

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 1

I Shall Not Die but Live

Psalm 118:17

"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord."

Praise God, I shall not die but live for what purpose? To declare the works of the Lord! This is why you should desire to live. It is by the power of God's Word that you are kept alive (***I Peter 1:3-5; Romans 1:16***). The question is, "Will you go to the power source and feed your faith so you can be kept alive?" Jesus went to the cross on your behalf. He died in your place so you could live. Receive your health. He has paid the price for it. Health is part of your inheritance!

We have been talking about the path of the just. ***Proverbs 4:18-19*** say, *"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.* In the next verse you can see the contrast. *"The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble."* In ***Proverbs 4:20-27***, we read some important instructions to apply to our lives to stay on the path of health and life. *"My son, attend to my words..."* His Word should be the first and foremost thing we give our attention to each day. *"...incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them (My Words) not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they (My Words) are life unto those that find them, and health (medicine) to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it (your heart) are the issues of life. Put away from thee a forward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee (Do not speak words contrary to what God says about you.). Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee, (Keep your eyes looking straight ahead of you, looking to the author and finisher of your faith race, Jesus Christ, the Word.) Ponder the path of thy feet (We might say, "Watch where you are going."), and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left (Do not get off the path of life, light and health): remove thy foot from evil."*

If you will apply these instructions to your life, you will live and not die. You will run your race of faith from start to finish. You will run it until you are satisfied. ***Psalm 91:16*** promises, *"With long life*

will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.” What enables the Lord to satisfy you with long life, and show you His salvation? Read the entire **91st Psalm** out loud. Begin saying it about yourself. Read it in the following way: “I dwell in the secret place of the Most High. I shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God. In Him will I trust. Surely, He shall deliver me from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence...”

You can have what you confess with your words. Agree with what God has said about you (**Mark 11:23; II Corinthians 4:13**).

Faith Confession: *I will live, I will not die. By the power of God's Word, I am kept alive. I will run my race, I will fight the fight until I am satisfied, I will live, I will not die. I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. I dwell in the secret place of the Most High. He satisfies me with long life and shows me His salvation. I am on the path of life! By the grace and power of God, I will live long and strong for Jesus!*

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January 2

Let Us Lay Aside Every Weight

Hebrews 12:1

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us..."

When running in a race, the runners wear the lightest clothes and shoes possible enabling them to run the race faster and easier. Here we see that we are to lay aside some things so that we can run our race with patience. What are the weights which Paul is speaking about? Peter mentions some things we are to lay aside. **I Peter 2:1-2** state, *"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"*

These are things that can weigh you down and hinder you from running your race of faith. The first thing we are instructed to lay aside is *malice*. **I Corinthians 5:8** says, *"Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."* The definition of "malice" is: the intention to do something wrong, especially to cause injury or to hurt someone. We are to replace malice and wickedness with sincerity and truth. **Ephesians 4:31-32** command us to, *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."* (**Colossians 3:8-17**)

The next weight which we are to lay aside is *guile*. The definition of "guile" is the practice of deceiving people or using dishonest methods to achieve your aims, or the ability to deceive people for this purpose. It is written in **I Peter 3:10-11**, *"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil (bad), and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil (bad), and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it."* We are to be like

Christ, *"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth"* (**I Peter 2:21-22**).

The third thing we are to lay aside is *hypocrisy*. This word is defined as pretending to be what you are not, or pretending to believe something that you do not believe. A hypocrite is someone who says one thing and does another. Jesus explained in **Matthew 23:13-29** what a hypocrite is like. *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites..."* In **Mark 7:6** *"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me."* They were saying things which they did not mean.

Lastly, we are to lay aside envy and all evil speech. Envy that is not laid aside will lead to murder (**Romans 1:29-32, Romans 13:13-14**). It was envy that murdered Jesus (**Matthew 27:18; Mark 15:10-13**). Joseph's brothers were envious. *"And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him"* (**Acts 7:9**). Carnal people are envious, and along with envy is strife and divisions, every evil thing and confusion (**I Corinthians 3:1-3**). Additional Scriptures include the following: **II Corinthians 12:20-21; Galatians 5:19-21; James 3:10-18**. Let us truly remove the weights and sin that hurt and trouble us. As we obey God's Word, we will be able to run our race of faith completely unhindered, and receive the promises of God!

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word of God. I lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset me. I run with patience the race that is set before me, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith. I am sincere and truthful. I resist Satan and submit to God, who gives me more grace to run my race. I am blessed!*

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January 3

The Truth Dwells in Us

II John 1:2

"For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever."

John wrote a lot about the truth. For example, **II** and **III John** are about truth. **II John 1:1-6** say, *"The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the **truth**; and not I only, but also all they that have known the **truth**; For the **truth's** sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in **truth** and love. I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in **truth**, as we have received a commandment from the Father. And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after His commandments: This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."*

John wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in **II John 1:4**: *"I rejoiced greatly that I found thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father."* In **III John 1:3-4**, Jesus explained that as we keep His commandments, we are loving Him and those that love Him are loved by the Father and by the Son. He also promised that He will manifest or show Himself to us when we keep His commandments, and the Father and the Son will make their home with us (**John 14:21,23**). To walk in the truth means you obey the Word of God. To walk in truth also means that you are His disciples and walking in freedom. It is written in **John 8:31-32** *"...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth (that you understand and obey) shall make you free."* To know the truth is to know Him.

Praise God, truth makes you free! The truth of God's Word which you follow concerning life, will make you free from death. The truth you walk in concerning healing will make you free from sickness and disease. The truth concerning prosperity and success will make

you free from poverty and failure. The truth that you follow concerning relationships will make you free from relationship failures, at least on your part. The truth concerning humility will make you free from pride. The truth of God's Word will make you free from being resisted by God. It will free you to receive more grace, which is God's ability. You will be able to resist the devil, knowing that he will flee from you!

The truth dwells in you, but you have to take time to renew your mind to the truth in order to walk in it. The truth dwells in you when you study, meditate upon, speak, and obey the Word, which is the truth. When you do it, your mind is truly renewed and you will be able to prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God (**Romans 12:2**).

Faith Confession: *The truth dwells in me and shall be in me forever. I choose as an act of my will to walk in truth, when I receive a commandment from the Father. I speak the truth in love. As I walk in the truth and speak the truth, I am walking in love with my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Father, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and with my neighbors. Because I obey His commandments of truth and love, He is manifesting Himself to me. The Father and the Son are living in me. I am a true worshipper. I worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeks such to worship Him. God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. I am a doer of the Word of God, and I am blessed!*

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January 4

HONOR THE KING I

I Peter 2:17

"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king"

Who is the king? The first king we are to honor is Jesus, who is the King of kings (***I Timothy 6:15-16; Revelation 17:14; 19:16***). To honor the King means you esteem, value, have great respect for Him, which involves obeying His word. We are to honor the Word of God. Jesus, the King of kings, is the Word of God (***John 1:1-4, 14***). Who are the kings that Jesus is King of? Every child of God is a king (***Revelation 1:5-6***). It is written in ***Revelation 5:9-10*** *"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."* We are kings and priests. We are to reign in life just like Jesus reigned and is reigning today (***Romans 5:17***).

The only time Jesus could not reign over sickness, disease, and other things in people's lives was when they did not honor Him. The Lord Himself said that He could do no mighty works in certain places among His own people because they did not honor Him due to unbelief (***Matthew 13:57; Mark 6:4-6***). The same is true today. He cannot do any mighty works among us, His people, if we do not honor Him, His Word, His Spirit, His ministers, and people. It was not because He did not have the power. On the contrary, He did have the power! It was because they could not receive. Faith, trust, honesty, and believing cannot receive. Fear, doubt, dishonesty, and unbelief cannot receive. God delights to do mighty works among His people in every area of their lives including financially. In order for this to happen, we must honor whom He says to honor.

Paul instructed us in ***Romans 13:1-14*** whom we are to honor. ***Romans 13:6-7*** *"For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. (Read previous verses to see what He is speaking about.) Render*

therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." **Matthew 22:17-21** states, "Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

Some things belong to the government, and other things belong to God. Give to the government the taxes you owe and to God the tithes. If God said to do it, know that you can do it. You do it by faith, believing that when you obey Him and act upon His Word, He will enable you to be honest and pay them. Jesus paid taxes. Apparently, He did not have the money on hand to pay them, but He knew how to receive it. He not only paid His own taxes, but He also paid Peter's taxes as well, when Peter did what Jesus told him to do (**Matthew 17:24-27**). God is not a respecter of persons. He is a respecter of faith, and faith obeys. There is a blessing in obeying.

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word of God, and I am blessed in my doing. I honor those whom God says to honor. As I honor those whom He instructed me to honor, I know my God will honor me. He blesses me with the ability to give God my tithes and to pay my taxes. As I do this, I have God's blessings on my finances. I am faithful to obey His Word, and God is faithful to enable me to pay.*

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January 5

HONOR THE KING II

I Timothy 1:17

"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Recently as I was serving the Lord in church, He spoke the following words to me. *"We are doing the will of God, and the money is coming in."* He made known to me that we should begin saying these words, and it will happen. The more you say, *"We are doing the will of God"*, the more you will do the will of God (**Mark 11:23**). The less you say it, the less of His will you will do. What is the will of God? God revealed His will to us in His Word. His Word is His will. I encourage you to begin saying, *"We are doing the will of God, and the money is coming in."*

We honor our Lord and King when we obey His Word, which is His will. **James 1:22-25** states, *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed (doing)."* It is the person who does the Word who is blessed. The word "blessed" means "empowered to prosper and succeed."

Job 36:11 reads, *"If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures."* It pleases the Father when we obey and serve Him and spend our days in prosperity and our years in pleasures. It is written in **I Corinthians 13:8** that *"...love never faileth."* God is love, and He never fails. Since we are in Love and Love is in us, we are destined to never fail, but to prosper and succeed.

Your financial prosperity is attached to doing the will of God, which pleases your Father. A key to your financial prosperity is seeking first the kingdom of God and His way of being and doing what is right (**Matthew 6:33**). Yesterday we saw one of the Lord's ways

of honoring the King, which is to pay our taxes and to give to the Lord which belongs to Him, the tithe. In future devotions, we will continue to look at other things He has spoken that enable us to prosper in our finances. This in turn glorifies God and makes it possible for us to finance the Gospel, build churches, and to experience prosperity in our own lives.

Faith Confession: *I honor the King of kings. I obey and serve Him; therefore, I shall spend my days in prosperity and my years in pleasures. I am a doer of the Word of God, and I am empowered to prosper and succeed. My tithe belongs to the Lord and I pay my taxes. As I do this, I am walking in love and love never fails. I am doing the will of God, and the money is coming in so I can help to build churches, finance the Gospel, and enjoy prosperity. Blessed is the doer of the Word of God!*

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January 6

Honor the Lord

Proverbs 3:9

"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase."

We have seen the truth that there is a portion which belongs to God, to the Lord. In **Proverbs 3:9-10**, notice that we are to *"Honour the Lord with our substance (money and possessions) and with the firstfruits of **all** our increase."* Knowing that it is God's will for His children to increase, not decrease, is one of the keys to increase. When we do our part, *"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase,"* we know that God will do His part *"So shall thy barns (bank accounts, storehouses, businesses, etc.) be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."* When we bless His house and ministers (including the Levites, singers, and help teams serving daily in His house), God will bless us.

The firstfruits belong to God. Since they belong to God, we should find out what He wants to be done with them and not use them simply how we choose. If something belongs to you, you can use it in any way you desire, right? Right! So, let us find out from the Word of God what His purposes are for the firstfruits. Firstfruits reveal that there will be more fruit. **Numbers 18** is one place, but not the only place, where God has revealed His purpose for the firstfruits and the tithes. (We will talk about tithes in another devotion.) It is written in **Ezekiel 44:30**, *"And the first of all the firstfruits of all things, and every oblation (offering) of all, of every sort of your oblations, shall be the priest's (the five-fold ministry gifts listed in **Ephesians 4:11**): ye shall also give unto the priest the first of your dough, that he may cause the blessing to rest in thine house."*

One reason God ordained that we bring the firstfruits to the priest (one of the five-fold ministry gifts that ministers the Word to you) is in order for the minister or pastor to pronounce a blessing over you and your house. God hears it when the blessing is pronounced in faith, He honors it and brings it to pass as the hearer receives it by faith.

The following is an example of a blessing which I pronounce over people that bless me and Voice of Faith Ministries. I am not stating it has to be exactly like this. It is only an example. *"Thank You, Father, for Your grace and Your goodness. I bless these finances and the givers. Be fruitful and multiply. Replenish these people with more than they can visualize. The Father that dwells within me does the work, and I give You praise and honor, and I glorify Your name. Amen!"*

God also has a purpose for His people who honor Him. **I Samuel 2:30** promises *"...them that honour me (do His Word) I will honour, and they that despise me (by not doing His Word) shall be lightly esteemed (not honoured)."* Read **I Samuel 2:12-36**. There are many Scriptures that speak of the firstfruits. I encourage you to do a study of them. Be like the people spoken of in **Acts 17:11**: *"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."* What things? The things that were being taught. We should all want to know the truth for ourselves regarding what God has said. We will be blessed!

Faith Confession: *I honor the Lord with my substance and with the firstfruits of all my increase. Then my barns (bank accounts, businesses, family, gardens, etc.) will be filled with plenty, and my presses shall burst out with new wine. (The Holy Spirit is the new wine for the Church!) I am a doer of the Word of God, and I am blessed in my doing.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 7

Honor the Lord, the Firstfruits

Joshua 6:19

"But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated (holiness) unto the Lord: they shall come into the treasury of the Lord."

We have seen that we are to honor the Lord with the firstfruits. The tithe and the firstfruits are two different things (**II Chronicles 31:5; Nehemiah 10:37; 12:44**). The tithe is the tenth. The firstfruits would be like the first of the apples off of your tree. The word, "first," means that there will be more to harvest. The first is the Lord's. The rest of the times your tree produces a harvest, it belongs to you. Here in the book of Joshua, we have record of what happened to Israel when they went into Canaan's land. The Lord told Joshua that the first city was His, which meant they were to do with it exactly what the Lord had instructed them.

It is written in **Joshua 6:17-19**, *"And the city shall be accursed (devoted), even it, and all that are therein, to the Lord: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that were sent. And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed (devoted) thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated (holiness) unto the Lord: they shall come into the treasury of the Lord."*

If you read on, you will notice that they did take the first city, Jericho, which was the Lord's. After the first victory, they are ready to go and take the next city Ai, which was to be theirs. Before going into Jericho, the Lord gave Joshua precise instructions as to how they would take the city. In **Joshua 7:1** we read that the children of Israel stole some of the dedicated things. Achan (one man) took of the accursed thing, and thus the Lord's anger was kindled against the children of Israel. One man's disobedience brought the curse on all of Israel.

Joshua did not know that someone had disobeyed the Lord in taking the accursed thing, but the Lord did. Pride will not seek the Lord. Instead, it just does things the same way. Joshua sent spies into the next city to repeat the same strategy. Just because the Lord leads you to do something one way, does not mean He is leading you to do it the same way every time. The spies went in and came back with a report, telling Joshua how it should be done. Joshua obeyed their words and sent the soldiers in. They ended up being defeated, losing thirty-six men. Now Joshua sought the Lord, and it appeared that he was a bit angry with the Lord. Then the Lord revealed to him that there was sin in the camp which caused them to be unable to stand before their enemy. The sin of taking the accursed thing cost Achan and his entire family their lives, along with their cattle, and all they owned (**Joshua 7:1-26**).

Today, we are thankful for the blood of Jesus, but we do see the character of God here. It was because of covetousness that this man took what was the Lord's for himself (**Joshua 7:21; Psalm 119:36**). God is not against His people being blessed. He just does not want us to covet. In **Joshua 8** you can read where God gave Joshua precise instructions again. As they obeyed, they won another city, and this time the spoils belonged to them (**Joshua 8:2, 27**). Obedience to the truth (God's Word) is the key to increase in every area of your life.

Faith Confession: *I honor the Lord with my substance, and with the firstfruits of all my increase. The firstfruits belong to the Lord; therefore, I will do with them what the Lord has instructed me to do. When I give what belongs to Him, I know the rest will be blessed and increased.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 8

Those Who Honor Me, I Will Honor

I Samuel 2:30

"Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

We have been studying about the honor of the Lord in connection with our financial prosperity. Honor is a big thing with God. The more we honor the Lord, the more He is able to manifest Himself to us in our services and in our individual lives which includes our finances. ***I Samuel 2:29*** states, *"Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?"*

Eli allowed his sons to take of the tithe what they wanted and the way they wanted instead of honoring the instructions of the Lord concerning it. They took it and demanded of the people to give it in a way that displeased the Lord, causing the people to despise the offerings of the Lord. Their disobedience ended up costing Eli and his sons their lives. Also, those who would have followed later would never get to be a part of the priesthood (***I Samuel 2:30-36; 3:11-13***). Our choices can affect our children and their children.

We are to honor the Lord in the times of offerings in the house of God. It is not something we should take lightly. The offerings of the Lord are to be a time of rejoicing, knowing that God's ministers and His house will be taken care of through these offerings (***Nehemiah 12:44***). We have seen that the tithe is not the firstfruits. The tithe is the tenth of all that comes in. Many people believe that tithing was under the law, but that is not true. Tithing was before the law (***Genesis 14:18-20***) during the law, and after the law (***Hebrews 7:1-17***).

What is the purpose of the tithe? First and foremost, the tithe is the Lord's (***Leviticus 27:30, 32***). Since it is the Lord's, we should

do with it what He instructs us to do. Some people would say it is the churches, but there is no Scripture to back that up. It is written in **Malachi 3:8-12** that it is for the purpose of food being in His house and for the blessing being upon the tither. In **Numbers 18:24-31; Deuteronomy 26:12-19; Nehemiah 12:44; 13:5, 10-13**, the Lord has given instructions where He wants His tithes to go.

God's plan is for those who work full time in His house to have an inheritance. The Levites (singers and full-time helpers) and the priests (ministers of the Word) would not receive any of the land for their inheritance, which meant they would have nothing to tithe from. They would not have crops or cattle to give from. The tithes and firstfruits which the people brought, would enable the Levites and the ministers of the Word to be able to tithe, give offerings, and to have something for themselves.

God is faithful to provide for His ministers. We are blessed to be a part of blessing them. You can bring your tithe and put it in the church offering, but always remember you are ultimately giving it to the Lord. He sees it and honors you, as you honor Him by obeying His Word to tithe (**Hebrews 7:8**). Offerings and their purpose will be discussed in the next devotion.

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word of God, and I am blessed. I am a tither. The tithe belongs to the Lord, and I believe that my tithe is being used the way the Lord intended for it to be used. As I tithe, I believe that the windows of heaven are opened to me and a blessing poured out that I will not have enough room to receive it. I believe the devourer is rebuked for my sake, and the fruits of my ground shall not cast her fruit before the time.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 9

The Offerings of the Lord I

I Peter 2:5 **(AMPC)**

"[Come] and, like living stones, be yourselves built [into] a spiritual house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to offer up [those] spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ."

We have been made kings and priests for our God. (**Revelation 1:6; 5:10**)! One of the main functions of the priests was to offer up sacrifices and offerings on a daily basis. There was a continuous stream of offerings. People would bring their offerings, and the priest would offer them up. They would offer up burnt offerings, peace offerings, whole burnt offerings, drink offerings, meal offerings, and the list goes on. The priests were in the service of offerings. Are we to be involved with offerings? Yes, we are! We have been made a holy priesthood, and the priesthood offered acceptable sacrifices and offerings.

The offerings are to be acceptable or pleasing. It is possible to bring an offering, which the Lord will not accept (**Genesis 4:1-7**). Men might accept it, but God will not. To know and understand the offerings of the Lord is important, and we must become rooted and grounded in what He said. There are over 1000 references to offerings in the Bible. Would you say that it is important to the Lord, since He made reference to offerings that many times? I would!

Often people think or say, "I wish pastors would not talk about offerings or tithing." God, Jesus, Paul, and others talked about money; therefore, we should talk about money and giving of tithes and offerings. It is important to Him. Paul wrote in **Acts 20:27**, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Pastors often fear losing people or money if they teach on tithing and giving of offerings. If you fear something, it will happen. If you fear losing people or money because you teach on tithing and giving of offerings, you will lose both whether you teach about it or not (**Job 3:25**). The pastor's responsibility is to teach the Word. You do not force people to give. You simply share God's Word with

them, because according to **Romans 10:17**, "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." What Christians do with that Word is between God and them. Many times, people say, "I have a money problem." That is an untrue statement. What they really have is a faith problem. They lack faith, meaning that they have a lack of the Word concerning money.

It is written in **Romans 1:16**, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...*" The Gospel on tithing and giving of offerings is the power of God for your financial success and health. The entire book of Malachi was written to the priests concerning the tithes and offerings. **Malachi 3:8** states, "*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*" We see here that He not only speaks of tithes but also offerings. We do not want to rob God. Satan is the thief, the one who steals (robs), kills, and destroys (**John 10:10**), and he has no part in us! Also, **Malachi 4:2** promises, "*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings (beams, light); and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*" He said this in connection with tithing and giving of offerings. As the beams of sunshine are to our natural body, so is the Sun or beams of righteousness to us. Praise God, it is health! The Word of God is healing and health to all of our flesh (**Proverbs 4:20-22**). When we see something in God's Word and do it, we are walking in the light as He is in the light, and we are having fellowship with Him. As we live in the light we have, we will walk in health. This topic of offerings will be continued tomorrow.

Faith Confession: *I am a living stone built in a spiritual house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices which are acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ. God has made me a king and a priest. Because I love God and His Word, I also love to hear about tithing and giving of offerings. They are important to the Lord, and what is important to Him is important to me. God is my Father, and I honor Him. The Lord is my Master, and I fear Him. Amen!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 10

The Offerings of the Lord II

I Peter 2:5
(AMPC)

"[Come] and, like living stones, be yourselves built [into] a spiritual house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to offer up [those] spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ."

What is an offering? An offering is an object that is offered. The Hebrew and Greek words for "offerings" imply the idea of a gift or a present, but either one of those is still something that is offered. If I come and give you a gift, I am offering it to you. So, an offering is something offered. Just because something is offered does not mean it is automatically accepted or received. There are many things that God is offering to mankind today, but many are not receiving it. For example, He is offering the gift of salvation, healing, deliverance, and success in every area of life. However, people are not accepting these gifts due to ignorance, rebellion, or any number of reasons. Similarly, God does not accept all offerings. The more you study this topic, the more clearly you will understand.

Malachi 1:13 is one of many references where He said, "...*should I accept this of your hand? Saith the Lord.*" They brought that which was torn, lame, and sick, (that which was left over and was not of value) but He said I am not accepting this. God does not accept all offerings. One of the major things that makes your offering acceptable or not acceptable is the condition of your heart. It is what is inside of you. It is important to remember that you are bringing it to the Lord. We need to remove from our thinking that we are bringing it to the church or to a minister. We should be bringing it to the Lord, as we give it in church or to a minister. **Hebrews 7:8** is not only about tithes but also offerings.

In **Genesis 4:1-7**, Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain was a farmer. Thus, they had different occupations. It is written in **Genesis 4:3-5**, "*And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an OFFERING unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings (firstborn) of his flock and of*

the fat thereof..." Was it acceptable for them to bring an offering to the Lord? The very next phrase emphasizes, "...*And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect...*" What does that mean? Both of them brought an offering to the Lord, but there is no detailed description of Cain's offering. It simply says he brought fruit. Some people insist, "Well Cain brought fruit, and he should have brought a blood sacrifice." I do not find this reasoning in Scripture. At this time, nothing is mentioned about sacrifice for sin. They did not have any revelation of the Law. It just states that they brought an offering. They did not use money like we do today. This was their substance. Cain had crops, and Abel had sheep. Cain brought his crops, and Abel brought his sheep, but the crops which Cain brought were not the best. They were simply some vegetables. They must not have been the first nor the best. So, if they were not the first and the best, what were they? Seconds, leftovers. Abel brought the firstlings or the first, the best. What was wrong with Cain's offering? The Lord looks at the heart. Cain did not bring the best nor did he do it in faith. Abel, however, brought the first, and he did it by faith (**Hebrews 11:4**).

Faith Confession: *I bring my tithes and offerings to the Lord by faith. I always put God first before I buy or do anything for myself or my family. I bring Him my best and not the leftovers. I do it in faith with a right heart, and I believe that God accepts it. I give bountifully, and I reap bountifully. I reap according to the measure I sow. If I sow in coins I reap back in coins. If I sow in fives, I reap in fives. If I sow in 50's, I reap back in 50's. If I sow the best, I reap the best! Seedtime and harvest, sowing and reaping, giving and receiving is God's way to increase.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 11

The Offerings of the Lord III – The Lord's Purposes

Exodus 35:5

"Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass."

Since offerings belong to the Lord, and we are instructed to bring them to Him, it would be good to know what His purposes are for offerings. God wants us to know Him and to pursue His plans and purposes. He has placed His blessing upon His plans and purposes. Notice in **Exodus 35:5**, *"Take ye from among you an offering to the Lord..."* I am reminded to take my offering to the Lord (**Hebrew 7:8**). He continues to explain who is to take the offering to the Lord. *"...whosoever is of a willing heart..."* Yesterday, we saw that Cain was angry when God spoke to him concerning his giving. God did not accept Cain's offering, because he did not give it with a willing heart. Cain did it half-heartedly, which meant it was not his best. Some people today have a "ho-hum, whatever, this is good enough for the Lord attitude." This kind of offering is not acceptable to the Lord.

It is written in **Exodus 35:20-22**, *"And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering **to the work of the tabernacle** of the congregation, and **for all His service**, and for the holy garments. And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted..."* One of the purposes of the offerings of the Lord is that His house would be built and well supplied (**Exodus 35-36**). They brought their possessions. Today you can bring your possessions. Sometimes, people sell what they have and bring the money to the Lord in order that the Lord's house would be well-supplied. The offerings help to pay the bills, to purchase items which the church needs to do the best work of the ministry, to maintain the building, and to help establish other facilities as the Lord leads.

God blesses us with the opportunity to be a co-laborer with Him in building His church, which includes the place where the church

meets. As we help to build and maintain His building, He helps us to build and maintain our homes and buildings. It is the law of seed time and harvest. You reap what you sow. David was a man who set his affection on the house of God (**1 Chronicles 29:1-17**). He willingly gave his best. Was he blessed by it? Absolutely! Every person who was blessed in God's house, David was rewarded. When you and I sow into the work of the Lord, every person who is saved, healed, delivered, ministered to, and helped goes to your account which is your reward in both heaven and on earth. This principle is also true for those who serve in His house by helping to do the work, whether it be heating the house, cleaning, cooking, serving the people through greeting them, helping with the sound system, and the list continues. I encourage you to ask your pastor how you can help. The Lord will reward you!

Paul commands us in **Colossians 3:17, 23-24**, *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily (giving your best), as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word of God. I take which is mine and bring an offering to the Lord with a willing heart. Like David, I have set my affection on the house of my God. My heart is stirred, and my spirit is made willing. As I provide for God's house through giving of my finances, possessions, and service, God will provide for my house. Whatever I sow, I will reap. I bring God the best, and thus I will reap the best and be blessed.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 12

The Offerings of the Lord IV – The Lord's Purposes

Philippians 4:15

"Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving but ye only."

Another purpose for the offering is to support God's five-fold ministers as listed in **Ephesians 4:11**. Paul, an apostle, was busy doing the Father's business. In his letter to the Philippians, he wrote, *"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction (lack)."* (**Philippians 4:10-14** Also read **verses 15-19**.)

It is God's will that those who minister the Word of God be supported financially, since their work is ministering God's Word. It is written in **I Timothy 5:17-18**, *"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the labourer is worthy of his reward."* Read **I Corinthians 9:7-14**. Paul wrote in **verse 11** and **14**, *"If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."*

Your work may be carpentry or working in a factory. Why do you go to work? Are you expecting to be paid for your work? Of course, you are or you would not go to work each day. You expect pay for your labor. God has ordained that you receive a reward for your labor. The same is true of His ministers. He wants them to receive a reward for their labor in the Word and doctrine which is their

work. When the ministers have to return to a regular job, they do not have time to pray and minister the Word as they should (**Acts 6:1-4**). Consequently, the sheep do not grow as they should, because the shepherd (pastor) has little or no spiritual food to give to the sheep (congregation). **Nehemiah 13:7-13** speaks of the those who served in the house of God who had returned to the fields to work because they were not receiving their reward for their labor. God is not pleased with this.

Galatians 6:6-10 reads, *"Let him that is taught in the word communicate (share) unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

As each person willingly takes care of their pastor and ministers by giving offerings to them, God will in return multiply their seed which they have sown (**Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:10**).

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word of God, and I am blessed. I give my offerings to the Lord and for His purposes. One of His purposes for the offerings is that as I am taught the Word, I should share with those who are teaching it. I sow to the Spirit, and I reap of the Spirit. I sow bountifully, and I reap bountifully.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 13

The Offerings of the Lord V

II Corinthians 9:10

"Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

Many times people do not give offerings, because they do not think they have them. In the above verse we are told that He, God, ministers seed to the sower. In other words, He will give you something to give. If you do not have seed to sow, you can ask Him for it. The good news is He does not stop there. Notice that **II Corinthians 9:10** explains God provides bread to eat, multiplies the seed which you have sown, and produces a great harvest.

When you plant a garden, what do you need first? Seed! There is no fruit without seed to sow. The same is true with your finances. God promised that He would give us seed to sow. When the seed comes to you, do not eat the seed by spending it on things you desire. Be sure to sow it! As you sow, you can depend on the Lord to multiply the seed. Then you will have more to sow and some for bread (to take care of your needs, pay your bills, etc.). He will increase the fruits of your righteousness. This is God's way of increasing us. Seedtime and harvest (**Genesis 8:22**), give and receive (**Luke 6:38**), sow and reap (**Galatians 6:7**)!

Just as you sow seed in a natural garden by faith believing to receive the harvest, the same is true in the sowing and reaping of your financial seed. As you sow seed into the good ground, that is not all you do until the harvest comes. You have to keep the weeds out of your garden, and you have to water the seed. This principle applies concerning your financial seed which you sow. It is important to sow your money into good ground. Do not give to worthless causes. Sow your financial seed into ground that is producing fruit. Give your finances into works that are fruitful. After you have sown the seed, keep the weeds out by keeping your heart right. Walk in the Spirit. Do not yield to the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21**), but yield to your recreated spirit which is led by the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). Be sure you are walking in love with your

brothers and sisters in Christ. As you do this, you will keep the weeds out of the garden of your heart.

You also must water the seed you sow. How is that done regarding finances? You water your seed with God's Word (see confession below). Claim the amount you would like to sow whether it be \$5.00 or \$10.00, etc. Tell the devil to take his hands off of your seed. Send the ministering spirits out to bring your seed to you, and finally give thanks that you believe you receive the seed to sow. If you believe you receive, then you do not need to keep asking. Just as with a natural garden when you reap a harvest, you do not eat it all. You save some to sow again, and you will have a continual harvest coming in.

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word, and I am blessed. Father, You, said in Your Word that You give seed to the sower, bread for my food and my needs. You multiply my seed which I have sown and increase the fruits of my righteousness. I believe that You will do what You promised. Father, in Jesus' name, I claim (the amount you would like to sow). Devil, in Jesus' name, take your hands off of my seed. Ministering spirits, go and bring my seed to me. Father, I give You thanks. I believe I receive my (the amount you claimed), and I give You thanks, because I believe I receive my seed to sow. I commit to sow it and not to eat it or spend it on something I want. I ask You to show me the best ground to sow into. I ultimately give it to You, Lord, and men and women receive it. Thank You for my seed of (the amount you claimed). I declare that I sow bountifully, and I shall also reap bountifully. I am a cheerful giver. I give, and it is being given back to me; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, it shall be given into my bosom. I am doing the will of God, and the money is coming in quickly, easily, and abundantly. I am blessed to be a blessing!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 14

I Have Not Seen the Righteous Forsaken

Psalm 37:25

"I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

Oh, how good it is to be the righteous! We, the righteous (His seed), do not have to beg for bread. We just saw in the last devotion in **II Corinthians 9:10**, *"Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."* Whom does the Lord give seed to? The sower. If you are not a sower, that may be one reason why you do not have seed to sow. He said He ministers seed to the sower. Praise God, we are sowers, and He is providing seed for us. Along with the seed comes bread; therefore, we never have to beg for bread! We, who are the righteous, sow; consequently, He is ministering seed to us (the sowers) and bread for our food. He is multiplying the seed which we have sown, meaning that there will be more seed to sow, more bread to eat, and more fruit of our righteousness. Increase! We are not beggars! Faith does not beg! Faith receives what God has provided. What did He tell us in **Matthew 7:7-8**? *"Ask, and it shall be given you..."* He did not say, "Beg, and it shall be given to you."

According to **Matthew 15:22-28**, healing is the children's bread. Since it belongs to the righteous, we do not have to beg God to heal us. We can receive it by faith. Healing is yours (the righteous) by inheritance. Many times, Christians (God's righteous seed) are begging God to heal them. The truth is, He has already healed every man, woman, and child over 2,000 years ago. It is written in **Isaiah 53:5**, *"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we ARE HEALED."* Notice it does not say, "When you get to heaven, you will be healed." Scripture simply states, *"...WE ARE HEALED."* Glory be to God! If He said we are healed, then we are! Receive your healing by faith, which is the children's bread. You do not have to beg for it.

Another Scripture to confirm this wonderful truth is found in **I Peter 2:24**: *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on*

the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes YE WERE HEALED." When were we, the righteous, healed? At the same time when He took the punishment for our sin. The fact is that we were healed, and we are healed. We are not trying to get healed. Just receive healing by faith. The woman in **Matthew 15:22-28** received healing for her daughter by faith.

Faith Confession: *I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, and I do not have to beg for bread. I am a sower; therefore, God gives me (the sower) seed and bread for eating. He also multiplies the seed which I have sown and increases the fruits of my righteousness. Healing is mine! It is my inheritance, and I do not have to work for it. I receive my inheritance by faith in God's Word. He said I was healed, and I am healed. I agree with God and receive my inheritance by faith in His Word. It is impossible for God to lie; thus, I know what He said is true, and everything else is a lie. I will not be influenced by any symptoms. I will look at God's Word and trust that His Word is true for me. I believe to see the goodness of God in the land of the living!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 15

Ask I

John 14:13

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

The word "ask" has different meanings. Jesus promised in **John 16:23-24,26**, *"And in that day (when He goes to the Father) ye shall ask (to make request of) me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask (request) the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto (up to this time) have ye ask (requested) nothing in my name: ask (request), and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you."* In the above verses Jesus is explaining that when He goes to the Father (speaking of His resurrection and being seated at the right hand of the Father), what we ask or request the Father in Jesus' name, the Father will do it.

Furthermore, in **John 14:13-14** Jesus stated, *"And whatsoever ye shall ask (require or demand as your legal right and privilege) in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask (require or demand) anything in my name, I will do it."* Jesus spoke this in line with doing the same works that He did. It is written in **John 14:12**, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father."* The Lord is telling us that what we ask, require, or demand as our legal right and privilege, He will do it. He will back us up in what we demand.

Healing belongs to the believer. Healing is the children's bread. We have a legal right to walk in divine health. God is not stealing or withholding our healing and health from us. He has already given us divine health. **John 10:10** warns us, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..."* The devil is the thief, and he wants to steal your health from you. Since you have a legal right to walk in divine health, you can take your authority in Jesus' name and demand or require the devil to take his hands off of your health and body. Satan has to obey that name. Jesus said that

whatever we ask (demand as our legal right) in His name, He will do it – not might do it, He will do it! We must believe that what He said, He will do!

In **Matthew 6:10** we are instructed to pray, *"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."* Is it the Father's will that there be sickness and disease in heaven? Thanks be to God, no! There will be no sickness nor disease in heaven, which is His will for us here on earth. Jesus also said in **Matthew 16:19**, *"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind (forbid) on earth shall be bound (forbidden) in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose (permit) on earth shall be loosed (permitted) in heaven."* When the enemy tries to bring symptoms of illness to you, just say, "In Jesus name, God forbids this illness, this pain in heaven, and I forbid it in my body (or my child's body) here on earth. I permit health, healing, and wholeness in my body (in my child's body) here on earth. Then believe that you receive it. Do not be moved by what you feel or see. Only be moved by what God's Word says. Peter wrote in **I Peter 2:24**, *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye **were** (past tense) healed."* If you were healed, then you are healed. It is also written in **Matthew 8:17**, *"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."* If He took them and bore them, then we do not have to bare them.

Jesus has promised that if we ask (require or demand as our legal right and privilege) anything in His name, **He will do it**. He will back His name up and bring to pass what we forbid and permit. If we do not ask (require and demand as our legal right), then He will not do it. He will permit what we permit, and He will forbid what we forbid. We have been given that name which is above every name named in heaven and on earth. Use that name, Jesus, against the enemy and walk in health!

Faith Confession: *Jesus has given me the keys of the kingdom. Whatever I bind (forbid) on earth is bound (forbidden) in heaven. What God does not permit in heaven I do not permit in my life here on earth. I have authority in the name of Jesus; therefore, I ask, demand as my legal right and privilege that the devil take his hands off of my body. I demand that every part of my body functions perfectly and normally as God created it to function in Jesus' name.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 16

Ask II

John 14:14

"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

We learned yesterday that the word "ask" in **John 14:13-14** means to demand or to require as your legal right and privilege. We are not demanding Jesus or the Father. God has already, by His divine power, given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (**II Peter 1:3**). We do not demand of God or Jesus that they give us something that has already been given to us. We are demanding the devil to take his hands off of our inheritance. It is written in **Joshua 18:3**, *"And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the Lord God of your fathers hath given you?"* We are not waiting on God to give us eternal life, healing, and blessings. He is waiting for us to possess that which He bought and paid for through Jesus Christ, His Son. Many have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior but have not possessed the rest of their inheritance.

The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old and New Testament. What is a testament? It is a will. Before a person dies, they can make out a will showing what they want given to certain people as their inheritance. Praise God, we have a new and better covenant (testament) than the children of Israel had (**Hebrews 12:24**). Now it is up to us to read the will (the Bible) to understand what legally belongs to us. Jesus, our Advocate, is alive and well, who is seated at the right hand of the Father always making intercession for us (**Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25**). He is there to enforce the will when we take our authority and line up our will with the Father's will. Jesus is in the high courts of heaven to represent us and do what we ask or demand as our legal right. When the devil brings an accusation against us, we are to disagree with him. We are to agree with what God has said about us in His Word, which is His will.

When the devil comes with an accusation and says, "You deserve sickness," what should your response be? No, **Revelation 12:11** proclaims, *"And they overcame him (the devil, the accuser) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they*

loved not their lives unto death." My testimony is written in ***1 Peter 2:24***, That Jesus Himself "...bare our (my) sins in his own body on the tree, that we (I) being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." It is also written in ***Isaiah 53:5***, "...and with His (Jesus) stripes we are healed." Praise God, I agree with God, I am dead to sin, and I live to righteousness, and by His stripes I was healed, and I am healed! I am immune from the penalty and power of sin. I am immune from sickness and disease! "Satan, in the name of Jesus, take your hands off of my healing and my health."

Now Jesus, our Advocate, goes before the Father and says, "Your Honor, My Father, and their Father, Your son, My brother/sister has given testimony. I present to the high courts of heaven and to You for consideration. My blood is on the mercy seat, and the stripes are on My back. I paid the price for their sins and healing. Healing and health are their legal right." The Father acknowledges the evidence and says, "Not guilty, they do not deserve punishment by sickness." Praise God, now the devil cannot enforce sickness on you. Healing and health are your legal right as long as you are walking in the light. So, shout the victory! When pain, or feelings of sickness come, it is important to keep your testimony the same. If you agree with the devil, he wins. If you talk about the sickness and pain, they will remain. If you say what God says about you and agree with Him, you win.

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word of God. If I ask (demand as my legal right and privilege) anything in Jesus' name, Jesus will do it for me! I overcome the devil, my accuser, by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus' part) and by the Word of my testimony (my part), and I do not love my life to death by walking in sin. My testimony is: I was healed and am healed by the stripes of Jesus! I proclaim that I am immune from the penalty and power of sin in Jesus' name!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 17

Practice What You Preach

James 1:22

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

It is important that we practice what we preach to others. In other words, do what you say. Jesus is our example. Paul wrote in **Acts 1:1**, *"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both **to do and teach**."* We are to obey the Word of God. If I tell you to do something and then go off and do something else, I am being a hypocrite. It is written in **Matthew 23:1-3**, *"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."* All throughout this chapter, you see Jesus saying, *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!"* They were telling the people to do one thing, but on the contrary, they would not do it themselves. These people deceived themselves by not practicing, by not doing what they were preaching (**James 1:22**).

Parents often tell their children to do something but do not do it themselves. God planned from the beginning of time that we learn through precept and example. If the people that are teaching us do not practice what they preach and teach, the people under them most likely will not do it. Parents, pastors, leaders, if you see something in your children, those under you that you do not like, check up on yourself. Are you doing that very same thing that you do not want them to do? Are you saying things that you should not be saying? If you talk poorly about the church, then those under you will do the same. If you are not excited about church, those under you will not be excited about it either. Everything reproduces after its own kind. If you would rather be somewhere else, those under you will have the same attitude. Be sure you are in the right place doing the right thing! Do you have joy in doing your work, or is it a drudgery? If you enjoy doing your work, those under you will enjoy doing their's.

It is written in **Deuteronomy 30:14**, "*But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.*" It is impossible to run your race of faith without the Word of faith. Two things are needed to change your circumstances: firstly, a Word from God and secondly, your obedience to that Word. When we obey the Word, miracles happen (**John 2:5**). We have success. Every failure is due to not having a Word from God to act upon, or we hear a Word from God but fail to completely follow it.

It is important to take time to build your faith in God's Word. This only happens as you feed upon the Word, speak it, meditate upon it so that it becomes alive or real to you. When it becomes alive in you, you will know it, because joy will rise up in your heart. When there is joy, faith is there, and you are ready to act upon it.

There are terms to God's covenant just as there are with any contract. When you do your part, the person or company you made the contract with is obligated to do their part. The terms of God's covenant are faith which trusts and believes in the name of His Son, Jesus and to love one another (**I John 3:21-24**). If I love you, I will do the Word of God. When we trust God's Word and do it, then we know that God will do what He promised.

Obey the Word of God. Practice what you preach. It is the doer who gets the blessing (**James 1:25**). God will not give you any more until you do what you already know to do.

Faith Confession: *I am a doer of the Word, not a hearer only, and I am blessed. I hear what God is saying, and I obey that Word. When I do what He has instructed me, the blessing will be there. Praise God, I am excited about God's Word and church!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 18

The More Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 12:31

"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."

The more excellent way is Love. God is love (**1 John 4:8**). In **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (CJB)**, we see the more excellent way. *"I may speak in the tongues of men, even angels; but if I lack love, I have become merely blaring brass or a cymbal clanging. I may have the gift of prophecy, I may fathom all mysteries, know all things, have all faith — enough to move mountains; but if I lack love, I am nothing. I may give away everything that I own, I may even hand over my body to be burned; but if I lack love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind, not jealous, not boastful, not proud, rude or selfish, not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not gloat over other people's sins but takes its delight in the truth. Love always bears up, always trusts, always hopes, always endures. Love never ends; but prophecies will pass, tongues will cease, knowledge will pass. For our knowledge is partial, and our prophecy partial; but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, argued like a child; now that I have become a man, I have finished with childish ways. For now we see obscurely in a mirror, but then it will be face to face. Now I know partly; then I will know fully, just as God has fully known me. But for now, three things last — trust, hope, love; and the greatest of these is love."*

Paul stated in **Romans 5:5**, *"And hope (biblical hope is joyous expectation) maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."* We have the ability to love one another just like God loves us. Love lives inside of us. All we have to do is yield to the Greater One in us and not to our fleshly feelings. It is written in **Jude 1:20-21**, *"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, (You) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."* It is important to take time to pray in other tongues so that you are built up in faith. Faith trusts God to work things out for

your good and for His glory. As you do this, you will keep yourself in the love of God. Love never fails! Walk in the light of love.

The enemy is always trying to prevent us from believing in God and in one another. He is also trying to urge us to walk out of love with one another. Jesus told Peter in **Matthew 26:41**, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Mark wrote in **Mark 14:37-38** his account of the words of Jesus, "And He (Jesus) cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." It is important to take at least one hour each day to watch and pray. That word "watch" means to keep awake, to be vigilant. Get up an hour earlier so you have the time to pray. We saw in the last devotion that we have been given two commandments in the New Testament (**I John 3:23**). Receiving what we ask hinges on keeping these two commandments (**I John 3:21-22**). A true Christian is a person who both believes in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ and loves their fellow Christian. The practical application of love is serving.

Faith Confession: *I keep the Word of God, and the Word of God is keeping me. I build myself up in my most holy faith praying in the Holy Spirit. As I obey this Word, I keep myself in the love of God, and the love of God is keeping me. Whatever I ask from Him, I receive, BECAUSE I keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. I believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ. I love my brothers and sisters in Christ through serving as He commanded us.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 19

You Are My Friends

John 15:14

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

The greatest friend anyone could ever have is Jesus. He has promised us that we are His friends, **if** we do whatever He commands us. Our love is revealed by our obedience (**John 14:21,23,31**). Jesus continued to say in **John 15:15**, *"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."* That is the blessing of being the friend of Jesus. He reveals things to us that He does not make known to those who are not His friends. If you are not a friend of the Master, you are His enemy. It is written in **James 4:4**, *"...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is an enemy of God."* These are those who do not obey the commands of the Master. They desire something different than what the Master desires.

There are two different Greek words for the word "friend" used in the following passages. One word, "hetairoi", is found in **Matthew 20:13; 22:12; and 26:50** which means comrade, a companion, an imposter, one posing as a comrade, but in reality, only having his own interests in mind. We can clearly see that this was Judas Iscariot. Jesus was not calling him his friend. In **John 15:13-15**, the word for friend is the Greek word "philos" which means "dearly loved (prized) in a personal intimate way, a trusted confidant, held dear in a close bond of personal affection."

Abraham was a friend of God. James explained in **James 2:23**, *"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend (philos) of God."* Abraham's belief in God was revealed in his obedience. What we believe is demonstrated in our actions. When God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac, Abraham obeyed Him quickly and completely. The result of Abraham's obedience was that God Himself provided a sacrifice. Abraham's son was saved, he was counted righteous, and was called the Friend of God.

That was an honor. We also know that God did not allow Sodom and Gomorrah to be destroyed without first telling Abraham and giving Abraham the opportunity to intercede for the people. God would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah for ten righteous men, but there were not even ten (**Genesis 18:17-33**).

If you are a friend of Jesus, you are a friend of God. All who obey His commands are His friends, and if we are a friend of Jesus and God, we are friends with each other. Jesus prayed that we would all be one in the Father and in Him (**John 17:21-23**). We are one in Him! What a joy and an honor to be the friend of the Master, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and God the Father.

Faith Confession: *I am a friend of God, of Jesus Christ, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. He calls me His friend, because I love Him and obey His commands. I do what He tells me to do. Everything which He has heard from the Father he has told me. What a friend we have in Jesus! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! Believe that you receive!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 20

Purposes

Exodus 9:16
(NKJV)

"But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth."

God has a purpose for raising us up! His purpose, *"...that He may show His power in us, and that His name may be declared in all the earth."* Jesus said in **John 17:6,26 (NKJV)** in His prayer to the Father, *"I have manifested (shown) Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word."* *"And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

How did Jesus manifest the names of God to those whom the Father had given Him: through every miracle that took place, through every healing, when people were raised from the dead, when He walked on the water, when He calmed the storm, when He cursed the fig tree, and when He walked through crowds of people who wanted to kill Him. All of these events were manifestations of the names of God. The more the Gospel is manifested on earth, the less Satan is able to manifest himself on earth. The works that Jesus did are the manifestations which we are called to do.

Paul writes in **Ephesians 2:6-7**, *"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."* Just as Jesus manifested God's name to the people whom God had given Him, we too are to do the same. It is written in **John 14:12-15**, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask (demand, require) in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask (demand, require) any thing in my name, I will do it. If you love me, keep my commandments."*

We saw in **John 17:26** where Jesus stated, "*And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it...*" How is He declaring the Father's name today? Every time we ask (demand, require) something in Jesus' name, and He does it, He is declaring God's name. One time I had invited a friend of mine who was not walking with the Lord to come to a church where our group, Daystar, was ministering. When leaving the house with my friend, the van I was driving would not start. I recognized the problem was with the starter. (My dad was an auto mechanic, so I learned things from him.) I knew that I had been given the name that was above every name in heaven and earth. Thus, I demanded as my legal right that the van would start in Jesus' name. It started, and my friend declared, "That made a believer out of me!" She glorified God!

Later that night when returning home, my friend and I talked for a while. She smoked cigarettes, and I knew God wanted her free from them. When she had left the room, I took some anointing oil, anointed the cigarette pack with this oil and said in the name of Jesus that the cigarettes would taste terrible to her from this day forward. When she returned, she picked the cigarettes up and lit one. Then she put it out and never smoked another one after that. That night she rededicated her life to the Lord. All the glory goes to our good, good God! Jesus is still declaring God's name every time we ask (declare, require) something in Jesus' name, and Jesus does it. JESUS is the name above every name!

Faith Confession: *For this purpose, I have been raised up that God may show His power in me and that His name may be declared in all the earth. I am seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I rule and reign in my domain in Jesus' name, and God is glorified!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 21

None of These Things Move Me

Acts 20:24
(NKJV)

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

Paul was planning to travel to Jerusalem, bound in the Spirit, being unaware of what he would be facing. All he knew was that bonds and afflictions awaited him, yet he did not count his life more important than finishing his race with joy. Notice he was not going to go through those bonds and afflictions in sorrow nor sadness. If Paul had gone in sorrow and sadness, he would not have had the strength to finish his race. Nehemiah encourages us in **Nehemiah 8:10 (NKJV)**, "...Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." It does not say, "Try not to sorrow." No, it says, "DO NOT sorrow." When you have joy, it is an indication that you believe, that you have faith and trust in God. **Romans 15:13** states, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." The God of hope fills us with all joy and peace IN BELIEVING! Joy is an indicator that we are in faith!

Paul's heart was determined to do the ministry which he had received from the Lord Jesus. A key to not being moved is knowing that you received your ministry from the Lord Jesus and not from man or from yourself. Paul was ready to suffer anything. He would not allow anything to move him. It is written in **Acts 17:28**, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being...For we are also his offspring." The only thing that should move us is the Greater One who is on the inside of us. Will there be tests and trails? Certainly, but we are not to be moved by them. James explains in **James 1:2-6 (NKJV)**, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trails, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting..."

According to the above verses, who are you to ask for wisdom if you lack wisdom? (Remember, wisdom is knowing what to do. And the wisdom of God is knowing what God wants to do.) James answered the question that we should ask God (who gives to everyone liberally) and not man. The verse does not advise, "Go and ask your brother or sister to pray that God would give you wisdom." We are all guilty of doing that, but let us have faith in our own prayers. Believe that God hears you when you pray, that He will indeed answer you, and give you the wisdom that you need. He will do just as He has promised if you ask in faith, not doubting. Believe that He loves you that much! When a child goes to their parent and asks for something, if that parent has the ability, they will give their child what they request, if it is reasonable. God is our heavenly Father who cannot lie. He certainly has the ability to give you the wisdom which you need, and He will give it to you liberally. I like that! He gives it liberally and without reproach! Hallelujah!

What are we to do when we fall into various trials? James emphasized, "Count it all joy." You may not feel like it, but we should not be moved by our feelings. This is the time you need to just begin rejoicing as an act of your will. The feelings will eventually line up. Simply begin to laugh at the trial. It is written in **Job 5:22**, "At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh..." Begin to praise God. In times of rejoicing and praising, answers come as in **Acts 13:2** ("As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said...") In times of ministering to the Lord through praising, He can speak to you! Praise God, I have joy when I think about what the Lord has done for me. Think about all of your past victories. When you think about what the Lord has done for you, you will have joy, and that joy will be your strength.

Faith Confession: *Nothing moves me, nor do I count my life dear to myself, in order that I may finish my race with joy. I count it all joy when I fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of my faith produces patience. I let patience have its perfect work in order that I may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 22

Faith Comes by Hearing

Romans 10:17

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and by hearing the word of God."

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, the anointed Word of Christ. It is written in **Hebrews 11:6**, *"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."* We could also say it this way and be accurate, "But without the Word of Christ it is impossible to please Him..." Faith (believing) is very important. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Notice it says he who comes to God. The first thing that must happen is for you to come to God. According to **Hebrews 11:6**, when you have a trial in your life, you must first come to Him through prayer and believe that He is.

Believe that He is what? Believe that God exists! Believe that He is Jehovah-Jireh, your provider (**Genesis 22:13-14**). Believe that He is Jehovah-Rapha, your healer (**Exodus 15:26**). Believe that He is Jehovah-Nissi, the Lord your banner, miracle worker, victory (**Exodus 17:8-15**). Believe that He is your Jehovah-Shalom, the Lord your peace (**Judges 6:23-24**). Believe that He is Jehovah-Tsidkenu, the Lord your righteousness (**Jeremiah 23:6**). Believe that He is Jehovah-Shammah, the Lord who is present with you (**Ezekiel 48:35**). Believe that He is Jehovah-Ra-ah, the Lord your shepherd (**Psalms 23**). When you speak the name of Jesus, you have spoken all seven of the redemptive names of God. Jesus manifested all seven of them when He lived on earth. He proclaimed in **John 14:9**, *"...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father..."*

If you will develop faith in all of the seven redemptive names of God, you will develop faith in every area of life. As you develop faith in all of the seven redemptive names of God, and exercise faith through believing in your heart, speaking it with your mouth, then acting upon what you said, you will experience victory in every aspect of your life. **Hebrew 11:6** promises, *"...that he (God) is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* Notice that God does

not reward everybody who comes to Him. When you were born-again is where it first began. You met the Lord. Now you should come to know Him, what He loves, what He hates, His ways, etc. How do you do that? The next step is to **diligently** seek Him. How do you diligently seek Him? You seek Him through a diligent search into His Word! The Scripture means you are seeking Him as though you were seeking for something that you had lost which was very valuable to you. You keep seeking until you find it, implying that you will find it.

He has chosen to reveal Himself to us through His Word. He gave us a book in which He shared all of His attributes, telling us what He likes and what He dislikes. We can come to know all we need to know about God through His Word, prayer, and by being in His services where His ministers can speak the anointed Word to us. He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us and to teach us (**John 14:26; John 16:13-15**). It is important to get the Word of God in your heart and in your mouth. When you do these two things, you will have faith. You will please God, and He will reward you. Paul writes in **Romans 10:10-13**, *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness (being right and doing right); and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (provision, healing, victory, peace, leading and guiding, righteousness, His presence). For the scripture saith, "Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

Faith Confession: *My faith comes by hearing the anointed Word of Christ. It is impossible for me to please God without hearing His Word. I come to Him, and I diligently seek Him who is my provider, my healer, my miracle worker, victory, my peace, my righteousness, my Shepherd, and my Lord who is present! He rewards me with provision, healing, miracles, victory, peace, leading, guiding, and His presence. In His presence is fulness of joy!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 23

Faith in Jehovah-Jireh I

Mark 11:22

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."

The literal translation of "*Have faith in God*" is "Have the faith of God". God spoke, and things came into existence. It is written in **Genesis 1:3**, "*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*" In **Genesis 22:14** God revealed Himself to Abraham as Jehovah-Jireh, which means, "In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen" or "It shall be provided." He is the Lord our Provider, the one who sees ahead and makes provision! In **Genesis 22:2**, God spoke to Abraham and said to him, "*...Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*"

What you think about, you open your heart up to. Abraham had his mind on God and following Him. Therefore, his heart was open to fully obey. Reading on in **Genesis 22**, you see Abraham's obedience to God. He got up early the next morning. He did not consult with flesh and blood. He did not wait six months to be certain he had heard correctly. On the contrary, he quickly obeyed the Word of the Lord.

One important key that brought Abraham and Isaac through this test was the words of Abraham. This is how you and I will overcome tests. **Revelation 12:11** explains, "*And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*" It is critical what you say when going through a test or trial. The first thing that Abraham said, which revealed he had the "God-kind" of faith, is found in **Genesis 22:5**: "*And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.*" Abraham was not sad, sorrowful, nor tearful, because he believed that both he and his son would return to the young men. The next thing Abraham confessed which brought him and Isaac through the test is found in **Genesis 22:8**: "*And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them*

together." This was a prophecy. Abraham's words not only affected what happened to Isaac. His words influenced what would happen to all mankind who would call on the name of Jesus. We are born-again today as the result of Abraham's obedience and correct words which he spoke. Jesus is our Jehovah-Jireh!

If you continue reading, you know that Abraham fully obeyed God. Consequently, God stopped Abraham just as he was getting ready to kill Isaac. Thanks be to our good, good God who did see ahead and made provision for all mankind to be saved! When you are going through tests and trials, when your faith is being tested, what do you believe? What you believe is revealed by what you say. Fill your mouth with the Word of God. Say what He says. When you have bills to pay, and there does not seem to be a way to pay them, what do you say? It is important to confess, "The Lord will provide." Your positive confession gives God and all of His angels a legal right to bring your provision to you. If you say, "I don't know how we are going to make it," then Satan and all his demons will act upon those words and bring them to pass. You can have what you say. Abraham received what he confessed. He and Isaac did return to the young men, just as Abraham had spoken.

Faith Confession: *I have the "God-kind" of faith. I speak, and it comes to pass. I proclaim that the Lord is my provider. He sees the future and has already made provision for me. As I obey and follow Him, everything I need is on that path of light and life. I receive God's promise that my God shall supply all of my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. I believe that God is my total source of supply, and I receive His provision for me. I am blessed to be a blessing!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 24

Faith in Jehovah-Jireh II

Romans 8:32

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Jesus is our Provider! God saw the future and made provision for our salvation. We studied in yesterday's devotion that through Abraham's obedience to willingly offer up his only son (Isaac), God was then able to offer up His Son, Jesus. We read in **Romans 8:32** that *"He (God) that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"* Mankind sold themselves into sin which separated them from God, their Provider (**Isaiah 52:3**). However, God was willing to send His Son to buy us back. If He were willing to do that, certainly He would be willing to provide everything for those who accept Jesus as Lord.

It is written in **I Timothy 5:8**, *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (an unbeliever)."* He is talking about making sure that your own family, especially the family of God, is provided for. God is not telling us to do something which He has not already done for us, His children. **Matthew 6:25-26** states, *"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body more than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"* You are much better than the birds in the air. Occasionally, when I see birds, I remind myself of how God feeds them, provides drink for them, clothes them, gives them direction, and provides a home for them. Then I thank God that I am more valuable to Him than birds.

Notice that Jesus spoke these words in **Matthew 6:19-34** in connection with fasting (**Matthew 6:16-21**). God described His chosen fast in **Isaiah 58:1-14**. We do not fast in order for God to hear our prayers (**Isaiah 58:4**). Fasting does not change God, it changes us. Fasting exists so we can quiet the flesh, hear from God, and provide for others. He is explaining that if we will provide

for someone else's needs, He will provide for ours (**Philippians 4:19**). He is saying, "Do not worry about your needs, I will provide it." In **Matthew 17:14-21** when the man with the lunatic son brought his son to the disciples to cast the demon out, they were not able to do it, and the disciples later asked Jesus why they could not cast it out. Jesus answered in **verse 20**, it was "...*Because of your unbelief...*" Then He said in **verse 21**, "*Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.*" There was a reason why the disciples needed to pray and fast. They had been very prideful in disputing about who was the greatest among them. Jesus had just taken Peter, James, and John up on the mountain with Him. The others who were left behind were disputing about who was the greatest (**Luke 9:38-48; Mark 9:17-34**). When you are yielding to the devil through disputing and arguing, he does not have to yield or obey you. You deny the flesh by praying and fasting (**Matthew 26:40-41**).

Jesus is our Provider. Seek Him, the provider, and not the provision. With the Provider is the provision for every need whether it be spiritual, physical, emotional, material, or financial. God loves you, and He has supplied all of your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (**Philippians 4:19**)!

Faith Confession: *I seek first the kingdom of God, the domain where Jesus is King. **Luke 17:21** reminds me that the domain where Jesus is King is within me. He rules in my heart. I know that my Lord is taking care of me. He leads me, feeds me, gives me drink, clothes to wear, and a home. He is the Lord my Provider, Jehovah-Jireh!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 25

Faith in Jehovah-Rapha I

Exodus 15:26

"...If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought (allowed) upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

Jesus is our Healer! He is the Lord who heals, not the one who causes sickness. There was no sickness in the beginning of time, and there will be no sickness in heaven. In **Matthew 6:10** (known as the Lord's prayer) Jesus instructed us to pray, *"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."* If we are to pray that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven, then we can know that sickness is not God's will for His children on earth. He would not tell us to pray for something that we could not possess.

There was never a time when someone came to Jesus and asked to be healed when He said, "Not today, God is trying to teach you something." He never once said, "It is not my will nor the Father's will to heal you." There is no indication of that teaching in the Bible. We do have Scripture that explains how He taught us. It is written in **II Timothy 3:15-17**, *"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* He instructs us through His Word, by the Holy Spirit, our teacher (**John 14:26**), and by His ministers.

We see in **II Timothy 3:15** that the Holy Scriptures are able to make us wise to salvation. Paul wrote in **Romans 1:16**, *"...for it (the Gospel of Christ) is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."* The word "salvation" in the Greek is "soteria" which means "safety, deliverance, health, salvation, save, and saving." We could read **Romans 1:16** in the following way: *"...for it, (the Gospel of Christ) is the power of God unto salvation, (safety, deliverance, health, salvation, save, and saving) to*

everyone that believeth..." The questions are, "Will you believe what He said is true? Will you believe that God will keep you safe, deliver you, keep you healthy, and save you? Will you believe that He is the Lord your healer and He wants to heal you?" In **Mark 9:23**, Jesus said to the man who desired healing for his son, *"...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."* We know from Scripture that the man's son was delivered and healed.

God is not a respecter of persons but a respecter of faith. How does faith come? **Romans 10:17** reads, *"So then faith (believing) cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Greek - the anointed Word of Christ)."* If you will take time to hear the Word on healing, you will believe and be able to receive. Healing is part of your inheritance. Healing is the children's bread. It belongs to every born-again child of God. We observe how a woman who believed, received deliverance and healing for her daughter. How do we know that she believed? When Jesus said, *"...go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter."* She obeyed Him before she witnessed her daughter's healing (**Mark 7:25-30**).

Praise God, we serve a good God who delights to see His people healed and walking in divine health!

Faith Confession: *Jesus is my healer. He is the Lord who heals me. I thank my God for the Gospel of Christ which is the power of God for my salvation, deliverance, safety, preservation, healing, and soundness. It is mine because when I believe, I receive. According to my faith, be it to me!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 26

Faith in Jehovah-Rapha II

Romans 10:13

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

"...whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord (Jesus, Jehovah-Rapha) shall be saved." The Greek word for "saved" in this verse is "sozo" which means the following: "safe, to save, deliver or protect, to heal, preserve, do well, and be (make) whole." We could read this verse as follows: "For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be safe, saved, delivered, protected, healed, preserved, doing well, and made whole." When you called upon the name of Jesus, you were saved. You may ask, "Then why are people not walking in health?" Read on. **Romans 10:14-17** explains, *"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? (Isaiah 53:1) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."*

Many have not heard the gospel of peace, and the glad tidings of good things. They may have heard that they can be saved, but they have not heard what the word "saved" truly means. What are the glad tidings of good things? They are the facts that the Lord keeps you safe, saves you from sin and hell, and from being separated from the Father. He is the Lord who delivers you, protects you, and heals you. He is the Lord who preserves you, gives you success, and makes you whole. Notice that people can not call on Him if they have not heard about Him. They cannot call on Jehovah-Rapha if they have not heard about the Lord our healer. They cannot believe in Him if they have not heard about Him. There must be a sent one. Jesus was sent from heaven (**John 6:38**). A sent one is an apostle or who we would call a missionary. Paul (known as Saul) and Barnabas were sent ones (apostles/missionaries). First, they were separated and sent out by

the Holy Spirit from their church. Paul started works, he preached the gospel of peace, and the glad tidings of good things (**Acts 13**). Signs, wonders, and miracles follow a true apostle.

One reason people are not walking in the true meaning of salvation is because people are not preaching the gospel of peace, and bringing glad tidings of good things. Another reason is seen in **Romans 10:16-17**: "*But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing and by hearing the word of God* (the anointed Word of Christ)." A believing person is a person who acts upon the Word they hear. One of the main signs of faith is confessing God's Word. It is written in **Romans 10:9-10**, "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (sozo). For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (soteria).*" Confession results in safety, deliverance, health, salvation, and saving (**Colossians 2:6**). Many Christians are confessing sickness instead of confessing healing. Agree with what Jesus says (**Mark 11:23-24; Revelation 12:11**).

Faith Confession: *Jesus, Jehovah-Rapha, is my healer. When I called upon the name of the Lord, I was saved, made safe, delivered, protected, healed, preserved, made prosperous, and made whole. I thank You, Lord, for the people who have been separated and sent by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel of peace and glad tidings of good things. With my heart, I believe I am made righteous, and with my mouth I confess safety, deliverance, healing, health, and salvation.*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 27

Faith in the Name

Acts 3:16

"And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him (Jesus Christ) hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

This is the story about the man at the gate called Beautiful. He was lame from birth, and daily he was carried to the gate of the temple. In **Acts 3:6**, it is written *"Then Peter said (to the man), Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."* The man stood up, walked, and was made whole. It was not Peter's faith that caused the man to be healed, nor was it the faith of Jesus. What caused this lame man to have faith? He simply heard the name that is above all other names, the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. The man's faith in His name is what healed him.

Our faith must be in the one who spoke the words. The Word of God is exactly what it says it is, the Word of God. It is God speaking. Oh, that people would be as quick to believe God's Word as they are the word of a doctor or the media. People believe the word of a doctor quickly and obey. For example, the doctor tells you that you have the flu and you need to have a prescription filled at the pharmacy. You believe the doctor's report and quickly obey the doctor's instructions. Yes, you will eventually be healed. Please understand, I am not saying to avoid doctors. What I am saying is that we should believe God's Word quicker than man's word, since God cannot lie. Sometimes humans can make a wrong diagnosis. What if we believed God's Word and obeyed His instructions as quickly as we would a doctor's? We would be like the man at the gate called Beautiful. He heard the command to stand up and walk in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and he obeyed. As a result, he was made strong in the limbs that he had never walked on, and he was given perfect health.

I remember one time a Christian lady was sharing with me a magazine article which she had read about ways to become healthy. She believed every word of the article, even though it was

written by a non-Christian and did not line up with the Word of God. She had more faith in the words of a non-believer than she did in God who always tells the truth. As a result, she could never walk in the fulness of her healing. It is so important to line up everything you believe with the Word of God. Ask yourself, "Am I fully obeying His instructions?" I have found many times in my own life that I was only following 50% of His instructions, and thus I had to make some adjustments. When I made the needed adjustments, I received what He had promised.

We must have faith in the name of Jesus. Believe when you speak His name that Satan, demons, sickness and disease (which come from Satan) must obey that name. Many times, we think we are not in faith when the truth is, we are in faith. You need faith until the answer manifests. **Hebrews 11:1** defines faith as, "*the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" If you could see it, you would not need faith! When you pray, believe you will receive (**Mark 11:24**). The verse does not say, "When you pray, believe you see or feel." You believe you receive by faith. You believe to see, not see to believe (**Psalms 27:13**).

Faith Confession: *Jesus' name through faith, (through believing) in His name makes me strong, heals me, and makes me whole. I have faith in the name of Jesus. When I speak that name, I believe that sickness must obey that name and leave. When I rebuke fever in that name, I believe the fever must obey that name of Jesus which is above every other name and leave. I have faith in that Name!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 28

I Have Manifested Your Name

John 17:6
(NKJV)

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word."

John 17 is a prayer which Jesus prayed to the Father before His death, burial, and resurrection. Take time, and read the whole chapter. The Father always answered the prayers of Jesus. He prayed this prayer for every person who would believe in Him (**John 17:9-10,20-21**). In **John 17:15 (NKJV)** Jesus stated, *"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."* There is no need for us to fear anything or anyone. The Father is keeping us from the evil one.

In **John 17:11-12 (NKJV)** Jesus prayed, *"Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."* The Father is keeping us through His name.

In **John 17:26 (NKJV)** Jesus announced, *"And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."* According to these verses, Jesus kept those who believed in Him through the Father's name, and the Father is keeping those who believe in Jesus through His name. Thanks be to God, we are kept in His love! Everyone who believes in Him is kept by His name. Jesus said that He manifested and declared the Father's name. As you continue to read, you will understand the purpose of Jesus declaring the Father's name. *"...that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."* How is Jesus declaring the Father's name today? He is doing it through us. Jesus declared and manifested to His disciples the seven redemptive names of God. He is still

declaring and manifesting those names today through His people who will respond to the Holy Spirit. We have seen two of those names and will continue to study the other redemptive names of God.

Moses asked the Lord in **Exodus 33:18**, "...I beseech thee, shew me thy glory." The Lord's response to Moses' request is found in the next verse **Exodus 33:19**: "*And he (the Lord) said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.*" To whom is He gracious, and to whom does He show mercy? To those who are gracious, and to those who show mercy (**Matthew 5:7; Galatians 6:7**). When a person receives healing, that is the manifestation and declaration of the name of Jesus, our Healer (Jehovah-Rapha). When a person receives provision, that is the manifestation and declaration of the name Jesus our Provider (Jehovah-Jireh). Praise God, it is the goodness of God that leads people to repentance! (**Romans 2:4; John 9:1-38**)

Several years ago, I had invited a couple to come to church with me who were not Christians. At the end of the service, an invitation was given for people to accept Jesus as Lord. The man's wife went forward, but he did not. During the prayer, which this man prayed, I saw him begin to stomp his heel on the floor. Later when asked what happened, he admitted that he felt a hot burning sensation travel down his leg into his heel. He had had heel spurs which bothered him to stand for any length of time. During the church service he received his healing and accepted Jesus as Lord.

Faith Confession: *He is manifesting His goodness to me and through me. The truth makes me free!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 29

If You Had Faith

Luke 17:6

"And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."

The apostles had just asked Jesus to increase their faith, and Jesus responded by saying, "...*If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say...*" If you have faith, you will speak. Faith has a voice and says something. Paul explains in **Romans 10:17**, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* (Greek, the anointed Word of Christ)." The more you hear the anointed Word of Christ, the more faith you will have. According to this verse, if you are not hearing it, you will not have faith. Faith works the same way in every area of your life. For example, regarding healing, speak the Word on healing. For supply, speak the Word concerning supply.

God has given us His prescription for healing in **Proverbs 4:20-23** which you can apply in your life. "*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*"

He commanded, "*My son, attend to my words...*" If you have received Jesus (believe in His name) and are led by the Spirit of God, you are His son (**John 1:12; Romans 8:14**). As His son you must give attention to His Words and not man's words. To receive your healing or anything else God has promised, you must make His Word priority. He goes on to say, "...*incline thine ear unto my sayings...*" There are many sayings in the world to listen to, but only one person's sayings which you must listen to which will bring you life, health, and peace. Those words are the Lord's. Listen to what He is saying! "*Let them, (His sayings), not depart from thine eyes...*" It is important to keep His Word before your eyes. He is not telling you that you cannot do anything else and that you must read His Word 24 hours a day. What He is saying is to keep looking into His Word by reading it every day. "*Keep them in the midst of*

thine heart..." There is only one way for His Word to get in your heart and that is by keeping it before your eyes and by speaking it (**Romans 10:8**). The Word is first in your mouth and then in your heart. The more you repeat the Word, the more it will be in your heart. If you had faith, you would speak God's Word! According to **Luke 8:15**, an honest and good heart will hear the Word, keep the Word, and bring forth fruit with patience.

In yesterday's devotion, we saw what Moses had asked the Lord in **Exodus 33:18-19**: "...I beseech thee, shew me thy glory." The Lord's response to Moses' request was, "...I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee..." **Colossians 1:27** states, "...Christ (the anointed Word, and the anointing, the Holy Spirit) *in you, the hope* (confident, joyous, expectation) *of glory* (His goodness)." He is I AM. He is to you whatever you need: healing, provision, victory, direction, peace, righteousness, and His presence. It is important to have the Word in your heart by speaking it. Then, when you speak it from your heart, you will have it.

Faith Confession: *I am a believer and not a doubter. I do have faith. Because I have faith, I declare what the Word says. My faith works. My faith is in God the Father and in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is my Provider and Healer. My faith is in the Holy Bible, the Word of God. I believe that God's Word is true. I believe the Word of God works for me, and I live in victory!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 30

According to Your Faith Be It to You

Matthew 9:29

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

One way your faith is revealed is by your words. We saw God's prescription for healing and for receiving all of God's promises. It is written in **Proverbs 4:20-27**, *"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."* This prescription will work in every area of your life.

First you are to *"...attend to my (God's) words..."* Second, *"...incline thine ear to my (His) sayings..."*, third, *"...do not let them depart from thine eyes..."* and fourth, *"...keep them in the midst of thine heart..."* Why does the Lord instruct us to do these things? *"For they are life unto those that find them..."* Not everybody finds them, meaning God's Words. Why? Because they are not applying the first four instructions which He has given to their lives. You can only find God's Words by following His instructions. His Words are not hidden from you, but they are hidden for you to discover. The person who finds God's Words will enjoy *"...health for all their flesh..."* Another translation says *"...health to your whole being."*

God has given us more instructions to follow in order that we may continue to walk in life and health. In **Proverbs 4:23** we are instructed to, *"Keep thine heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* The Complete Jewish Bible reads this way: *"Above everything else, guard your heart; for it is the source of life's consequences."* How are you to guard your heart? *"Keep crooked speech out of your mouth, banish deceit from your lips"* **Proverbs 4:24 (CJB).**

Do not speak things contrary to what God says about you. He asserted that by His stripes you are healed, and were healed (**Isaiah 53:5; I Peter 2:24**). The lie of the devil is that you are sick. The truth of God's Word is that you are healed. Your body may be trying to tell you that you are sick, but it is important to agree with what God says. Your bank account or wallet may be trying to tell you that you are broke and poor, but what did God say? He maintained that you are rich (**II Corinthians 8:9; Revelation 2:9**). **Matthew 12:37 (AMPC)** explained, "*For by your own words you will be justified and acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned and sentenced.*" To be justified or acquitted means that you will be free from something meaning that you are not guilty. To be condemned and sentenced means you will be in bondage to something or punished.

By your own words, you will be sick and broke. Likewise, by your own words, you will be healed and rich. In **Deuteronomy 30:19** God gives you a choice, "...*I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.*" Notice that the words you choose to speak do not only affect you but also your children. If you will speak the Words of life, then your children will also learn to speak the Words of life. Death and life are in the power of the tongue (**Proverbs 18:21**). Speak words of life. His Words are life!

Faith Confession: *I focus on God's Words. I incline my ear to God's sayings. I do not let His Words depart from my eyes. I keep them in the midst of my heart, for they are life to me. I find them. They are life, health, and medicine to my whole being. Above everything else, I guard my heart, for it is the source of life's consequences. I confess what He says, and I am blessed!*

THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

January 31

Faith, Hope, Love

1 Corinthians 13:13

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love)."

In this verse (**1 Corinthians 13:13**), the word "charity" is the Greek word "agape". It is the God-kind of love which is unconditional. Why did He say that the greatest gift is love? Because faith and hope are powerless without love. Paul wrote in **Galatians 5:6**, *"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."* **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** explain *"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love), I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity (love), I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity (love), it profiteth me nothing."*

There are a lot of people who do good deeds, but they do not know God. Therefore, their deeds cannot be performed in the God-kind of love. According to these verses, the works which they do will just sound like a clanging cymbal, and they will profit nothing. There are also Christians who do many good things for God, but God does not instruct them to do. These good deeds could be other people's ideas, and they are simply being copied. In the end, those good deeds are worthless (**1 Corinthians 3:9-15**). Everything we do should be done in love and unconditionally. If God tells us to do something, then we should do it exactly the way He wants. That is what love will do. Love obeys!

According to **1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:1-8**, love is the more excellent way. Love is patient and kind while suffering. Love is not envious or jealous of others. Love is not rash nor cruel but tenderhearted. Love is not puffed up. Paul speaks of such people in **1 Corinthians 4:17-20** and **5:1-2** as well as in **Colossians 2:18**. If you read those Scriptures, you will have some insight into what he is talking about love not being puffed up. Love does not

behave itself unseemly. It does not act out of selfishness. When you love with the God-kind of love, you will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, His way of being and doing right (**Matthew 6:33**). You will put others before yourself. It is written in **Philippians 2:21**, "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's." Love will seek what is Jesus Christ's. Love is not easily provoked and does not think of evil. **Philippians 4:8** describes what we are to think about. The God-kind of love will believe the best in others. Love does not rejoice in sin but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, (patiently suffers), believes all things (all things that are true), hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails (**I Corinthians 13:4-8**).

We are to walk in love even as Christ has loved us (**Ephesians 5:2**). He loved us when we were unlovely. He loved us so much that He was willing to go to the cross and pay the price for our sins. He suffered for us. He suffered from not getting His own way. We are also to be kind one to another, tenderhearted forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us (**Ephesians 4:32**). Obeying these commands is very important to have our prayers answered (**Matthew 6:9-15; Mark 11:22-26**).

Faith Confession: *My faith works by love. I walk in the God-kind of love. I am a follower of God as a dear child. I walk in love as Christ also has loved me. I am kind to others, tenderhearted, forgiving others, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven me. My prayers are answered. I walk in victory!*