the Word has not become a reality to us.

There are several scriptures which confirm the truth that healing belongs to the child of God. ***I Peter 2:24 (NKJV)*** says, *"who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-by whose stripes you were healed."* In ***Isaiah 53:5*** He said, *"...with his stripes we are healed."* and here in ***I Peter 2:24*** He says, *"...by whose stripes you were healed."*

Today you were and are healed by the stripes of Jesus. It was finished at Calvary. Now it is up to each of us to believe and receive the love of that truth, then stand in what belongs to us. Sickness and disease will try to attach itself to us. All we have to do is take a stand against it and say, "No not in my body. Healing is mine and I will not allow sickness in my body." Speak to the sickness and tell it go from your body in Jesus' Name. Then start giving God thanks that by Jesus stripes you were and are healed.

Be moved by God's Word and not by what you see or feel. Don't allow sickness to rule your life any longer. Stand in faith believing what God said is true. Your body must line up with the truth. It is written in ***I Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NKJV)*** *"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it."* The word "preserved" means kept in His will, in His plan, in His blessing, and in His protection. He will preserve you as you believe and take a stand on His Word in faith.

Healing is our legal right! It belongs to the child of God. Satan **cannot** withhold it from you, and God is not withholding it from you! Sometimes people will say things like, "I don't understand why my Aunt did not get healed. She was a good Christian. She always went to church every time the doors were open. She prayed, she served in church, she gave her tithes and offerings. She did good things for the people around her and she did not get healed when she was prayed for. Why not?"

They are saying she deserves healing because of what she did. That is not right thinking. Our healing is not based on our good works. Our healing is based on what Jesus did for us. We did not get saved because of our good works. It was all because of what Jesus did for us and the same is true for healing and everything Jesus bought and paid for us to enjoy. He made salvation available for every person. Included in salvation is healing, every need supplied, and all things that pertain to life and godliness. Our part is simply to receive the free gift He purchased and gave us. We receive the free gift of healing by faith. We receive it the same way we received eternal life! It is written in **Ephesians 2:8-9** "*For by grace are ye saved (safe, rescued – properly, deliver out of danger and into safety; used principally of God rescuing believers from the penalty and power of sin – and into His provisions (safety), through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*"

We are not guilty of sin and we do not deserve punishment by sickness because of the blood of the Lamb! We do deserve healing based upon what Jesus did for us! Healing is our legal right! Glory to God!

Faith Confession: *I am healed by the stripes of Jesus. Healing is my legal right. I will take a stand for what belongs to me in Jesus Name. Sickness will not dictate to me what I will or will not do. I speak to sickness and it must obey me in Jesus Name. Amen, so be it!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 12

According to Your Faith

Matthew 9:29

"Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you."

People often think that our healing, prosperity, relationships, deliverance and everything we receive from God is according to what He can do. This is not true. It is according to what you can believe Him for. **II Peter 1:3** says, *"According as his divine power HATH (He has already done it.) given unto us ALL THINGS that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."* (Read **Romans 8:32**.)

He has already given us everything we need. Faith receives, (literal translation - "takes") what God has provided. In **Matthew 9:27-29** Jesus did not say to the two blind men, "According to My faith be it unto you." He did not say, "According to God's power be it unto you." He did not say, "According to the will of God be it unto you." He did ask them, *"Believe ye that I am able to do this?"* Their response was, *"Yea, Lord."* Then He touched their eyes and said, *"According to your faith (or what you believe) be it unto you."* What could they believe? They believed He could heal their eyes and they received.

The question is what can you believe Him for? The Word of God is vital to our being able to receive what He has already provided for us. **Hebrews 11:6** says, *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

In **Mark 9:17-25** this man brought his son to Jesus to be healed and the man said in **verse 22 (NKJV)** *"...But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."* Jesus did not say, "Yes I can do something for him and then healed him. No, Jesus put the responsibility right back on the man. In **Verse 23** "Jesus said unto him, *"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."* Again, it was not according to what Jesus could do, or according to the faith of Jesus, it was according to what the man could believe.

The more of God's Word you have in your heart, the easier it will be to receive that which He has promised. The enemy will do everything he can to keep you busy with other things other than spending time in God's Word. If he can keep the Word out of your heart then he knows he can easily defeat you. Paul exhorted Timothy in **I Timothy 6:6-12** to be content with such things as he had and not to get caught up in the love of money. He said in **verse 12** "*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...*" Eternal life is life like God has. If you have faith that is working through love, you can receive everything God has provided and enjoy life like God's life.

Faith Confession: *Through faith and patience I receive the promises of God. My faith comes by hearing His Word; therefore, I am diligent to read His Word and speak His Word every day. I meditate on it day and night. I fight the good fight of faith; I lay hold on eternal life.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 13

Do Not Forget His Benefits

Psalm 103:2

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

David told his soul and all that was within him to bless the Lord and not to forget all His benefits. I believe it would do us good to follow David's example. **Psalm 103:1-5 (NKJV)** says, *"Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His Holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."*

The benefits belong to us. The Lord's part is finished. Now it is up to us to receive by faith what He has provided. 1. He forgives all your iniquities. He is not holding your sins against you (**II Corinthians 5:19; Hebrews 8:12**). Jesus became sin for us so that we could be the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (**II Corinthians 5:21**). When you accepted Jesus as Lord you received your sins forgiven. If you sin, all that is necessary is that you run to Him and confess your sins. When you do, it is as though you never sinned. You are forgiven immediately (**I John 1:9**).

2. He heals all your diseases. God cannot lie. All means all. Again, His part is done. Now it is up to us to receive our healing. We do this by believing His Word is true, acknowledging it is true and standing on it (**Isaiah 53:4-5; I Peter 2:24; Psalm 107:20**).

3. He redeems your life from destruction (**Psalm 107:20**). Satan is the destroyer. He came to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly (**John 10:10**). There are over 100 verses in the Bible that speaks of destruction. If you are experiencing destruction seek the Lord and see what you might need to change so you can enjoy the abundant life again.

4. He crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies. David speaks of the lovingkindness and tender mercies of the Lord more than once (**Psalm 25:6; 40:11; 51:1; and 69:16**). He gives

lovingkindness. His mercy does not give us what we deserve. We deserved death but He sent Jesus to die in our place and by His mercy gave us life. Praise God!

5. He satisfies our mouth with good things and our youth is renewed like the eagles. His Word is good (**Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 119:103; Proverbs 16:24**). **Psalm 91:16 (NKJV)** says, "With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."

Faith Confession: *I purpose to bless the Lord with my soul and all that is within me. I will not forget His benefits. My sins are forgiven. He heals all my diseases. My life is redeemed from destruction. I am crowned with His lovingkindness and tender mercies. He satisfies my mouth with His good Word and my youth is renewed like the eagles.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 14

True Honor

John 5:23
(NKJV)

"That all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

Honor means to respect, prize, to fix a high value on, to esteem the worth or excellence of a person, to regard highly, and to think much of.

When we honor the Word of God, we are honoring the Father. Paul prayed for the Philippians in **Philippians 1:9-10 (AMPC)** *And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight [that your love may display itself in greater depth of acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment], So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences], and that you may be untainted and pure and unerring and blameless [so that with hearts sincere and certain and unsullied, you may approach] the day of Christ [not stumbling nor causing others to stumble].*

Paul's desire was for the believers to know what was the most important thing in life, the Word, Jesus Christ. As we receive the Word (Jesus and His Word are one.) and act upon it we show our honor to the Father and to the Son. People did not value Jesus. It is written in **John 1:11 (NKJV)** *"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."*

It is also written in **Mark 6:3-6 (NKJV)** *"Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief..."* **Matthew 13:57,58** says, *"And they*

were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, "A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house." And he did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief."

God sent Jesus, the Word, and His ministers (***Ephesians 4:11; Romans 10:14-15; Luke 10:1-2***). Today people do not honor or value Him and His ministry gifts (***Luke 10:16***). What do you miss out on when you do not value Him and His ministry gifts? When you do not value His Word? You miss out on salvation, healing, deliverance, solutions to problems, miracles, the truth, and every good thing! Make a decision from your heart to honor the Word of God, and His ministers. You may not always agree with everything ministers say and do, but you can honor the office that they stand in whether it be apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher.

One way you honor God and His Word is by keeping it first and final authority in your life. Line everything you believe up with the Word of God. In the mouth of two or three witnesses let a thing be established. In doing this you are honoring God, and His Word Jesus Christ. He delights when we His children search the scriptures daily to see if what is being taught, whether by precept or by example, is in line with His will, which is His Word (***Acts 17:11***).

Faith Confession: *I honor the Son and the Father each time I come to His Word. I respect, prize, fix a high value on His Word and His ministry gifts. By doing this I open myself up to receive what I need from Him. I honor His Word and do it.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 15

Keep the Ways of the Lord

Genesis 18:19

"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

What is the most valuable possession a person could give children? Many people would say, money, houses, education, and business. These are okay but the most important thing you could ever give your children is God and His Word. Children are a heritage from the Lord. **Psalm 127:3 (NKJV)** *"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is His reward."* We should value these precious gifts we have been rewarded with and give them the Word of God.

If you have children or grandchildren, take time with them each day to teach them the Word. **Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (NKJV)** says, *"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth."*

Take time each morning when you first rise up to read a chapter of the Bible with your children and then talk about it. Talk about it when you sit in your house, when you are walking, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Help them to understand how to do that Word. Remember it is the doer of the Word of God that is blessed (**James 1:25**). Before sending them off to school pray with them. Help them to know that God is with them and He never leaves them nor forsakes them (**Hebrews 13:5**). When they need help all they have to do is ask Him for help and He will answer them.

We are instructed in **Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)** "*Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*" Train up a child means we are to teach by precept and by example. The things they see done are the things they will ultimately do. This applies to spiritual children too!

Faith Confession: *I will train up my children in the way they should go through teaching them the Word of God and by living it before them. I will teach them the ways of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice. I will talk about the Word of God to my children when we sit in the house, when we are walking, when we lie down, and when we rise up. As I do this, I can know that when they are old (teenagers) they will not depart from it and their lives will be blessed and they will be a blessing to others and to me.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 16

Saved to Serve

Exodus 8:20

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, "Let my people go, that they may serve me."

We have been saved to serve. Every time Moses was to speak to Pharaoh the Lord instructed him to say, *"Let My people go, that they may serve Me."* What a joy and privilege it is to serve our Lord knowing what He has done for us. We can't pay Him back for what He has done, but we can, and should serve Him because we love Him. It is written in **Deuteronomy 11:13-14 (NKJV)** *"And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil."* He has promised to bless those who serve Him.

How do we serve the Lord? We serve Him as we serve one another in church. **1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)** says, *"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."* The word "minister" means to attend, to run an errand, to wait on (as a waiter) and to serve. The word "deacon" in Greek is "servant." **Acts 6:1-6** speaks of serving. The people who served the saints were in the ministry of helps. They were deacons. Notice they were full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom and faith. We should all be like these men so we can serve the saints (one another) and our Lord with excellence.

We are saved (healed) to serve. We can see this in **Luke 4:38-39 (NKJV)** *"...Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. So He (Jesus) stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served (ministered to) them."* She was healed to serve. Notice that Jesus did not say, "Oh now honey, just stay in bed we know you are probably weak and need to rest." No, praise God, healed people can serve. In **Luke 8:1-3** we can see another way

of serving the Lord. Women who were healed and delivered ministered to the Lord from their substance. In this verse the word "ministered" is the same word for serve.

1 Corinthians 16:15 says, *"I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry (service) of the saints,) ..."* According to **Ephesians 4:11-12** God gave the body of Christ gifts. The apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are not titles of positions. These are job descriptions. For example, the apostle is a sent one. They are sent to do a job. The job of the pastor is to feed and care for the sheep. God gave these gifts *"...for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry (the work of serving), for the edifying of the body of Christ..."* They were given to equip the saints to serve.

Jesus spoke of serving and ministering in **Mark 10:42-45**. If you want to be great in God's kingdom you have to be a servant of all. Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. He is still serving us today as He is seated at the right hand of the Father. He ever lives to make intercession for us (**Hebrews 7:25**).

We have been saved to serve! Paul said in **Romans 11:13** *"...I magnify mine office (service)." Be a part of serving the Lord every day. One way you can do this is by serving one another in church, with ministries and as the Lord leads (Romans 12:10-13). If you would like the Father to honour you, do John 12:26 "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."*

Faith Confession: *I am saved to serve. I love the Lord my God and serve Him with all my heart and with all my soul. I am addicted to the ministry, service of the saints. I am diligent, fervent in spirit (heart), serving the Lord. Because I serve the Lord Jesus and those He has instructed me to serve, the Father will honour me! As I serve, He has promised to give the rain for my land. He will bless me! I am among you as he that serves (Luke 22:27).*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 17

Blessed is the Man

Psalm 1:1

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the of the scornful."

The word "blessed" means empowered to prosper. The word "walk" speaks of your manner of life, or the way you live. The "ungodly" are those who are without God.

There are many voices out there and they all believe they have something important to say (**I Corinthians 14:10**). **John 10:4-5 (NKJV)** says, "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." We can trust the One on the inside of us to show us what we should follow and not follow.

We have the Word of God as our first and most important counsel. David said in **Psalm 16:7 (NKJV)** "I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons." **Psalm 73:24 (NKJV)** "You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory." **Psalm 119:24 (NKJV)** "Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors."

Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV) says, "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety." We have a multitude of counselors in the Word of God, from Genesis through Revelation and they (God's Words) cannot lie (**Hebrews 6:17-18**). **Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, and Luke 21:33** says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."

Proverbs 22:20-21 (NKJV) "Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge, That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth...?" His counsel is truth and His counsel will be that of peace. It is written in **Isaiah 9:6** "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful,

*Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” **Isaiah 11:2** says, “And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”*

As you can see, we do have a multitude of counselors in the Word of God. The person that walks in God’s counsel, who delights in the law of the Lord and meditates in it day and night will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season; whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever this person does shall prosper (**Psalms 1:2-3; Joshua 1:8**). That is being blessed or empowered to prosper.

Faith Confession: *I walk in the counsel of the LORD. When I need counsel, I go to Him. He will lead me in peace and His counsel will lead me into the abundant life as I apply His Word in each situation. I am like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season; whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever I do shall prosper because I delight myself in the Word of the Lord and meditate on it day and night.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 18

Standard of Living

Hebrews 10:38

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

The standard of living for the just (the righteous, the Christian) is faith. Living by faith simply means I believe the Word of God is true and I do it. Where does faith come from? Faith comes only one way. According to **Romans 10:17** "So then faith (believing) cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." **Galatians 5:6-7** says, "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" You could say it this way. Who did hinder you that you should not walk in love through obeying God's Word? Faith trusts God and believes that He did not lie to you, and love does what He says. Faith takes God at His word and simply obeys.

James tells us that the person who hears the Word and does not do it is self-deceived (**James 1:22**). He says that it is the doer of the Word that is blessed in his doing (**James 1:25**). He goes on to say in **chapter 2 verse 17-19 (NKJV)** "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"

Our love for the Lord is shown through our obedience. We can see this in what Jesus said to Peter in **John 21:15-17 (NKJV)** "So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?..." Jesus is asking Peter if he loves Him more than the fish. Fishing was what Peter did before meeting Jesus and following Him. When things did not work out the way Peter thought, he went back to his old way of living and doing. He went back to his fishing business.

Let's read on in **verse 15-17** "...He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." (Notice He did not say; be sure you get someone to feed My lambs and sheep.)

"He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep." Jesus is saying to Peter, if you love Me obey Me and feed and tend to My lambs and sheep. Jesus is comparing lambs to new baby Christians and sheep to older Christians. The people of God are the Lord's lambs and sheep. Not a man's.

This Word is for every believer. He is showing us how that our love for Him is shown through our obedience to His Word. It is for every pastor (**I Peter 5:1-4**). They are spiritual parents. It is for natural parents. If you love the Lord, that means you will feed, nourish and lead His flock according to His ways. Our love for one another is shown through our obedience to the Lord.

Faith Confession: *My standard of living is faith, which works by love. I believe God's Word is true, because I know He cannot lie. As I obey His Word, I am walking in faith and love. I am doing His will and I am showing my love to the Lord (**John 14:21-24; Luke 6:46**). According to **I John 3:22** Whatever I ask, I receive of Him, BECAUSE I keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 19

Epistles of Christ

II Corinthians 3:2 (NKJV)

"Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."

Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians in **II Corinthians 3:2 (NKJV)** *"You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men."* As a child of the living God our lives are known and read by all men. **I Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV)** Paul said, *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."* He didn't just say, "Do what I say," but he said, "Do what I do." In **Ephesians 5:1 (NKJV)** he wrote, *"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children."*

We become what we behold. As we behold the Word, we will become more and more like Him. This is what Paul did. **Philippians 3:8-14 (NKJV)** Paul counted all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord so he could be found in Him, not having his own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ. His desire was to know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

He said in, (**Vs. 14**) *"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* What was the goal he was pressing toward? Christ-likeness. He knew he could only attain this as he forgot those things that were behind him and continued to reach forward to those things which are ahead. He could not hang onto the things of his past and expect to reach his goal. The same is true for us. We must let go of the things we used to do before Christ (**I Corinthians 15:31**) and imitate God as dear children. Forget the past. Forget the past failures and mistakes you've made. We do this as we keep our eyes on Jesus.

When we came to Jesus we came with a lot of baggage, but the good news is Jesus took it all. There is no need to hang on to anything of the past. If Paul had remembered all of his past mistakes, he never would have become like Christ. **Psalms**

103:10,12 (NKJV) says, "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. As far as the east is from the west, So far has he removed our transgressions from us." It is finished! He does not remember our sins therefore we should not remember them (**Hebrews 8:12**).

You have to choose to forget the things behind you. People will try to bring your past up to you and Satan will try to bring your past up to you. When this happens just remind yourself that you do not have a past. Say, "I plead innocent by the blood of Jesus."

You cannot change the past, but you can change today and the future as you look unto Jesus the author and finisher of your faith.

Faith Confession: *I am a living epistle of Christ. I forget the things that are behind. My past is past and I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, Christ-likeness!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 20

The Love of Christ

Ephesians 3:19

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

Paul prayed this prayer in **Ephesians 3:14-21** for the church at Ephesus that they would know the love of Christ. This word "know" means to have light or revelation of the love of Christ and not just head knowledge. **I Corinthians 8:1-2** says, *"Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity (love) edifieth (builds up). And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."*

Paul's desire was that they know through experience the love of Christ (the Anointed One, the Word, and His Anointing, the Holy Spirit). Sometimes people say, I love God, but I don't love my brother or sister in Christ. The truth is you don't really love God if you do not love someone in the body of Christ. Jesus is the head and we, the church, are His body. We are one, so to hate someone in the body of Christ is to hate Christ (**I John 4:20-21; I John 3:11-16**).

I John 3:16 says, *"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."* Jesus said in **John 10:15,17** *"As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."* *"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again."*

The practical application of love is serving one another. You are loving Christ, the head and His body by serving Him and His body. It is no longer about me, what I feel, and what I want. It is about Christ and His body, our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the love of Christ. He was not self-serving; He loved the Father and His love was shown through serving Him and the Body of Christ. He truly laid down His life for us. He said in **John 12:24-26** *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringrth forth*

much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."

John 15:9-14,17 *"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide (live) in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide (live) in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 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." "These things I command you, that ye love one another."*

When there is a lack of joy, it is an indication that there is a lack faith and love (**Romans 15:13; I John 3:21-24**). If you will pray and say the following prayer and confession every morning when you first get up and just before going to sleep at night and pray in tongues more (**Jude 1:20-21**), you will walk by faith and love more and more each day.

Faith Prayer and Confession: *Father God, I thank You that according to **Romans 5:5** You have given me the Holy Spirit to fill my heart with Your love and in **I John 4:16-17** it says that You ARE love and all who live in love, live in You, and You live in them and as I live in You, my love grows more perfect. In **I Corinthians 13:4-8** You tell me how love acts, because You are Love and since I live in You and You live in me, I can say this about myself: I am patient and kind. I am not jealous, boastful, envious, proud, or rude. I do not demand my own way. (I desire God's way.) I am not irritable and I keep no record of wrong. I am never glad about injustice but I rejoice whenever the truth wins out. Your love in me never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Your love in me will last forever. There are three things that will endure – faith, hope and love - and the greatest of these is LOVE, so I will let LOVE be my highest goal.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 21

Honour the Lord

Proverbs 3:9

"Honour the Lord with thy substance (possessions), and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:"

Honour the Lord. Honour has to do with respect, and value. Every time we bring of our substance (possessions), and the firstfruits of all our increase we are honouring the Lord. He said that He would honour those who honour Him (**I Samuel 2:30**). We can see in the New Testament where people honoured Jesus with their substance (**Luke 8:3**).

Firstfruits and the tithe are two different things. **Nehemiah 10:37** speaks of both the firstfruits and the tithe so we know that they cannot be the same. Tithe means tenth. Firstfruits mean the very first. Think about tomato plants or beanstalks. These plants produce more than one time in a season. The firstfruits would be the very first time you pick the fruit from the plants. We are to honour the Lord with this. As we honour Him, He has promised to honour us. **Proverbs 3:10** shows us how He honours us. **Ezekiel 44:30** tells us to whom the firstfruits are to go to and for what purpose. The firstfruits goes to "the priest" (The priest is the one who brings the Word of God. The five-fold ministry gifts listed in **Ephesians 4:11**.). "... that he (your pastor, or any of the other five-fold ministers, the person bringing the Word of God to you) may cause the blessing to rest in thine house."

We see how to honour the Lord with fruit or produce from your gardens or fields, but what about your finances and possessions? What would be the firstfruits? Obviously firstfruits reveal that there will be more. It is not just a one-time thing. For example, maybe you have been working a job for a while and you receive a pay increase. The firstfruits would be the very first time you receive the increase, that increase is the Lord's. Maybe you have made an investment that will bring you increase. The very first payment would be the Lord's. As you honour Him, He will honour you. You may be wondering how you can give it to the Lord. We are told in **Hebrews 7:8** "And here (speaking of on earth) men that die receive tithes; but there he (the Lord) receiveth them, of whom it

is witnessed that he liveth." Who are the ones that are to receive the tithes here on earth, according to the scriptures? The Levites, the singers, and the porters (those who work in the church on a daily basis and work for other ministries), also the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. You do not have to take my word for it, but you should be willing to take the Lord's Word on the subject. Study it out for yourself. Read **Numbers 18:21-32; Deuteronomy 12:1-13; Nehemiah 10:37-38; Hebrews 7:5-9.** If it has not changed in the New Testament, the Old still stands.

When the children of Israel went into Canaan's land, Jericho was the very first place they overtook. This was the Lord's (**Joshua 6:17-19**). All the spoils, are the Lord's. As they obeyed the Word, He honoured them by giving them every city after that and the spoils were theirs (**Joshua 8:2,27**).

In **1 Samuel 15:1-26** when Saul became king the very first place that Saul and his men took in battle was to be the Lord's. Because of pride he wanted to show the spoil from the battle they had won and in doing this he and the people kept the best for themselves. If Saul had repented right away, he would have remained as the king but he did not repent until much later and lost his place.

The Lord enjoys giving us plenty and overflow. He wants us to have plenty for ourselves and others and an overflow that we cannot contain it. As we honour the Lord with our possessions, and with the firstfruits of all our increase, this allows Him to honour us. Remember in **Luke 5** when Jesus used Simon Peter's boat to preach to the people, after he had finished, he told Simon, **Vs. 4 (NKJV)** "...Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." **Vs. 6** "And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking." That is plenty and overflow!

Faith Confession: *I honour the Lord with my possessions, and with the firstfruits of all my increase, therefore I can expect the Lord to honour me with my barns, bank accounts, investments, etc. being filled with plenty and my vats will overflow with new wine. As I do this, He has promised that He would cause the blessing to rest upon my house.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 22

His Workmanship

Ephesians 2:10

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

You and I are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. God did not make any junk. **Psalm 139:13-17 (NKJV)** *"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!"*

We are the apple of His eye (**Deuteronomy 32:10; Psalm 17:8**). **Zechariah 2:8 (NKJV)** says, *"For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.'" Everything He has ever done has been about you and I. We are the very center of what He sees.*

He created us for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Good works! **Titus 2:14 (NKJV)** *"who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."* What are the good works? According to this scripture the goods works have to do with our lifestyle. Living a life of doing good things and not lawless things. One translation reads *"...zealous for good deeds."* Living a life doing good things. I also believe part of the good works He is speaking about is found in **Acts 10:38** *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."* A good work is something that will bless people, whether it is living righteously or doing the works that Jesus did.

We are to be zealous for good works and to walk in these good works. Walk is our manner of life. We all have the ability through Christ Jesus to do good exactly like Jesus did good.

Faith Confession: *I am His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. I walk in the good works. I am redeemed from every lawless deed and purified for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. I am the apple of His eye. I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I am a doer of the Word and I am blessed!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 23

Seated with Christ

Ephesians 2:6

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"

In **Ephesians 1:16-23** Paul is praying for the saints that they would receive the revelation of what has been given to them in Christ Jesus. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in heavenly places, far above **ALL** principality, and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. He has put all things under His feet. This is where you and I are seated today in Him.

God did this when we were still dead in trespasses. This authority in Christ Jesus is already available to every man, woman, and child who will accept Jesus as Lord and Savior (**Ephesians 2:4-7**).

Genesis 1:26,28 (NKJV) God said "...let them (man) have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." We are to subdue it; have dominion over all the earth and over everything that moves on the earth. More scriptures that confirm this are: **Psalms 8:4-9** and **Psalms 115:16**.

You and I are to rule and reign in this life through one Jesus Christ (**Romans 5:17**) counteracting the works of Satan (**Acts 10:38**). Sin no longer has dominion over us (**Romans 6:12-14**). We have been given the Name of Jesus that is above every name that is named (**Philippians 2:9-10**). We have been given authority over all the works of Satan (**Matthew 10:1; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 10:17-20**).

All through the Gospels we can see where Jesus ruled and reigned as the Spirit led. He ruled over sickness and disease, Satan and demons (**Luke 4:40-41; Luke 6:9-10; Luke 6:17-19; John 9:1-7**). He spoke to fig trees and inanimate objects and they obeyed (**Matthew 21:17-22; Mark 11:22-26**). He ruled over sin (**Hebrews 4:15**). He spoke to storms and they had to obey (**Luke 8:23-24**). He spoke to dead bodies and they were raised to life

(**Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25; Luke 7:11-15; John 11:40-44**). He spoke to fever and it left (**Luke 4:38-39**).

Jesus said that we would do the same works He did and greater works (**John 14:12-14**). We can see this in the lives of the disciples in the book of Acts. It would be good to meditate upon **John 14:12-14** so we can observe to do it! You will be glad and others will be glad you did!

Faith Confession: *I will rule and reign in my domain in Jesus Name. I have been given authority over sin, sickness, poverty, demons, and over all the works of Satan. I believe on Jesus. The works that Jesus did I shall do also, and greater works because Jesus went to the Father. I will rule over evil with good in Jesus name.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 24

Triumphant in Christ

II Corinthians 2:14

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us in triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

We have many things to be thankful for and this is one of them. God always causes us to triumph in Christ. Will you believe it and receive it? God cannot lie and this is His Word to the Body of Christ. Just don't quit! We are not the militant church or the defeated church, but we are the victorious, glorious church (**Matthew 16:18-19**). It is written in **Colossians 2:15 (NKJV)** *"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."* Jesus already defeated Satan and all his cohorts. Our job is to enforce the defeat. Our fight is a good fight of faith, not a struggle, but a good fight of faith. That means it is a Word fight. All we have to do is keep speaking the Word of God (**I Timothy 6:12-13; Revelation 12:9-11**).

How are we to enforce that defeat? We just saw one way, He always causes us to triumph in Christ. Also, **II Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)** says that God always leads us in triumph. That means we have to follow Him and His Word and His Spirit if we want to be triumphant. **James 4:6-7** says, *"But he giveth more grace (God's power and ability to do His will.). 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."*

How do we submit to God? Every time we obey God's Word, we are being humble, and submitting to Him. In doing this we are allowing Him to lead us. Our obedience keeps us in the position to resist Satan. However, when we disobey God's Word, we are being proud, instead of humble. When we disobey His Word, we are resisting God. We reap what we sow, and that would be God resisting us. We do not want God against us, but for us. We want to stay on His side and we do this when we obey His Word and submit to Him. Every time we obey His Word, we are resisting the devil and then he has to flee from us.

When Jesus went to the cross in our place, He was being obedient to God. His obedience enabled Him to defeat Satan and all his cohorts. He took the keys of hell and death (**Revelation 1:18**). Because of His obedience we are now triumphant in Christ Jesus. **Psalms 41:10-11** says, "But thou, O Lord, be merciful unto me, and raise me up, that I may requite them. By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me."

Faith Confession: *I am triumphant in Christ (**II Corinthians 2:14**). I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me (**Romans 8:37**). I give thanks to God who gives me the victory through my Lord Jesus Christ (**I Corinthians 15:57**). I am a doer of the Word of God. I humble myself and submit to His sayings. I resist the devil and sin, and he has to flee from me in Jesus Name! I win because I do not quit doing His Word!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 25

Overcomers

Revelation 12:11

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

When we sign a contract with someone it means there is something they do and something we do. When we do our part then the other person is obligated to do their part. We have a contract called the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments. There is God's part, which we cannot do and there is our part that God will not do. When we do our part, God is obligated to do His part and He never fails to do it.

In **Revelation 12:11** we can see two parts. God has already done His part when He sent Jesus. Jesus died and shed His blood for our sins. So, we overcome him (Satan and all the works of the devil) by the blood of the Lamb (God's part) and by the word of our testimony (our part). God's Word is our testimony. When we speak His Word and the Name of Jesus this enables us to overcome anything. It enables Jesus our Advocate to put us over. The only time Jesus our Advocate cannot put us over in life is when we speak words contrary to what He has already spoken about us.

When trials and circumstances arise, when bad things happen to you, never exchange your fellowship with God to fellowship with the circumstances. If you fellowship with the circumstances, you will have more to overcome. If you fellowship with God, think on His Word and speak it, you will overcome every circumstance, every bad thing. The more you think on the circumstances and speak them, the bigger the circumstances become. The more you think on and speak the Word, the circumstances, the bad things, get overcome (**Romans 12:21**).

Choose to speak His Word over yourself every day. James tells us that we can turn our whole body with our words (**James 3:2**). Our circumstances can be turned with our words too. Jesus, our example, overcame Satan when He said, *"It is written..."* and then He spoke the Word of God (**Matthew 4:1-11**). What we say in

each situation and circumstance will determine whether we overcome or are overcome (**Romans 3:4; Matthew 12:34-37**).

Following are some scriptures concerning overcoming. I encourage you to take time to read them and meditate upon them (**John 16:33; I John 2:13-14; I John 4:4; I John 5:4-5; Revelation 17:14**). Rewards of those who overcome: **Revelation 2:7,11,17,26; Revelation 3:5,12,21; Revelation 21:7**.

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word. I choose to speak God's Word over myself and over the circumstances. I overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony. My testimony is the Word of God. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit I am redeemed, cleansed, and sanctified by the blood of Jesus. My members, the parts of my body are instruments of righteousness, yielded to God for His service and for His glory. The devil has no place in me, no power over me, no unsettled claims against me. All has been settled by the blood of Jesus. My body is for the Lord and the Lord is for my body. Amen (So be it!). (I **Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 1:7; I John 1:7; Hebrews 13:12; Romans 6:13; Romans 3:23-25, 8:33-34; I Corinthians 6:13**).*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 26

Led by The Spirit of God

Romans 8:14

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

It is written in **Galatians 4:6** *"And because ye are sons (Greek), God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."* Our faith comes from hearing the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**). When you first heard the Word about Jesus you did not automatically become a son of God. It was the doing of the Word you heard that caused you to become a son.

There are two ways a person is led. If your spirit, which is led by the Holy Spirit, is not leading you, your flesh is leading you. The Holy Spirit will never lead us to do something contrary to the Word of God. The Word and Spirit agree. If you are doing the following things the Holy Spirit is not leading you. **Galatians 5:19-21** *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; 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 will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

This is what the Holy Spirit will lead you to do. **Galatians 5:22-26** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 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."*

The Holy Spirit will always lead you and enable you to be a peacemaker. **Matthew 5:9** says, *"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children (Greek, sons) of God."* The good thing about the Word is that it is never just a word of instruction, or just a word of correction. With the instruction and with the correction comes the power, the ability to make the corrections and changes.

How do you know when you are walking in the spirit? You know you are walking in the spirit the most when you **feel** (Feelings are the voice of the flesh.) like slapping someone, but you don't. When you **feel** like telling someone off, but you don't. Instead you do something nice for them. You are walking in the spirit the most when you **feel** like talking ugly about someone, but as an act of your will you choose to find something good to say about them and say that. You are walking in the spirit when your flesh wants to do something that you know is sin and you choose to say no to the flesh and yield to righteousness. That is walking in the spirit. Sons choose to follow after righteousness (the spirit) and not after sin (the desires of the flesh).

Faith Confession: *I am a son of God. My spirit, led by the Holy Spirit, leads me to walk in love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. I choose to allow the Holy Spirit to lead me. I am crucifying my flesh with its passions and desires every time I obey the Word of God. I am Christ's and have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 27

The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me I

Luke 4:18-19

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach (announce) the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Jesus said, *"The Spirit of the Lord is UPON Me..."* For what purpose? #1 To preach the gospel to the poor. The Complete Jewish Bible says, *"...to announce good news to the poor..."* Notice what Jesus did not say here. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me to feed the poor or to cloth the poor, but to preach the gospel to the poor. The Spirit order is to first preach or announce to the poor the gospel. I am not saying you cannot give food and clothing to the poor but first and foremost they need the Gospel preached to them. If you are poor in spirit you will be poor in your pocket and bank accounts. It starts inside first and then outside (**III John 2**).

What is the gospel to the poor? The definition of gospel is "good news". The good news to the poor is that you do not have to be poor anymore. Why? Because according to **II Corinthians 8:9** Paul said by the Spirit, *"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."* **Revelation 2:9** is a letter written to the angel of the church of Smyrna. *"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)..."* What did He make us rich with? He made us rich with supply (**Philippians 4:19**).

Is the Spirit of the Lord UPON you and I for service today? Jesus is the head, and if the head is anointed, the body is too. If you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit is UPON you for service. Go with me to **Acts 1:5-8** *"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized (immersed) with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye*

shall receive power (ability), after that the Holy Ghost is come UPON you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The disciples wanted to know when the kingdom would be restored to Israel and Jesus let them know there is something more important right now than knowing the times and seasons, which only the Father knows. The more important thing for you to know is that you will receive power (ability) to be witnesses after that the Holy Ghost is come UPON you (**Acts 1:8**). It is written in **Acts 2:3-4** on the Day of Pentecost, "*And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat UPON each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*"

The next thing we see in **Acts 2:14-41** is Peter who had previously denied Jesus now has the ability, the boldness to preach the gospel without fear. Reading on in **Chapter 3:6** we see Peter boldly declaring to the lame man to rise up and walk. The Spirit UPON Peter caused him to know this man did not need silver and gold, because silver and gold could not buy what he needed. The man by faith obeys Peter's words and begins to rise up. As he did, the power of God met him and his feet and ankle bones received strength to walk! Glory be to God!

Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed (**Acts 19:1-6**)? If not, you too can be baptized in the Holy Spirit and speak with tongues, and prophesy. The power of the Holy Spirit will come upon you to be witnesses (**Acts 1:8**). You will have boldness to be a witness, and to do the same works Jesus did (**John 14:12; Luke 4:18-19**).

Faith Confession: *The Spirit of the Lord is UPON me to preach, to announce, the good news to the poor that they do not have to be poor anymore. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. The same Spirit UPON Jesus is upon me. I believe the Spirit is causing me to see and know what the supply of God is to those in need and as He does, I will boldly declare it.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 28

The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me II

Luke 4:18-19

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach (announce) the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Jesus said, *"The Spirit of the Lord is UPON Me..."* For what purpose? #1 To preach or announce the gospel to the poor. The second purpose for the Spirit UPON me is, He sent me to heal the brokenhearted. It is written in **Psalm 34:18** *"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."* The literal Hebrew reads, *"The Lord is nigh unto the broken of heart and the contrite of spirit."* The Amplified Bible Classic Edition says, *"The Lord is close to those who are of a broken heart and saves such as are crushed with sorrow for sin and are humbly and thoroughly penitent."*

What does that mean? Let's look at another scripture. **Psalm 51:16-17 (NKJV)** *"For You do not desire sacrifice; or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering, (He is saying that His desire is not that His people would have to keep repenting, but that they would turn from their sin and walk in righteousness.) The sacrifices of God are a broken (disabled) spirit: a broken and a contrite (humble) heart (a heart willing to turn a different direction), These, O God, You will not despise."* A disabled spirit or heart is one that can no longer do what it used to do. It can no longer stand to displease the Father through sin, and disobedience to His Word. It is a repentant heart willing to turn a different direction, willing to do His will, which is His Word and that which the Holy Spirit leads you to do. What He leads you to do will be in line with the Word of God.

Isaiah 57:15 says, *"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite (submitted) ones."* Jesus was sent to heal this person that

no longer desires to resist God, but that is humble and submitted to His will. A person that will believe in Him and come to Him. Notice this verse says the Lord "...dwells in the high and holy place **with him...**", with this person that is of a contrite and humble spirit. The person that is of a contrite and humble spirit is one that is submitted to God and His will.

The parable of the lost son in **Luke 15:11-24** is a good example of healing the brokenhearted. The father did not make this young man feel guilty about what he had done, but accepted him because he had a disabled, humble spirit that no longer wanted to go his own way. This father who is representative of our heavenly Father threw a party for him instead of condemning him.

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation, meaning we are to declare to people that God is not holding man's sins against them. That He was in Christ Jesus restoring the world to Himself (**II Corinthians 5:17-21**). We were judged guilty until Jesus came and took our place and now we are declared innocent through the blood of Jesus Christ when we accept Jesus as our substitute. Now we are free from sin (**Romans 6**).

Faith Confession: *The Spirit of the Lord is UPON me to preach, to announce the good news to the poor that they do not have to be poor anymore. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, those who have repented, changed directions and are submitted to His will. The same Spirit of the Lord UPON Jesus is upon me. I believe the Spirit is causing me to see and know what the supply of God is to those in need and as He does I will boldly declare it and do it in Jesus Name. Jesus Christ is Lord!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 29

The Knowledge of The Truth

Titus 1:1

"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging (knowledge) of the truth which is after godliness."

The Greek word for the word "acknowledge" in this verse means precise and correct knowledge. It is an experiential knowledge. It means recognition, full discernment, acknowledgment. As a child of God, it is important that we know, have precise and correct knowledge of the truth, and acknowledge the truth which accords or agrees with godliness. In **John 17:17,19** Jesus said, *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* *"And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also may be sanctified through the truth."* Jesus did not tell us to do something that He Himself did not do.

Each day as we acknowledge the precise and correct knowledge of what the Word says about us, we are being sanctified or set apart from all of the wrong thoughts and words that are contrary to what God has said about us.

Paul prayed in **Philemon 1:4-6** *"I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints, That the communication (sharing) of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging (This is the same Greek word used in **Titus 1:1**.) of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."*

We are to acknowledge every good thing, which is in us in Christ Jesus. Many times, we are acknowledging the bad things that we see in ourselves. We can have what we say (**Mark 11:23**), and we are today the result of our words spoken yesterday and in days gone by.

It is written in **James 3:2-4 (NKJV)** *"For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce*

winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires."

You are the pilot of your life. Allow the Word of God to be like the bit in a horse's mouth or the rudder of a ship bringing change to your life. You may be going in one direction today but if you will take the Word of God and acknowledge the good things, which are in you in Christ Jesus and keep saying what He says, you will be able to turn your body and life in the opposite direction that it was accustomed to going.

Paul said in **Philemon 1:6** *"That the communication (sharing) of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in us in Christ Jesus."* As we speak the Word of God allowing it to bring change to our lives those around us will see the changes. I believe as they see us change this in turn will cause the sharing of our faith to become effective.

Many times, we are endeavoring to share our faith but our life style does not agree with our words. When our lifestyle and words agree then people will have reason to believe.

Faith Confession: *I acknowledge the precise and correct knowledge of the truth. God's Word is truth. As I say the same thing He says about me, my lifestyle will become that of godliness causing the sharing of my faith to become effective. I will say what I hear the Father say and do what I see the Father do and He will be glorified. I am a doer of the Word of God and I am blessed!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 30

Willingly Obey the Truth

Isaiah 1:19

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:"

The willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land. It is possible to be obedient but not willing. When you tell a child to go do something and they stomp away mad and do what you said to do, this child was obedient but not willing. It would be much easier for us if we would learn as children to willingly obey our natural parents (**Luke 2:42-52**). According to **Luke 2:52** the blessing of Jesus' submission and obedience to His parents was that He *"...increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."*

It is not enough to be obedient. We must be willing and obedient. Willing means "desire" and "yieldedness". It doesn't take long to get willing. Willingness has nothing to do with our feelings; it is a decision we make from our heart. It takes faith to willingly obey and our faith comes from the Word of God.

It is written in **Isaiah 1:20 (NKJV)** *"But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."* The opposite of willing and obedient is refusal and rebellion. Other words for rebellion are opposed; disobey, against, and anti. Anti-Christ means against Christ (the anointed Word and Spirit). The end result of refusal and rebellion is not something anybody desires. It is written in **Psalms 68:6** *"...but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."* **1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)** says, *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."* The devil cannot devour everyone, but the person who refuses and rebels is the one he is seeking. When we are being devoured and living in a dry land, we do not need to make excuses, we simply need to repent and change.

Jesus is our example and our Master. He had to choose to die to His own will and willingly obey the Father. The Father's will was for Him to die on the cross and receive the punishment for the sins of all mankind. He could have chosen not to obey, but thanks be

to God, He did the Father's will. He did not just obey, but He willingly obeyed. **Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)** says, "*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*"

Jesus willingly obeyed the Father's will for the joy that was set before Him. What was the joy set before Him? I believe one reason He had joy, was because He knew it pleased the Father. Faith pleases the Father (**Hebrews 11:6**). I also believe He had joy because He knew that in dying to His own will He was choosing life for Himself and for all mankind. This is the way we should willingly obey, with joy, for that which is set before us. It should give us great joy to willingly obey the Father knowing we are choosing life for ourselves and affecting the lives of those we come in contact with for good.

Faith Confession: *I am willing and obedient. I do always those things that please my Father. I will to do the Father's will! His Word is His will. His Word is Truth. I love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, with all my strength! I am a doer of the Word of God!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

May 31

Believe and Receive

Galatians 3:5
(NKJV)

"Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? —"

Today I hear of people that are going here and there looking for miracles to happen. Many times, people think they can or cannot receive a miracle based on how good they have been. According to this scripture it has nothing to do with how good a person has or has not been. People pray for healing and so often do not receive it and they say things like, "I just don't understand, so-and-so was such a good person." As this scripture tells us, it is not by the works of the law. In other words, it is not because of how good we have been; it is about what Jesus did for us and it is the hearing of faith. God is the God of miracles and He is still doing miracles today. Our God who works miracles among us by His Spirit does it by the hearing of faith. ***Romans 10:17*** says, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

The greatest miracle that takes place in a person's life is the miracle of a recreated spirit when a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior. What happened for that miracle to take place? There was the hearing of the Word of God, a receiving of the Word of God, and finally acting upon that Word of God, then the miracle took place.

The same is true for every miracle that takes place. Let's take a look at a few Bible miracles. Many miracles took place during the children of Israel's Exodus from Egypt. Every one that took place happened because there was first a hearing of the Word from God, and then a believing, and finally acting upon it. If Moses and Aaron had not acted upon the Word spoken the miracles would never have taken place. Read ***Exodus*** chapters ***7-14***. There was an obeying of the Word that took place in order for the miracle to take place. What you do reveals what you believe.

The first miracle that Jesus performed is found in **John 2:1-11**. Let's read **verse 5 (NKJV)** "*His mother said to the servants, 'Whatever He says to you, do it.'*" Jesus said, they did it, and the miracle!

In **Mark 7:25-30** and **Matthew 15:22-28 (NKJV)** is an account of a mother that comes to Jesus asking Him to cast a demon out of her daughter. This woman was not of the House of Israel. Today we might say she was not a Christian. Jesus said in **Matthew 15:26** and **Mark 7:27 (NKJV)** "*...Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.*" At this point and time this mother could have left without her miracle if she would have allowed herself to be offended. She was not offended. She basically was saying so I am a dog, even the dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs." What did Jesus hear? Faith! He said to her in **Mark 7:29 (NKJV)** "*...For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter.*" Now she had to believe His Word and go. She did and when she arrived home, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

I encourage you to take time and read some other miracles that took place. You will see a hearing of the Word and an action, which reveals they believed the Word and then a miracle. God is still in the miracle working business today and He is not a respecter of persons. However, He is a respecter of faith. Faith simply believes that what God says is true and acts upon it. One action of faith is saying. What you are saying is what you truly believe. The woman with the issue of blood found in **Mark 5:25-34** she believed that if she could only touch his clothes, she would be made whole. What she said revealed what she believed in her heart. **Vs 28** "*For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.*"

The testimony of a woman that had cancer said, "I read this scripture in **Mark 5:25-34** and decided I too can be made whole of the cancer by doing what this woman with the issue of blood did." She began saying, "I believe that when I touch (she named a minister's name), I shall be made whole." She said this over and over until she could see it happening. When she could see it happening, she went to one of this minister's meetings and the moment she touched him she knew she was made whole of the cancer. She went to her doctor and he reported that there was no sign of cancer. He said it was truly a miracle.

Read these following scriptures and picture yourself as the one acting upon the Word Jesus spoke. Faith will arise in your heart to receive a miracle. **Mark 2:1-12; Mark 3:1-5; Mark 5:25-34; John 9:1-7; Acts 3:1-11; II Kings 5:1-15; II Kings 4:42-44.**

Faith Confession: *I can receive a miracle today. Faith for receiving a miracle comes as I keep hearing the Word, receive the Word, believe the Word, and act upon the Word. He that ministers to us the Spirit, and works miracles among us does it by the hearing of faith. I am a doer of the Word and not a hearer only and I am blessed!!*