

PATHWAY TO POWER:
*Discovering the Strength that Comes
Through a Consistent Quiet Time*

By: Josh Franklin

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. – Isaiah 40:31

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Developing a Meaningful Time with God

E.M. Bounds once said, “The men who have most fully illustrated Christ in their characters, and have most powerfully affected the world for Him, have been men who spent so much time with God as to make it a notable feature in their lives. TO BE LITTLE **WITH** GOD IS TO BE LITTLE **FOR** GOD.”

I’ve never met a spiritually strong Christian who does not have a consistent meaningful time with the Lord. I’ve met excited Christians who soar with the eagles for a couple of weeks, only to come crashing down because they did not establish the routine of getting into God’s word and praying. It may not seem as exciting to create a routine (almost as exciting as eating right or exercising), but if you want to be a growing Christian, it is essential.

1 Timothy 4:7b says, “Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness,” and the word for “discipline” here in the original language is the word we get “gymnasium” from. The Lord is telling us, “If you want to be godly, if you want to be a strong Christian, then you’ve got to attack it the same way you attack physical exercise.” It is a discipline, plain and simple.

What is a Quiet Time?

It is an appointment with God, a block of time chiseled out of your day and set apart for God, a time of private worship. Think of it as a date with God; a time for just the two of you.¹ Sometimes we call it “having a devotion,” “an appointment with God,” “meeting with God.” This simply means we are making time for God in our day. The Gospel of

¹ Fleming, Jean, *Feeding Your Soul* (Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1999), 17.

Mark tells us that Jesus made time with God a priority. **“Very early the next morning, Jesus got up and went to a place where he could be alone and pray,” (Mark 1:35 CEV).** If Jesus needed to spend meaningful time with God, don’t you think that you and I need it even more?

What Happens When I Spend Time With God?

The first thing that happens is that God changes my heart. ***Psalms 51:10 says, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.”*** Through Christ’s sacrifice for you and for me, we can be forgiven of our sins, standing before God as clean as if we had never sinned. What happens so often is that we wait to confess that sin to God until we are so far from Him that it seems as though He does not care about us, or that He is close to us. When we spend time with God, He shows us those areas we must confess as sin, prompting us to ask forgiveness, and then He is able to cleanse us. He changes our hearts.

The second thing that happens is that God gives us direction for living. ***Romans 8:14 tells us, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*** If we are His children, we can expect to be led by the Spirit of God. How are we going to get direction? By spending time talking to Him (through prayer), and through listening to Him (through His Word). This is the essence of a quiet time.

When we spend time with Him, we get a different perspective on life. C.S. Lewis once said, “The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back, in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.” How do we listen to that “other voice”? Well, ***Psalm 119:105 tells us that God’s Word is “a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”*** God

will enlighten our path and show us which way to go as we spend time in His Word.

The third thing that happens is there is a growing awareness of His presence during those difficult times.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NKJV) - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

How is God going to be able to comfort us, if we don't spend time with Him?

How Can I Have a Meaningful Time With God?²

There are seven guidelines that will help you have a meaningful time with God:

- 1) A SPECIAL TIME** – Ask yourself, “When will I make the time to spend with God every day?” Some have said that you must do this in the morning (most of these people are morning people). I would suggest giving God the best time of your day. Are you more alert in the morning? Then wake up 30 minutes before you normally do, and give that time to the Lord. Are you more alert in the evening? Then turn off everything else, and make the last 30 minutes of your day “SPECIAL” to you and to God.
- 2) SUFFICIENT TIME** – Many of us will pray short, one sentence prayers all throughout the day, but when you are endeavoring to hear from God, and make that time meaningful, you cannot do this in a “hurried” atmosphere.

² Outline adapted from Ronnie Floyd, *How To Pray* (Nashville: Word, 1999), 29-38.

Give up something else so that you can have the sufficient time necessary to make your devotional life meaningful.

- 3) A SPECIAL PLACE** – If you can find a special place to meet with God consistently, you will find that place becoming more and more meaningful to you. I can remember, as a teenager, riding my bike to a vacant field that was far enough away from other distractions and people that I could just pour my heart out to God, and no one could hear me. I could sing and lift my hands to the Lord, and I never felt like anyone was watching. That became, for me, a “special place”.

What kind of place should you look for? Any place where you can truly focus on God and His Word. Some will do this outdoors, and some will do this in the bathroom, while others will do this everyday in their car, in the parking lot of their work. The thing that really makes it meaningful is that you and God hang out together there.

- 4) A SPECIAL PLAN** – Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. If you simply say, “I’ll read where the Lord tells me to read” – this may happen, but most of the time it will not. The strongest Christians I’ve met have specific plans they work through. My preference has been to work through the “One Year Bible”, which allows for a reading from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, a psalm, and a proverb every day. You can work your way through the entire Bible in one year by simply reading 10-15 minutes a day.

- 5) A SPECIAL BOOK** – Listen, there is a place for reading devotional literature, but let the “Special Book” be the Word of God. God only inspired one Book – the Bible. Make sure that you have a Bible that you can understand, and allow it to feed your soul. If you want to also read

devotional literature, let it be only AFTER you have fed on God's Word.

6) A SPECIAL SPIRIT - Do you have a spirit of dependence?

Matthew 5:3 says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven." When a person is "poor in spirit" they are recognizing their need for God. Never forget that when we pray, we are depending on God. When we don't pray, we are saying, "God, I don't need you in my life." We must have a spirit of humility and dependence. The more child-like we become before God, the more Father-like He becomes to us.

7) A SPECIAL HUNGER FOR GOD –

Matthew 5:6 says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

When I am physically hungry, I go to the refrigerator.
When I am socially hungry, I get around people.
When I am intellectually hungry, I grab a good newspaper.
When I am spiritually hungry, I should spend time with God.

When Will I Begin Spending Time With God?

Basically, we will only spend meaningful time with God when we finally decide that it is a priority. How close do you really want to be to the Lord? He's been there all the time, and He's been waiting to cultivate that personal relationship with you this whole time. He sent Jesus to tear down the barrier between you and God caused by our sin. That's how much it means to Him that we have an ever-deepening relationship with Him. However, we will never do it until we make it a priority.

We also will never consistently spend time with God until we take the necessary time REGULARLY. Wherever we are in our walk with the Lord, He wants us to be consistent.

Try to develop the routine of spending 10, 15 or 30 minutes consistently and add more time once the habit has been established.

Lastly, we will only spend meaningful time with God when we do it in a spirit of love rather than guilt. Some people seem to think that you can get anyone to do anything if you will only guilt them enough. God is not that way. Don't beat yourself up if you have four or five consistent days of Bible reading and prayer, and then you miss one or two.

Although I personally work through a "One Year Bible", I'm not going to try to play catch up if I miss a day. Stop heaping guilt upon yourself because you fell asleep with your face in your Bible! The Christian life is not about perfection, but direction. Pick yourself back up and keep growing!

I know you want to make time with God a priority, or else you wouldn't be reading this little book. It is my prayer that this journal will be a wonderful tool over the next 52 weeks, causing your desire to become a reality.

Jeremiah 29:13 "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

This Week (Wk 1): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [The Word of God]
--

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

This Week (Wk 2): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [The Word of God]

Psalm 119:11 - Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

This Week (Wk 3): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [The Word of God]

Joshua 1:8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

This Week (Wk 4): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [The Word of God]

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This Week (Wk 5): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Knowing God]

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NASB) - Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me..."

This Week (Wk 6): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Knowing God]

Mark 12:30 - And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

This Week (Wk 7): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Knowing God]

Philippians 3:8 - Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

This Week (Wk 8): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Knowing God]

Psalm 42:1-2 - As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...

This Week (Wk 9): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Jesus]

*John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten
of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

This Week (Wk 10): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Jesus]

Matthew 1:21 - And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

This Week (Wk 11): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Jesus]

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

This Week (Wk 12): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Jesus]

1 John 2:2 - And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

This Week (Wk 13): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Jesus]

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

This Week (Wk 14): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Salvation]

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

This Week (Wk 15): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Salvation]

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This Week (Wk 16): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Salvation]
--

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This Week (Wk 17): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Salvation]
--

Romans 10:9 - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

This Week (Wk 18): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Salvation]

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

This Week (Wk 19): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [New Life in Christ]

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

This Week (Wk 20): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Peace with God]

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

This Week (Wk 21): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Assurance]

1 John 5:13 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

This Week (Wk 22): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Prayer]

*John 15:7 - If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*

This Week (Wk 23): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Prayer]

Jeremiah 33:3 - Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

This Week (Wk 24): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Prayer]

Matthew 7:11 - If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

This Week (Wk 25): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Prayer]

1 John 5:14-15 - Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

This Week (Wk 26): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Spirit-Filled Living]

John 14:16 - And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.

This Week (Wk 27): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Spirit-Filled Living]

Ephesians 5:18 - And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

This Week (Wk 28): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Spirit-Filled Living]

Galatians 5:16 - I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

This Week (Wk 29): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Spirit-Filled Living]

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

This Week (Wk 30): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Family]

Psalms 127:1 - Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

This Week (Wk 31): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Family]

Ephesians 5:21 - submitting to one another in the fear of God.

This Week (Wk 32): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Family]

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

This Week (Wk 33): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Family]

Joshua 24:15c - ...But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

This Week (Wk 34): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Family]

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

This Week (Wk 35): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [World Mission]

Acts 1:8 - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

This Week (Wk 36): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [World Mission]

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

This Week (Wk 37): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [World Mission]
--

Philemon 1:6 (NIV) – I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

This Week (Wk 38): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [World Mission]

Matthew 4:19 - Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

This Week (Wk 39): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Spiritual Discipline]

1 Timothy 4:7b (NASB) - ...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.

This Week (Wk 40): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Spiritual Discipline]

1 Corinthians 9:27 - But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

This Week (Wk 41): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Conformity to Christ]

Romans 8:29 - For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

This Week (Wk 42): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Beverage Alcohol]

*Proverbs 20:1 - Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler,
And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.*

This Week (Wk 43): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Homosexuality]

Jude 1:7 - as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

This Week (Wk 44): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Abortion]

Psalm 139:13-14a - For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works...

This Week (Wk 45): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Pornography]

Job 31:1 (NIV) - I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.

This Week (Wk 46): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Worldliness]

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

This Week (Wk 47): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Victory over Temptation]

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

This Week (Wk 48): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Victory over the Devil]

James 4:7 - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

This Week (Wk 49): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Faith]

Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

This Week (Wk 50): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Finances]

*Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the LORD with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns
will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with
new wine.*

This Week (Wk 51): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Tithing]

Leviticus 27:30 - And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord.

This Week (Wk 52): _____

Daily Time With God (check days):

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

This week's Bible reading: _____

Best thing you marked this week: _____

What is God teaching you this week? [From Scripture or Sermons]

How is God challenging you this week?

Prayer concerns? Praise reports? Personal journal?

This Week's Memory Verse: [Mentoring]

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV) - We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us

52 Week Bible Reading Chart

	Epistles	The Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy	Gospels
Wk	(Sunday)	(Monday)	(Tuesday)	(Wednesday)	(Thursday)	(Friday)	(Saturday)
1	Rom 1-2	Gen 1-3	Josh 1-5	Ps 1-2	Job 1-2	Isa 1-6	Matt 1-2
2	Rom 3-4	Gen 4-7	Josh 6-10	Ps 3-5	Job 3-4	Isa 7-11	Matt 3-4
3	Rom 5-6	Gen 8-11	Josh 11-15	Ps 6-8	Job 5-6	Isa 12-17	Matt 5-7
4	Rom 7-8	Gen 12-15	Josh 16-20	Ps 9-11	Job 7-8	Isa 18-22	Matt 8-10
5	Rom 9-10	Gen 16-19	Josh 21-24	Ps 12-14	Job 9-10	Isa 23-28	Matt 11-13
6	Rom 11-12	Gen 20-23	Judg 1-6	Ps 15-17	Job 11-12	Isa 29-33	Matt 14-16
7	Rom 13-14	Gen 24-27	Judg 7-11	Ps 18-20	Job 13-14	Isa 34-39	Matt 17-19
8	Rom 15-16	Gen 28-31	Judg 12-16	Ps 21-23	Job 15-16	Isa 40-44	Matt 20-22
9	1Cor 1-2	Gen 32-35	Judg 17-21	Ps 24-26	Job 17-18	Isa 45-50	Matt 23-25
10	1Cor 3-4	Gen 36-39	Ruth	Ps 27-29	Job 19-20	Isa 51-55	Matt 26-28
11	1Cor 5-6	Gen 40-43	1Sam 1-5	Ps 30-32	Job 21-22	Isa 56-61	Mark 1-2
12	1Cor 7-8	Gen 44-47	1Sam 6-10	Ps 33-35	Job 23-24	Isa 62-66	Mark 3-4
13	1Cor 9-10	Gen 48-50	1Sam 11-15	Ps 36-38	Job 25-26	Jer 1-6	Mark 5-6
14	1Cor 11-12	Ex 1-4	1Sam 16-20	Ps 39-41	Job 27-28	Jer 7-11	Mark 7-8
15	1Cor 13-14	Ex 5-8	1Sam 21-25	Ps 42-44	Job 29-30	Jer 12-16	Mark 9-10
16	1Cor 15-16	Ex 9-12	1Sam 26-31	Ps 45-47	Job 31-32	Jer 17-21	Mark 11-12
17	2Cor 1-3	Ex 13-16	2Sam 1-4	Ps 48-50	Job 33-34	Jer 22-26	Mark 13-14
18	2Cor 4-5	Ex 17-20	2Sam 5-9	Ps 51-53	Job 35-36	Jer 27-31	Mark 15-16
19	2Cor 6-8	Ex 21-24	2Sam 10-14	Ps 54-56	Job 37-38	Jer 32-36	Luke 1-2
20	2Cor 9-10	Ex 25-28	2Sam 15-19	Ps 57-59	Job 39-40	Jer 37-41	Luke 3-4
21	2Cor 11-13	Ex 29-32	2Sam 20-24	Ps 60-62	Job 41-42	Jer 42-46	Luke 5-6
22	Gal 1-3	Ex 33-36	1Ki 1-4	Ps 63-65	Prov 1	Jer 47-52	Luke 7-8
23	Gal 4-6	Ex 37-40	1Ki 5-9	Ps 66-68	Prov 2-3	Lamen.	Luke 9-10
24	Eph 1-3	Lev 1-3	1Ki 10-13	Ps 69-71	Prov 4	Ezek 1-6	Luke 11-12
25	Eph 4-6	Lev 4-6	1Ki 14-18	Ps 72-74	Prov 5-6	Ezek 7-12	Luke 13-14
26	Phil 1-2	Lev 7-9	1Ki 19-22	Ps 75-77	Prov 7	Ezek 13-18	Luke 15-16
27	Phil 3-4	Lev 10-12	2Ki 1-5	Ps 78-80	Prov 8-9	Ezek 19-24	Luke 17-18
28	Col 1-2	Lev 13-15	2Ki 6-10	Ps 81-83	Prov 10	Ezek 25-30	Luke 19-20
29	Col 3-4	Lev 16-18	2Ki 11-15	Ps 84-86	Prov 11-12	Ezek 31-36	Luke 21-22
30	1Thes 1-3	Lev 19-21	2Ki 16-20	Ps 87-89	Prov 13	Ezek 37-42	Luke 23-24
31	1Thes 4-5	Lev 22-24	2Ki 21-25	Ps 90-92	Prov 14-15	Ezek 43-48	John 1-2
32	2Thes	Lev 25-27	1Chr 1-4	Ps 93-95	Prov 16	Dan 1-6	John 3-4
33	1Tim 1-3	Num 1-4	1Chr 5-9	Ps 96-98	Prov 17-18	Dan 7-12	John 5-6
34	1Tim 4-6	Num 5-8	1Chr 10-14	Ps 99-101	Prov 19	Hosea 1-7	John 7-9
35	2Tim 1-2	Num 9-12	1Chr 15-19	Ps 102-104	Prov 20-21	Hosea 8-14	John 10-12
36	2Tim 3-4	Num 13-16	1Chr 20-24	Ps 105-107	Prov 22	Joel	John 13-15
37	Titus	Num 17-20	1Chr 25-29	Ps 108-110	Prov 23-24	Amos 1-4	John 16-18
38	Philemon	Num 21-24	2Chr 1-5	Ps 111-113	Prov 25	Amos 5-9	John 19-21
39	Heb 1-4	Num 25-28	2Chr 6-10	Ps 114-116	Prov 26-27	Obadiah	Acts 1-2
40	Heb 5-7	Num 29-32	2Chr 11-15	Ps 117-118	Prov 28	Jonah	Acts 3-4
41	Heb 8-10	Num 33-36	2Chr 16-20	Ps 119	Prov 29-30	Micah	Acts 5-6
42	Heb 11-13	Deut 1-3	2Chr 21-24	Ps 120-121	Prov 31	Nahum	Acts 7-8
43	James 1-3	Deut 4-6	2Chr 25-28	Ps 122-124	Eccl 1-2	Habakkuk	Acts 9-10
44	James 4-5	Deut 7-9	2Chr 29-32	Ps 125-127	Eccl 3-4	Zephaniah	Acts 11-12
45	1Pet 1-3	Deut 10-12	2Chr 33-36	Ps 128-130	Eccl 5-6	Haggai	Acts 13-14
46	1Pet 4-5	Deut 13-15	Ezra 1-5	Ps 131-133	Eccl 7-8	Zech. 1-7	Acts 15-16
47	2Pet	Deut 16-19	Ezra 6-10	Ps 134-136	Eccl 9-10	Zech. 8-14	Acts 17-18
48	1John 1-3	Deut 20-22	Neh 1-4	Ps 137-139	Eccl 11-12	Malachi	Acts 19-20
49	1John 4-5	Deut 23-25	Neh 5-9	Ps 140-142	Song 1-2	Rev 1-6	Acts 21-22
50	2John	Deut 26-28	Neh 10-13	Ps 143-145	Song 3-4	Rev 7-11	Acts 23-24
51	3John	Deut 29-31	Esther 1-5	Ps 146-148	Song 5-6	Rev 12-17	Acts 25-26
52	Jude	Deut 32-34	Esther 6-10	Ps 149-150	Song 7-8	Rev 18-22	Acts 27-28

Bible Reading Record

Starting Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

Mark through the chapters as you complete them. You may choose to alternate reading from the Old Testament or New Testament. This record will keep you on track to reading through then entire Bible.

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

Exodus 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38
39 40

Leviticus 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Numbers 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

Deuteronomy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Joshua 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24

Judges 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21

Ruth 1 2 3 4

1 Samuel 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

2 Samuel 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24

1 Kings 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22

2 Kings 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25

1 Chronicles 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

2 Chronicles 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

Ezra 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Nehemiah 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Esther 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Job 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
40 41 42

Psalms 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56
57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74
75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92
93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107
108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120
121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133

134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146
147 148 149 1 50

Proverbs 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Ecclesiastes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Song of Solomon 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Isaiah 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57
58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

Jeremiah 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52

Lamentations 1 2 3 4 5

Ezekiel 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

Daniel 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Hosea 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Joel 1 2 3

Amos 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Obadiah 1

Jonah 1 2 3 4

Micah 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Nahum 1 2 3

Habakkuk 1 2 3 4

Zephaniah 1 2 3

Haggai 1 2

Zechariah 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Malachi 1 2 3 4

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Mark 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Luke 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24

John 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

Acts 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Romans 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

1 Corinthians 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

2 Corinthians 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Galatians 1 2 3 4 5 6

Ephesians 1 2 3 4 5 6

Philippians 1 2 3 4

Colossians 1 2 3 4

1 Thessalonians 1 2 3 4 5

2 Thessalonians 1 2 3

1 Timothy 1 2 3 4 5 6

2 Timothy 1 2 3 4

Titus 1 2 3

Philemon 1

Hebrews 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

James 1 2 3 4 5

1 Peter 1 2 3 4 5

2 Peter 1 2 3

1 John 1 2 3 4 5

2 John 1

3 John 1

Jude 1

Revelation 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22

Extra Helps for Personal Study

1. Read the Bible

- a. Find a translation you can understand, preferably the NKJV, NASB, ESV or NIV.
- b. Read a chapter a day, endeavoring to get through the entire Bible. Maybe read a New Testament book (like Ephesians), then an Old Testament book (like Jonah).
- c. Or, each day, read a chapter from Proverbs, according to that day's date. (If it's the 3rd of the month, then read the 3rd chapter of Proverbs.)

2. Research the Bible

- a. Purchase a good study Bible (like the Life Application Study Bible, MacArthur Study Bible or the Thompson Chain Study Bible).
- b. Go to this website: www.biblegateway.com. then type in a keyword search (like "humility" or "disciple") and read all the verses the Bible has on that subject.
- c. Read a New Testament book (like 1 Peter), all the way through, each day, for one month (that's 31 times!!). Write down the things God teaches you through this.

3. Remember the Bible

- a. After reading or hearing a Scripture that speaks strongly to you (through devotions, Bible studies or sermons), write it down on a blank business card, word-for-word.
- b. Take it with you everywhere during the week, and pull it out when you have a moment.
- c. Recite it, line by line, word perfect, and recite it, and recite it (until you can recite it without looking). Make sure you recite the location (like John 3:16).
- d. Keep the verses in a stack, and keep going over them once you've memorized them.

3. Reflect on the Bible

- a. After you memorize, think about it during the day (in the shower, while driving, waiting in traffic, waiting for your food, etc). Write down in your journal what God teaches you through this.

Hiding God's Word in Your Heart

Psalm 119:11 says, "Your Word I have hidden (literally, 'treasured') in my heart, that I might not sin against God." For the time spent, I have never found anything more valuable to my Christian walk than endeavoring to systematically store God's word into my heart and into my mind. Dallas Willard agrees when he writes, "If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs."³

Chuck Swindoll has also written, "I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture... No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified."⁴

Billy Graham once said, "Like Joseph storing grain during the years of plenty to be used during the years of famine that lay ahead, may we store up the truths of God's Word in our hearts as much as possible, so that we are prepared for whatever suffering we are called upon to endure."⁵ Lorne Sanny once shared why Scripture memory was so important in his life: "We don't always have our Bibles with us when we need deliverance, victory, guidance, or a truth to help others. But Scripture memory puts the Word in our hearts, food in our minds, a light on our path, a weapon in

³ Willard, Dallas, "Spiritual Formation in Christ for the Whole Life and Whole Person" in *Vocatio*, Vol. 12, no. 2, Spring, 2001, p. 7

⁴ Swindoll, Charles, *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994], p. 61

⁵ Graham, Billy, 'Til Armageddon (Minneapolis: WorldWide, 1981), 9.

one hand and a tool in the other.” So, if these great Christian leaders (and many others) believe memorizing Scripture to be of utmost importance, why are there so few Christians involved in this spiritual discipline?

Why Many Do Not Hide God’s Word in their Heart, Reasons (and Responses):⁶

- 1. I have failed before.** *(You have only failed if you have stopped trying.)*
- 2. I cannot remember the verses I have worked on in the past.** *(Verses that you have worked on in the past will come back as you review them.)*
- 3. I have other demands on my time, and I’m just too busy.** *(We will make time for those things that are important to us.)*
- 4. It takes too long to see any progress.** *(“Progress” is seeing what God does in you and through you during the process; it’s not simply how many verses you memorize.)*
- 5. I am too old (or too young), and it will simply be too difficult for me.** *(You are never too young to start, and never too old to quit. God’s Word is eternal, and worth any amount of effort for us to remember it.)*
- 6. I have never had a good memory.** *(You would change your tune if someone were to offer you \$100 for each verse that you would memorize. We remember what is important to us. Bill Bennett says, “It’s hard by the yard, but a cinch by the inch.”)*

⁶ Adapted from a Bill Bennett mentoring school lecture.

- 7. It seems very boring, and I'm just not interested.** *(Though there are times when the discipline of memory seems to be mechanical, remember that God only wrote one Book. He expressed Himself to us through that Book. I want to know Him better by internalizing that Word. I love Him therefore I love His Word. Imagine my wife writing a personal letter to me, and I never read it. That would be unthinkable because I love her.)*
- 8. I don't know how.** *(I hope that this devotional tool will help you learn how to memorize Scripture.)*
- 9. People around me don't seem to care, and think it is a waste of my time.** *(Find some other people around you that value God's Word, and spend time with them. Join an accountability group where you can stimulate one another. See Proverbs 13:20 and 27:17)*
- 10. I might become too prideful.** *(Allow the first five verses you memorize to be on pride and humility!)*

It is amazing how many excuses and reasons we will give for not challenging ourselves in this incredible spiritual discipline. However, if you consider the benefits, many of these excuses simply fade away.

Why I Hide God's Word in My Heart:

1. Because I believe the Bible is God's inerrant Word (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. Because Jesus memorized Scripture (Matthew 4:1-10).
3. Because it will conform me into the image of Christ (2 Timothy 3:17; Romans 8:29).
4. Because of the promise of success in my life (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3).
5. Because it builds my faith (Romans 10:17).
6. Because it gives me victory over the devil (Ephesians 6:17).
7. Because it protects me from sin during times of temptation (Psalm 119:11).
8. Because it comforts me during trials and bereavement (Psalm 119:92).
9. Because it trains my mind to "think on these things" (Phil. 4:8-9).
10. Because it gives my mind something to meditate on as I am drifting off to sleep.
11. Because it gives me confidence while I am preaching.
12. Because it reminds me of God's wisdom while I am counseling (Psalm 119:24).
13. Because it allows me to help others more accurately (Proverbs 22:20-21).

14. Because it gives me boldness when I am witnessing.
15. Because it gives me answers when I am defending the faith (1 Pet 3:15).
16. Because it helps me know when someone is teaching error.
17. Because it helps me study the Bible, comparing Scripture with Scripture.
18. Because it enhances my prayer life, because I can remind God of His Word.
19. Because it trains my mind in truth to see through the lies of the devil.
20. Because it gives something for the Holy Spirit to use when He wants to speak to me (John 14:26; Psalm 119:24).

SUCCESS in Hiding God's Word in Your Heart

If you would have SUCCESS in memorizing Scripture, remember these seven steps that make up the acrostic SUCCESS:

- S - anctify this discipline as a spiritual task**
- U - nleash negative thinking**
- C - onsider the ultimate goal**
- C - hallenge yourself with a difficult goal**
- E - xpect difficulties and problems**
- S - hare with someone else who can help**
- S - peak your memorized verses**

Sanctify this discipline as a spiritual task. getting you closer to the Lord, allowing His Word to nourish you. This will keep you from seeing the discipline as merely a legalistic endeavor, and it will keep you from pride.

Unleash negative thinking. Don't make excuses, like, "I don't have a good memory," or "it's too hard." Don't let the devil or other people talk you out of this discipline. It is worth the effort.

Consider the ultimate goal. Remember, the ultimate goal is not to see how many verses you can recite. The ultimate goal is to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). I once heard Howard Hendricks say, "You are either in the Word, and the Word is slowly conforming you into the image of Christ, or you are in the world, and the world is squeezing you into its mold." As your mind is renewed, your life will be changed (see Romans 12:2).

Challenge yourself with a difficult goal. Everyone is able to memorize, but it comes easier to some. Know where you are, and push yourself for the glory of God.

Expect difficulties and problems. You may memorize three verses and forget one. You may be able to say the verse word perfect in front of your spouse, but not in front of your accountability group. Remember the world, the flesh and the devil do not want you to memorize, therefore expect it to be difficult.

Share with someone else who can help you with your goal. A Sunday School teacher, a Pastor, a co-worker, a friend, or an accountability group can help you stay on track.

Speak your memorized verses during every day conversations, to lost neighbors, in counseling, in prayer, teaching Sunday School, etc. You will not lose them if you use them.

The bottom line is that we remember what is important to us. If the Bible is important, then we will develop a systematic way to memorize Scripture, one verse at a time. Your memory is like a muscle, the more you use it the stronger it will become. Use whatever system you want, but begin today, and don't quit until you leave this earth.

How to Hide God's Word in Your Heart⁷

1. Begin with prayer. Ask God to plant the Scripture firmly in your mind and in your heart.
2. Memorize those verses which speak to you personally; this makes it natural and easy.
3. Seek to understand the verse.
4. Write out your verse on a 3x5 card so you can carry it wherever you go.
5. Be sure to memorize word for word. It is important to be accurate when handling God's word, because to leave out a particular word could lead to misinterpretation.

Here is one way of committing it to memory:

- Recite the topic and reference
- Learn the first phrase
- Learn the second phrase
- Repeat the topic, reference and the two phrases together until you can repeat them together
- Add in the next phrase.
- Repeat this procedure until you know the whole passage

6. Say the verse repeatedly so that you become familiar with the sound of the words.
7. Write the verse out several times as you think about the meaning of words.

⁷ Compiled from multiple sources.

8. Each time you say the verse, emphasize a different word. Do this with each word. You'll be amazed at how this individual word emphasis will add new perspectives of meaning to the verse you're memorizing and make it much easier to learn the verse word-perfect.
9. Pray about the verses you memorize asking God to enable you to apply them in your personal life. Claim by faith the promises in the verses you memorize.
10. Depend on the Holy Spirit, Who has been promised to be your "Helper" in remembering God's Word (John 14:26).
11. Review each verse for eight weeks. Memory experts claim eight weeks of review will enable that verse to be successfully stored in your long-term memory.
12. Never quit. The only people who fail at Scripture memory are those who quit trying. There is no replacement for hard work and consistency. It is a difficult spiritual discipline, but it is worth the effort.

Extra Tips to Hiding God's Word in Your Heart⁸

1. Make a list of the various time slots in your weekly schedule which you will dedicate to the task of Scripture memory.
2. Memorize two or more verses each week as a normal part of your Christian life. If you learn a verse a week, you will know 52 verses at the end of the year.
3. Choose a version of the Scriptures that is a word-for-word translation. Examples include: KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV, NIV
4. Primarily use one version to memorize verses. Each version has its own sentence structure and style of presentation. If you memorize multiple versions, you could get confused.
5. Make it a group effort. Find someone to team up with, and be accountable to each other. This can be fun and competitive.
6. Use your extra and “wasted” minutes to hide God's Word in your heart.
 - a. Men, while shaving, showering, driving, traveling by car, plane, or bus, waiting for appointments, walking, jogging or exercising, before falling asleep at night
 - b. Women, while fixing your hair, brushing your teeth, driving, cleaning house, preparing meals, washing the dishes.

⁸ Compiled from multiple sources

7. Stick passages of Scripture on the mirror in the bathroom, in the kitchen by the sink, or where you fold laundry. Certain tasks do not require much concentration, and you could use that time to review Scripture.
8. Group the verses you are learning under topics to help you in daily living, i.e., temptation, deliverance, peace, encouragement, etc. This will provide your mind with “hooks” by which you will be able to recall multiple verses on a certain topic.
9. Put a tune to the verse.
10. Use meal times for review.
11. After you complete the essential Scripture verses, look in the back of the book for further Scriptures to memorize.
12. Review old verses. The time will come when you may be spending most of your time reviewing old verses instead of learning new ones. I once heard a minister say, “Don’t begrudge devoting so much time to polishing your swords.”

Essential Scripture Memory

(Weekly Verses to Memorize)

These are printed at the bottom of each week's devotional guide throughout this book. Once completed, you will have 52 essential verses memorized from God's Word. For another challenge, in addition to these verses, pick another verse from your bible reading, or from the topical list on the important areas of the Bible (next section), working on two verses per week.

1. The Word of God: 2 Timothy 3:16
2. The Word of God: Psalm 119:11
3. The Word of God: Joshua 1:8
4. The Word of God: Hebrews 4:12
5. Knowing God: Jeremiah 9:23-24a
6. Knowing God: Mark 12:30
7. Knowing God: Philippians 3:8
8. Knowing God: Psalm 42:1
9. Jesus: John 1:14
10. Jesus: Matthew 1:21
11. Jesus: 2 Corinthians 5:21
12. Jesus: 1 John 2:2
13. Jesus: John 14:6
14. Salvation: Romans 3:23
15. Salvation: Romans 6:23
16. Salvation: Romans 5:8
17. Salvation: Romans 10:9
18. Salvation: Ephesians 2:8-9
19. New Life in Christ: 2 Corinthians 5:17
20. Peace with God: Romans 5:1
21. Assurance: 1 John 5:13
22. Prayer: John 15:7
23. Prayer: Jeremiah 33:3

24. Prayer: Matthew 7:11
25. Prayer: 1 John 5:14-15
26. Spirit-Filled Living: John 14:16
27. Spirit-Filled Living: Ephesians 5:18
28. Spirit-Filled Living: Galatians 5:16
29. Spirit-Filled Living: Galatians 5:22-23
30. Family: Psalm 127:1
31. Family: Ephesians 5:21
32. Family: Hebrews 13:4
33. Family: Joshua 24:15c
34. Family: Proverbs 22:6
35. World Mission: Acts 1:8
36. World Mission: Matthew 28:19-20
37. World Mission: Philemon 1:6 (NIV)
38. World Mission: Matthew 4:19
39. Spiritual Discipline: 1 Timothy 4:7b (NASB)
40. Spiritual Discipline: 1 Corinthians 9:27
41. Conformity to Christ: Romans 8:29
42. Beverage Alcohol: Proverbs 20:1
43. Homosexuality: Jude 1:7
44. Abortion: Psalm 139:13-14a
45. Pornography: Job 31:1 (NIV)
46. Worldliness: Romans 12:2
47. Victory over Temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13
48. Victory over the Devil: James 4:7
49. Faith: Hebrews 11:6
50. Finances: Proverbs 3:9-10
51. Tithing: Leviticus 27:30
52. Mentoring: 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

Scripture Memory on Important Areas of the Bible

(A Collaboration with Bill Bennett, also printed in Handbook for Mentoring, 163-171)

1. God-Breathed Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17
1 Peter 1:20-21
Hebrews 4:12
Psalm 19:7

2. Bible Intake

Psalm 119:9, 11
Psalm 119:105
Matthew 4:4
1 Peter 2:2
Job 23:12

3. Greatness of God

Psalm 145:3
Isaiah 40:28-31
Romans 11:36
1 Timothy 6:16

4. The Trinity

Matthew 3:16-17
Genesis 1:26
2 Corinthians 13:14
Ephesians 1:3-14

5. Relationship with God

Philippians 3:8-10 CEV
Jeremiah 9:23-24a
Mark 12:30-31

6. Worship

John 4:24
Psalm 95:6

Isaiah 6:1-8

Matthew 4:10

7. Prayer

Jeremiah 33:3
Matthew 7:7-11
Luke 11:13
Matthew 6:16

8. Creation

Genesis 1:1-2
John 1:1-3
Colossians 1:16-17

9. The Devil

John 8:44
James 4:7
1 John 4:4
Luke 10:19

10. Home

Psalm 127:1
Proverbs 12:7
Joshua 24:15c

11. Marriage

Genesis 2:24-25
Hebrews 13:4
Ephesians 5:22, 25

12. Children and Youth

Ecclesiastes 12:1
1 Timothy 4:12
Proverbs 22:6
Lamentations 3:27

- 13. Sin**
Ezekiel 18:4
Isaiah 59:1-2
Roman 3:23
- 14. Unpardonable Sin**
Mark 3:28-29
- 15. Temptation**
James 1:13-14
1 Corinthians 10:13
- 16. Worldliness**
1 John 2:15-17
Romans 12:2
- 17. Pride**
Daniel 4:37b
Proverbs 16:18
James 4:6
1 Peter 5:5
- 18. Alcohol**
Proverbs 20:1
Ephesians 5:18
1 Thessalonians 5:22
Isaiah 5:11
- 19. Homosexuality /
Lesbianism**
Leviticus 18:22
Romans 1:26-27
1 Corinthians 6:9-11
Jude 1:7
Hebrews 13:4
- 20. Divorce**
Malachi 2:16
Matthew 5:32
Matthew 19:9
- 1 Corinthians 7:10-15
- 21. Tongue – Gossip**
Proverbs 10:19
Proverbs 18:21
Psalms 39:1
James 1:26
James 3:5,8
- 22. Virgin Birth**
Luke 1:35
Isaiah 7:14
Matthew 1:23
- 23. Who Jesus Is**
John 1:14
Philippians 2:9-11
Colossians 2:9-10
- 24. What Jesus Did**
Matthew 1:21
Isaiah 53:4-6
Leviticus 17:11
Galatians 6:14
Hebrews 9:22
1 Peter 1:18-19
- 25. The Resurrection of
Christ**
Romans 1:4
1 Corinthians 15:20
Romans 14:9
Philippians 3:10
- 26. Repentance**
2 Peter 3:9
2 Chronicles 7:14
Luke 13:3, 5
Isaiah 55:7

27. Faith

Hebrews 11:6
Romans 10:17
Romans 14:23b
Ephesians 2:8-9
James 2:26
Hebrews 11:1

28. Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9
Genesis 6:8
Romans 5:20b
2 Corinthians 9:8
Titus 2:11-14

29. New Birth

Ezekiel 36:26
John 3:3,5
2 Corinthians 5:17
1 Peter 1:23

30. Justification

Genesis 15:6
Romans 3:20
Romans 3:24
Romans 5:1

31. Adoption

Ephesians 1:5
Romans 8:15
Galatians 4:4-5

32. Righteousness

Isaiah 64:6
2 Corinthians 5:21
Philippians 3:9
1 Corinthians 15:34

33. Perseverance of the Saints

Psalms 37:24

1 John 2:19
1 John 3:9 ESV
2 Peter 2:21-22

34. Assurance of Salvation

1 John 5:13
John 10:28
John 5:24

35. Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 5:23
Hebrews 12:14
1 Thessalonians 4:7
Titus 2:11-14
Romans 6:1-14

36. Glorification

1 John 3:2-3
Romans 8:30
Philippians 1:6
Philippians 3:21

37. The Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17
John 16:7-11

38. Life in the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18-20
Galatians 5:16-22
Hebrews 13:5

39. The Church

Matthew 16:18
1 Peter 2:9
Romans 12:4
1 Corinthians 12:26-27
Hebrews 10:25

40. Soul-winning / Missions

Proverbs 11:30b
Luke 14:23

Matthew 28:18-20
Acts 1:8
Luke 24:47-49
John 20:21
Matthew 4:19

41. Baptism

Matthew 3:15-17
Matthew 28:19
Acts 2:38
Romans 6:3-5

42. Lord's Supper

Luke 22:19-20
1 Corinthians 11:26-32

43. Discipleship

John 8:31-32
Luke 14:26
Luke 9:62
Mark 8:35

44. Mentoring

1 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV
2 Timothy 2:2

45. Tithing

Malachi 3:8-10
Matthew 23:23
Leviticus 27:30

46. Service

Psalms 116:12
Hebrews 6:10
Matthew 10:42
Matthew 5:13-16
Ephesians 2:10

47. Revival

2 Chronicles 7:14
Psalm 85:6

Habakkuk 3:2
Acts 3:19

48. Church and State

Matthew 22:21
Romans 13:1-7

49. Healing

James 5:14-16
Psalm 107:20
Proverbs 4:20-22

50. Death

Psalms 116:15
Hebrews 9:27
Philippians 1:21
Revelation 1:18
Revelation 21:4

51. Hell

Luke 16:19-31
Psalm 9:17
Revelation 21:8

52. Heaven

John 14:1-3
Revelation 21:4
1 Peter 3:5
Philippians 1:21-23

53. Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
1 Corinthians 15:51-58

54. Second Coming

Matthew 24:36
Matthew 24:44
Acts 1:11
Revelation 19:11-20

55. Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10
Romans 14:12
1 Corinthians 3:11-15

56. Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15

57. Love

John 13:35
1 John 4:7-8
Matthew 5:44
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

58. Joy

Nehemiah 8:10
Philippians 4:4
Romans 14:17
John 15:11

59. Peace

Philippians 4:6-7
Isaiah 26:3
Romans 5:1
John 16:33
Isaiah 48:22

60. Anger

James 1:19-20
Ephesians 4:31
Proverbs 15:1

61. Dealing with Sin

1 John 1:8-9
1 Corinthians 10:13
Romans 6:11-13
Galatians 6:1-2
James 4:7-8
Ephesians 6:10-12

62. Depression

Psalm 42:5
Lamentations 3:19-23
2 Corinthians 1:8b-9
Isaiah 43:1b-2
Psalm 34:17-18
2 Corinthians 4:8-10

63. Guilt

Romans 8:1-2
Psalms 51:9-10
Proverbs 28:13
Psalms 32:1-2
2 Corinthians 7:10
James 5:16

64. Perfectionism

Galatians 3:3
Psalms 127:1-2
Ephesians 2:8-9
Ecclesiastes 2:10-11
2 Corinthians 12:9
Luke 10:40-42

65. Patience

Luke 21:19
2 Peter 3:9
James 5:8

66. Comfort

Hebrews 13:5
Isaiah 41:10, 13

67. Money / Stewardship

Deuteronomy 8:18
Luke 12:15
1 Timothy 6:17-20
James 5:1-5
Psalm 37:25

68. Sex / Sexual Purity

Proverbs 6:32
Exodus 20:14
Matthew 5:28
Song of Solomon 2:7 HCSB
2 Timothy 2:22
Job 31:1
1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
Ephesians 5:3 NIV

69. Faithfulness

Revelation 2:10c
1 Corinthians 4:2
1 Corinthians 15:58

70. Self-Discipline

2 Timothy 1:7
1 Timothy 4:7b NASB
Hebrews 12:11 NASB

71. Thanksgiving

Psalms 103:1-5
Ephesians 5:20
1 Thessalonians 5:18

72. Stress / Anxiety

Psalms 118:5-6
Matthew 11:28-30
Psalm 73:26
Philippians 4:6-7

2 Corinthians 4:16-18
1 Peter 5:6-7

73. Knowing God's Will

Proverbs 16:9
Proverbs 3:5-7
Jeremiah 29:11-13
Romans 12:2
Isaiah 30:21
1 John 5:14-15

74. Self-Image

Psalms 139:13-14a
1 Samuel 16:7b
Jeremiah 9:23-24a
Philippians 2:3-5
1 Peter 3:3-4

75. Suffering

Romans 5:2b-5
1 Peter 4:12-13
1 Peter 1:6b-7
2 Corinthians 1:3-4
James 1:2-4
James 1:12

76. Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32
Matthew 6:12, 14-15

Daily Plan of Private Prayer

1 Samuel 12:23 says, "...as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you..."

"Dear God, bless our pastor and the missionaries... Bless my family... Lord, just bless everyone... Amen!" This is the prayer of many well-meaning Christians, who know that they ought to pray, but do not know what to pray for. "Sister, I'll pray for you about this," is heard in churches and homes every week, but is often forgotten, because we choose not to be systematic. We simply begin our prayers, and hope that God will remind us of what we need to pray for.

If we want to be intentional about our prayer life, we must be organized. When it comes to Bible reading, it is clear that a planned approach will allow for God to speak to us from the entire Word of God, not simply the sections we like the most. In the same way, we should be systematic about our prayer lives because we want to ensure that no one is left out. Often, we feel the Lord leading us to pray for someone significant in our lives, and we begin praying for them, but over time, we soon forget.

A plan for private prayer is designed to help in this area. One such plan is as follows:

- Mondays – Praying for Government Leaders**
- Tuesdays – Praying for Christian Leaders**
- Wednesdays – Praying for Personal Needs**
- Thursdays – Praying for Your Family**
- Fridays – Praying for Your Church Family**
- Saturdays – Praying for Community Needs**
- Sundays – Praying for the Lost and Unchurched**

Another plan has been provided by Stephen Olford:

Mondays – Missionaries

Tuesdays – Thanksgiving (*answers to prayer*)

Wednesdays – Workers (*co-laborers*)

Thursdays – Tasks (*Jobs, Ministries, etc...*)

Fridays – Families (*our personal families*)

Saturdays – Saints (*especially young Christians*)

Sundays – Sinners (*especially Gospel services*)

Another plan for private prayer that helps you to remember the needs of others is the “Hand” prayer. This takes your hand and provides the outline for requests made to the Lord. Each finger represents another person to pray for.

THUMB - It's nearest to you – Pray for your loved ones.

POINTER FINGER - It points and directs – Pray for spiritual leaders.

MIDDLE FINGER - It's the tallest – Pray for national leaders.

RING FINGER - It's the weakest – Pray for those who are weak.

PINKY FINGER - It's the smallest – Pray for your needs.

Choose a plan that fits you and what represents your prayer pattern the best. These helps are simply designed to help us do better than simply “Lord, bless me, my wife, my two kids... us four, no more!” Though this may be comical, it is closer to the truth than we would like to admit. Our prayer life should reach beyond our own personal needs, and touch a world that desperately needs what only our prayers can provide. When we work, we work; but when we pray, God works. Where do you want to see God move? Then, pray. Jack Taylor has said, “Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer because nothing lies beyond the reach of God.”

Inspiration for Intimacy with the Father

*I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.*

*Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."*

*I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on, gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "You didn't seek."*

*I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."*

*I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.*

- "The Difference", Unknown Author

*Feb. 23, 1834 – Rose early to seek God, and found him
whom my soul loveth. Who would not rise early to meet such
company? - from the journal of Robert Murray McCheyne*

*A calm hour with God is worth a lifetime with man.
- Robert Murray McCheyne*

Routine is God's way of saving us between our times of inspiration. - Oswald Chambers

*Forgive us for thinking that prayer is a waste of time and help us to see that without prayer our work is a waste of time.
- Peter Marshall*

*God doesn't have "favorites" but He does have "intimates."
- Bill Bennett*

The more childlike you are to the Father, the more Fatherly He will become to you.

God has made us for Himself and we are restless until we find our rest in Him. – paraphrased from St. Augustine

*The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.
– C.S. Lewis*

The size of your prayers shows the size of your God.

God always answers prayer in a way that will give Himself glory.

The great God of the universe, Who heaped up the mountains, scooped out the oceans, and flung out the stars wants to have a relationship with you! – Adrian Rogers

You can do more than pray after you have prayed; but you can do no more than pray until you have prayed.

*If it's big enough to concern you,
it's big enough to concern God.*

*Pray when you feel like it, pray when you don't feel like it,
and pray until you do feel like it!*

*When we work, we work; but when we pray, God works.
- Max Lucado*

*God will do nothing on earth except in answer to believing
prayer. - John Wesley*

*If your prayers are wrong, God says NO.
If the timing is wrong, God says SLOW.
If you are wrong, God says GROW.
If all are right, God says GO!*

*Real prayer comes not from gritting our teeth, but from falling
in love. - Richard Foster*

*Beloved, it is not our long prayers but our believing God that
gets the answer. - John G. Lake*

*The true spirit of prayer is no other than God's own Spirit
dwelling in the hearts of the saints. And as this spirit comes
from God, so doth it naturally tend to God in holy breathings
and pantings. It naturally leads to God, to converse with him
by prayer. - Jonathan Edwards*

*Prayer is not conquering God's reluctance, but taking hold of
God's willingness. - Phillips Brooks*

*Prayer is not a means by which I seek to control God; it is a
means of putting myself in a position where God can control
me. - Charles L. Allen*

*A sinning man will stop praying. A praying man will stop
sinning. - Leonard Ravenhill*

Pray as though everything depended upon God but work as though everything depended upon you. – D.L. Moody

Remember, we don't pray to change God. Prayer allows God to change me. – A.W. Tozer

*Prayer is not designed to inform God, but... to humble man's heart, to excite his desire, to inflame his faith, to animate his hope, and to raise his soul from earth to heaven.
- Adam Clarke*

Nestle, don't wrestle. – Corrie Ten Boom

When I pray, I depend on God. When I don't pray, I'm telling God, "I don't need you in my life." – Josh Franklin

Prayer is not just getting ready for Christian service. Prayer is Christian service. - Adrian Rodgers

*I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.
- Charles Spurgeon*

*You could remove the powerful preaching from our church and it would still continue. You could remove the administration of pastoral care through the cell group system and the church would still continue. But if you remove the prayer life of our church it would collapse.
- David Yonggi Cho*

*The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.
- Samuel Chadwick*

Benefits to Knowing God Intimately⁹

1. Your actions and behavior in life will be characterized by wisdom (James 1:5).
2. You will find that you have a place of refuge, a shelter in the storms of life (Psalm 46).
3. You will experience a peace, a contentment, and a satisfaction that is independent of feelings or circumstances (Philippians 4:11-13).
4. You will know God as the living God (1 Samuel 17:26-37).
5. You will begin to look at events and people through God's eyes and from His perspective (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).
6. You will have a sense of purpose, meaning and direction in life as God works in and through you to change the world (Romans 12:1-2).
7. You will appreciate the "you" God has designed (Acts 17:28).
8. You will be renewed and receive life for a new day (John 7:37-38).
9. You will find rest for your soul (Matthew 11:28-30).
10. You will experience a peace that enables you to endure the difficulties of life (Philippians 4:6-7).
11. You will experience clarity in the circumstances of your life (1 Corinthians 2:14-16).

⁹ Martin, Catherine, *Six Secrets to a Powerful Quiet Time* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2005), 36-37.

12. You will see and experience the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).
13. You will gain strength to say no to sin, and you will experience a life of holiness (1 Peter 1:14-16).
14. You will shine with the light of Jesus in the world (Matthew 5:14-16).
15. You will apply the benefits of God's promises to your life (2 Peter 1:2-8).
16. You will find that the joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10; John 15:11).
17. You will become a man or a woman after God's own heart (Acts 13:22).

Praising the Old Testament Names of God

I praise You, Elohim (Genesis 1:1),

for You are the God of power and might.

I praise You, Jehovah, (Genesis 2:4),

for You are the Lord. [could also be Yahweh]

I praise You, El-Elyon (Genesis 14:18),

for You are the most high God.

I praise You, El-Roi (Genesis 16:13),

for You are the strong One Who sees.

I praise You, El-Shaddai (Genesis 17:1),

for You are God Almighty, the God that's all-sufficient and more than enough.

I praise You, Jehovah-Jireh (Genesis 22:13-14),

for You are the Lord that provides.

I praise You, Jehovah-Rapha (Exodus 15:26),

for You are the Lord that heals.

I praise You, Jehovah-Nissi (Exodus 17:15),

for You are the Lord Who brings the victory.

I praise You, Jehovah-M'Kaddesh (Exodus 31:13),

for You are the Lord Who sanctifies us.

I praise You, Jehovah-Shalom (Judges 6:24),

for You are the Lord Who is our Peace.

I praise You, Jehovah-Rohi (Psalm 23:1),

for You are the Lord Who is my Shepherd.

I praise You, Jehovah-Sabaoth (Isaiah 6:3),
for You are the Lord of Host, strong and mighty.

I praise You, El-Olam (Isaiah 40:28),
for You are the everlasting God.

I praise You, Jehovah-Tsidkenu (Jeremiah 23:6),
for You are the Lord our Righteousness.

I praise You, Jehovah-Shammah (Ezekiel 48:35),
for You are the Lord Who is present.

Praise Jehovah¹⁰

This poem was composed by Doug Alexander.
You may sing it to the tune of the chorus,
“Praise the Name of Jesus.”

Praise the Name of Jesus, Praise the Name of Jesus,
He’s my Rock, He’s my Fortress,
He’s my Deliverer, In Him will I trust.
Praise the Name of Jesus.

Praise Jehovah-Jireh, Praise Jehovah-Jireh,
He’s my Source, He’s my Sufficiency,
He’s my Provider, In Him will I trust.
Praise Jehovah-Jireh.

Praise Jehovah-Rophe, Praise Jehovah-Rophe,
He’s my Health, He’s my Healing,
He’s my Physician, In Him will I trust.
Praise Jehovah-Rophe.

¹⁰ As quoted by Jack Taylor, *Hallelujah Factor* (Mansfield, PA: Kingdom Publishing, 1999), 52-53.

*Praise Jehovah-Nissi, Praise Jehovah-Nissi,
He's my Flag, He's my Banner,
He's my Victory, In Him will I trust.
Praise Jehovah-Nissi.*

*Praise Jehovah-M'kaddesh, Praise Jehovah-M'kaddesh,
He's my Light, He's my Holiness,
He's my Sanctity, In Him will I trust.
Praise Jehovah-M'kaddesh.*

*Praise Jehovah-Shalom, Praise Jehovah-Shalom,
He's my Peace, He's my Comfort,
He's my Security, In Him will I trust.
Praise Jehovah-Shalom.*

*Praise Jehovah-Rohi, Praise Jehovah-Rohi,
He's my Guide, He's my Shepherd,
He's my Protector, In Him will I trust.
Praise Jehovah-Rohi.*

*Praise Jehovah-Tsidkenu, Praise Jehovah-Tsidkenu,
He's my Life, He's my Redemption,
He's my Righteousness, In Him will I trust.
Praise Jehovah-Tsidkenu.*

*Praise Jehovah-Shammah, Praise Jehovah-Shammah,
He's my Friend, He's my Faithfulness,
He's Omnipresent, In Him will I trust.
Praise Jehovah-Shammah.*

Praising the Lord from A to Z¹¹

This is a simple way to learn to praise the Lord. Quinn Sherrer has said, “Often I go through the alphabet and concentrate on the characteristics of the Trinity... Then I add my thanks aloud, naming things about the Godhead for which I am forever grateful.”¹² As you read through these names and attributes, allow your heart to appreciate the wonderful, indescribable glory of God.

A: Almighty God, Abba Father, Alpha and Omega, All-Sufficient One, All knowing, All seeing, All powerful, Ageless, Able to save.

B: Bread of Life, Bright and Morning Star, Breath of Life, Beautiful, Balm of Gilead, Blameless, Burden-bearer.

C: Covenant Keeper, Consuming Fire, Coming with the clouds, Commander and Chief, Conquering King, Caring, Compassionate, Comforter, Convicting, Counselor, Creator, Clothed with splendor and majesty, Constant.

D: Destroyer of sin, Deliverer, Defender, dependable.

E: Eternal God, Encourager, Everlasting God, Exalted above all, Ever present help in trouble.

F: Faithful Friend, Father, Forgiver, Fortress, Future Holder.

G: God of Glory, Gracious, Giver of every good gift, Glorious One, Guide, Guard of hearts and minds.

¹¹ Adapted from Quinn Sherrer, *How to Pray for Your Children* (Ventura, CA; Regal Books, 1998), 239-241.

¹² *Ibid.*, 239.

H: Holy One, High Priest, Hosanna, Healer, Helper, Heart purifier, Hope giver, Hunger filler, Head of church.

I: Immanuel, I Am, Immortal, Invisible, Indescribable, Infallible, Intercessor.

J: Judge, Jealously Loving, Just, Justifier, Joy Giver.

K: King of all kings, kind, Knows his sheep, Knows the future, Knows what we need, Keeper of my soul, Kingdom Builder

L: Lord of lords, Lamb of God, Living Word, Living God, Light of the World, Lawgiver, Lover of my soul, Lion of Judah, Liberator from Sin.

M: Master, Maker of heaven and earth, Mediator, Majestic, Most High God, Merciful, Mighty, Miracle worker, Mountain Mover.

N: Name above all names, Never failing, Narrow Gate, Nurturing, Near, Night watcher, Need-meeter.

O: Only Begotten, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, One and only God, Opposes the proud.

P: Propitiation, Powerful, Provider, Protector, Patient, Praiseworthy, Provider, Perfect, Purpose giver, Promise maker, Promise keeper, Pardoner of sins, Perfecter of our faith, Potter (I am the clay), Producer of fruit.

Q: Quieter of storms, Quality, Quite a Provider!

R: Righteous, Redeemer, Reigning Monarch, Repairer of the Breach, Restorer, Rock of Salvation, Rock of Ages, Radiant, Rescuer, Reviver of hearts, Reason for living, Rich with grace, Ruler, Refuge for the oppressed,

Revealer of truth, Reliable, Reconciler, Rest giver, Rewarder.

S: Savior, Shepherd, Son of God, Son of Man, Supreme, Straight and narrow, Strong, Sovereign, Stronghold in times of trouble, Same yesterday...today...tomorrow, Strength provider, Sacrifice for our sins, Salvation, Sanctifier, Satisfier, Searcher of the lost, Slow to anger, Sustainer.

T: True, Truth, Transcendent, Trustworthy, Teacher, Talent giver, Tongue tamer, Task assignor, Tear wiper, Thirst quencher, Transformer, Treasure, Triumphant, Truthful.

U: Unchanging, Universal, Ultimate standard of right and wrong, Unfailing, Upholder, Understanding, Unifying, Unseen.

V: Vine, Victorious, Valuable, Value giver, Veil remover, Victory giver, Vindicator, Vision caster, Valiant, Virtuous.

W: Warrior, Worthy, Wise, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, Water of life, Wind, the Word, Way-maker, Wonderful, Wonder worker, Worth living for, Wisdom giver, Withholder of no good thing, Wonderful Counselor.

X: Extra-ordinary in all Your ways.

Y: YHWH (Hebrew name for god, Jehovah), Yoke for the weary.

Z: Zealous in Your pursuit of mankind.

The Benefits of Journaling¹³

1. It slows you down to listen to God and hear Him speak.
2. It will give you a new appreciation of God's activity in your daily life.
3. It clarifies your beliefs and leads to growth.
4. It clarifies your goals and gives you a clearer sense of priorities.
5. It can provide a release of personal emotions.
6. It helps you gain godly perspective in life situations.
7. It provides an avenue of self-expression and creativity.
8. It provides a chronicle of your spiritual journey with God.
9. It helps you work through problems.
10. It encourages intimacy with God.

¹³ Martin, Catherine, *Six Secrets to a Powerful Quiet Time* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2005), 89.

Essentials for Family Worship¹⁴

Many families do not pray together, nor do they read Scripture together. However, when asked, I believe you would find that most would like to know how. It really boils down to three simple words: read, pray and sing. C.H. Spurgeon once said, “They that pray in the family do well; they that pray and read the Scriptures do better; but they that pray, and read, and sing do best of all.”¹⁵

READ THE BIBLE. You can read through Bible story books as they are very young, and graduate to reading through books of the Bible, chapter by chapter. Take the time to explain words, and give meaning. Set a goal as a family to work through the New Testament, and then, as they grow older, the entire Bible.

PRAY. Teach your children from an early age to pray. Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley, had the household rule that children would be taught to pray as soon as they learned to talk. Well, pray out loud in front of your children. Pray for significant matters, and for things that simply matter to your children. Nothing is too small to take to the Lord. As you pray, you teach your family that you alone are not the answer. Only God can answer, and we are utterly dependent upon Him to help us.

SING. Donald Whitney notes here, “Get hymnals for everyone... Your pastor or another worship leader at your church may be able to recommend other songbooks... Some people sing a different song each time, some sing the same song for a week so they can learn it. As to music, some

¹⁴ The basic outline has been adapted from Donald Whitney, *Family Worship* (Shepherdsville, KY; The Center for Biblical Spirituality, 2006), 37-42.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 39.

families sing along with recordings, while others utilize family musicians, and many simply sing without accompaniment.”¹⁶

If Time Permits...

CATECHIZE. Donald Whitney states, “Used for centuries by Christians in virtually all traditions, catechizing is a question-and-answer approach to teaching biblical doctrine... A good, age-appropriate catechism is as valuable for learning the Bible as memorizing multiplication tables is for learning mathematics.”¹⁷

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE. If you want someone to hold you accountable for memorizing the Scriptures outlined in this book, how about make it a family affair? Why not allow your family to hold you accountable. Allow your children to see how you are wrestling with Scripture memory. Most of us have a difficult time learning even one verse. Show your kids, and they will notice how highly you value God’s Word.

READ OTHER BOOKS. If time permits, why not attempt reading through a very valuable, age-appropriate Christian book other than the Bible. Don’t do this as a substitute for Bible reading, but in addition. Choose a Christian biography or a devotional classic.

Rules to Keep in Mind:

1. Kids are still kids, even though you are doing family worship. Be conscious of your time, and be brief.
2. Be consistent. Try to make it part of your routine, whether it is morning, mealtime or bedtime.
3. If something comes up unexpectedly, be flexible. Just make sure your flexibility does not lead to inconsistency.

¹⁶ Ibid., 39.

¹⁷ Ibid., 39-40.

Daily Declarations of Faith

Ephesians 6:17 says, “And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word [Rhema] of God”

This passage tells us that there is a powerful weapon that we are to take up like a sword to help us live in victory as Christians. That weapon is called the spoken “word” of God. This literally reads the “Rhema” of God, or a specific “word” from the general “word”. It could be referred to as the “spoken Word of God.” ***Romans 10:17 says that “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word [Rhema] of God.”*** Faith is expressed in many ways, but one primary way is through our agreeing with God vocally. We say boldly:

I am who the Word of God says I am.

I have what the Word of God says I have.

I can do what the Word of God says I can do.

Revelation 12:11 says, “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...” When we listen to the devil and the culture around us, we will not live the victorious Christian life God intended. In this passage, God is helping us see how we will overcome in this life – through the finished work of Christ on the Cross (His Blood) and the word of our testimony (His Word on our lips). About this passage Dr. Adrian Rogers has said,

A part of the word of your testimony is to see yourself and to speak of yourself as an overcomer. This is important because ***the me I see is the me I’ll be***. We often hear God’s people speak of themselves with what they imagine to be humility. ‘I know I am not much. I know I am no good. I know I am just a sinner saved by grace.’ Well, technically you may be just a sinner saved by grace, but the Bible doesn’t call you that. The Bible calls you the

righteousness of God in Christ (see 2 Cor. 5:21). We need to see ourselves as God sees us – kings and priests...redeemed, accepted, empowered... You can say to yourself, 'I am a child of God. I am Christ's friend. I am chosen and appointed by my Lord. I am a son or daughter of God. I am a member of Jesus' body. I am an heir of God. I am a saint. I am God's workmanship. I am chosen by God, holy and dearly beloved. I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; and I am what I am by the grace of God.'¹⁸

Our heavenly Father loves to see that His children have the confidence to take Him at His Word. These daily declarations are designed to help you verbally agree with God's Word.

David Jeremiah once wrote, "Nothing is more liberating than agreeing with God about how He sees you and how He feels about you. From God's Word, first know who He is. Then know who you are in Him, what you have in Him, and what you can do through Him. Believe and receive from Him His truth about you."¹⁹

Part of your time with God could be spent "rehearsing" these truths out loud. As you declare these mighty promises, let your heart respond like Mary responded to Gabriel, when she said, "***be it unto me, O Lord, according to Your Word (Luke 1:38).***"

Dr. Bill Bennett taught me, as well as countless other men to recite this "Victory Pledge" and "Pledge to the Bible" which are simply declarations about what God has said about us and what He has said about His Word.

¹⁸ Rogers, Adrian, *Incredible Power of Kingdom Authority* (Nashville: Broadman, 2002), 198-199.

¹⁹ Jeremiah, David, *Who I Am in Christ* (Turning Point, 1999), 5.

I have found it to be a great source of encouragement to internalize these pledges, which is why I print them here:

The Victory Pledge²⁰:

I'm too Anointed to be Disappointed

I'm too Blessed to be Depressed

I'm too Chosen to be Frozen

I'm too Elected to be Rejected

I'm too Inspired to be Tired

*I have more to shout about than to pout about,
And more to sing about than to complain about!*

The Pledge to the Bible²¹:

This is my Bible. It is God's inerrant word. It is my most valuable earthly possession. I will, therefore, make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and I will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God. The Bible is God talking to me personally. I will, therefore, listen to it carefully and obey it fully. And I will endeavor to internalize it in my life by doing four things:

- I will know it in my head by diligent study,
- I will stow it in my heart by memorization and meditation,
- I will show it in my life by obeying its teachings, and
- I will sow it in my world by my witness.

Hereafter, I will never be the same. Never, never, never! In the name of Jesus, for His honor and glory, both now and forever more, Amen.

²⁰ Bennett, Bill, "The Victory Pledge", www.mentoringmen.net

²¹ Ibid., "The Pledge to the Bible", www.mentoringmen.net

I am who the Word of God says I am *(partial listing)*

- John 1:12 I am God's child.
- John 15:1, 5 I am a branch of the true vine, and Christ's life flows through me.
- John 15:15 I am Christ's friend.
- Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Romans 5:1 I have been justified, and now I am acceptable to God and completely forgiven. I live at peace with God.
- Romans 6:1-6 The sinful person I used to be died with Christ, and sin no longer rules my life.
- Rom 8:1-2 I am free forever from condemnation.
- Romans 8:2 The law of the life-giving Spirit has freed me from the law of sin that leads to death.
- Romans 8:14 I am a child of God, and I am led by the Spirit of God.
- Romans 8:17 I am an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ.
- Romans 8:31 If God is for me, who can be against me?
- Rom 8:35-39 I cannot be separated from the love of God.
- Romans 8:37 I am more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Cor 6:17 I am united with the Lord, and one spirit with Him.
- 1 Cor 6:19-20 I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.
- 1 Cor 12:27 I am a member of the body of Christ.
- 1 Cor 15:58 I am steadfast, unmovable – always abounding in the work of the Lord. I know that my labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- 2 Cor 1:21-22 I have been established, anointed, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.
- 2 Cor 5:17 I am a new creation in Christ Jesus
- 2 Cor 5:18-19 I am at peace with God, and He has given me the work of helping others find peace with Him.

- 2 Cor 5:20 I am an ambassador for Christ pleading with others to be reconciled to God.
- 2 Cor 5:21 I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.
- Eph 1:5 I have been adopted as God's child.
- Eph. 2:6 I am seated with Christ in heavenly places.
- Eph 2:10 I am God's workmanship (masterpiece) created in Christ Jesus for good works.
- Eph 3:16 I am being strengthened with might by His Spirit in my inner man.
- Eph 5:8 I was once darkness but now am light in the Lord, and I now walk as a child of light.
- Eph 6:10 I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
- Phil 1:6 I am confident that the good work God began in me will be perfected.
- Phil 3:20 I am a citizen of heaven.
- Col 1:13 I have been rescued from the dark power of Satan's rule and have been brought into the kingdom of Christ.
- Col 1:14 I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
- Col 2:10 I am complete in Christ.
- 1 Peter 2:9-10 I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.
- 2 Peter 1:4 I am a partaker of His Divine nature.
- 1 John 5:18 I am born again in Christ, and the evil one – the devil – cannot touch me.
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I have what the Word of God says I have
(partial listing)

- Neh 8:10 The joy of the Lord is my strength.
- Ps 23:1-6 The Lord is my Shepherd, therefore I shall not be in want. You make me to lie down in green pastures. You lead me beside still waters. You restore my soul. You lead me in the pathway of righteousness for Your Name's sake. Even if I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not be afraid, because You are with me. Your rod and staff comfort me. You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, and my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!
- Prov 3:9-10 I honor the Lord with my wealth, and with the first fruits of all my increase. Therefore my barns will be filled with plenty, and my vats will pour forth with new wine!
- Prov 4:20-22 I attend to God's Word and it brings life to me and healing to my whole body.
- Isaiah 40:31 I wait upon the Lord today and my strength is renewed like the eagle.
- Mal 3:8-10 I bring a tenth of my income into the storehouse of the Lord. Therefore the windows of heaven will open, and God will pour out a blessing for me that I will not have room enough to receive. God will rebuke the devourer for my sake, so that my fruit will not be destroyed.
- Luke 6:38 I give and it is given unto me; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.
- John 16:13 The Spirit of truth abides in me and teaches me all things, and He guides me into all truth.

- Romans 5:5 I have the unconditional love of God inside of my heart by the Holy Spirit.
- Romans 8:28 All things work together for my good because I love God and have been called according to His purpose.
- 2 Cor 8:9 He became poor that I, through his poverty, may become rich.
- 2 Cor 10:4 My weapons are not carnal, but spiritual, and mighty through God, pulling down strongholds.
- 2 Cor 12:9 I have the power of Christ resting in me.
- 2 Cor 12:9 God's strength is made perfect in my weakness.
- 2 Cor 12:10 When I am weak, then I am strong.
- Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. The life that I live now is not my own, but Christ's, and I live it by the faith of Him Who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- Gal 3:13-14 I have been redeemed from the curse of the law, and the blessing of Abraham is mine in Christ.
- Eph 1:3 I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
- Eph 2:18 I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.
- Phil 4:6-8 The peace of God rules my heart and mind in Christ because I choose to pray rather than worry.
- Phil 4:19 My God is supplying all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- 2 Tim 1:7 God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.
- Heb 4:16 I have the right to come boldly before the throne of God. He will meet my needs lovingly and kindly.
- 2 Peter 1:4 I have been given great and valuable promises.
- 1 John 5:4 I have world-overcoming faith!

I can do what the Word of God says I can do
(partial listing)

- Joshua 1:8 I meditate on God's Word day and night. I make my way prosperous and I have good success.
- Josh 24:15c As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!
- Ps 42:1-2 As the deer pants and longs for the water brooks, so I long to know God. My soul thirsts for the living God!
- Prov. 3:5-6 I trust in the Lord with all my heart, and I do not lean on my own understanding. In all my ways I acknowledge Him, and I trust that He will direct my path!
- Matt 5:17-18 I choose to influence this world for Christ as salt and light.
- Acts 1:8 I am empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a witness for Christ
- Romans 8:29 I am being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.
- Romans 12:2 I refuse to be conformed to the world.
- Romans 12:2 I am daily being transformed by a renewed mind.
- 1 Cor 9:27 My body will not rule me. I discipline my body and bring it into subjection.
- 2 Cor 5:7 I walk by faith and not by sight.
- Gal 5:16 I walk in the spirit and I do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
- Gal 5:22-23 As I am yielded to the Holy Spirit, His fruit is seen in my life: the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- Phil 2:13 God is working in me both to desire and do His good pleasure.
- Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

WIELDING YOUR WEAPON:

When Your Bible Becomes a Sword

Ephesians 6:17 tells us that the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit, but how does the Christian transform his or her Bible into a sword? The word “Word” here is “rhema”, which means the spoken Word of God. Your Bible will become a sword, as you internalize in your mind and heart, and then speak that Word out of your mouth. When it comes to defeating your enemy, the devil, understand that the Word of God internalized must answer the accusations, lies and deception of the enemy.

The devil, who is the father of lies, will tempt the believer with some half-truth or whole-lie to defeat and imprison us. The only way we can be prepared for those lies is through storing God’s Word in our hearts before we need it so it will be there when we need it.

I recently read of a Christian young man whose band performed on a Caribbean cruise. One night his buddies tried to entice him into the ship’s bar, but Chad, whose mother was an alcoholic, had memorized verses from Proverbs about alcohol abuse.

He explained to his friends that addiction ran in his family, then he had the courage to quote Scripture to them: **“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.” (Proverbs 20:1)**

They replied, “Come on, Chad. Just one beer won’t hurt.” He replied, **“At the last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper” (Proverbs 23:32).**

They accused him of rejecting their company, to which he said, **“If sinners entice you, do not consent.” (Proverbs 1:10)**

“Leave him be,” he heard one of the young men say to the others. **“He’s so full of Scripture we can’t do a thing with him!”**

Remember the promise found in Psalm 119:11, **“Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against God.”** John 14:26 also tells us that the Holy Spirit will bring to our remembrance the Word of God in our time of need. Take time to store your mind and heart with God’s Word, and pull them out the next time the enemy attacks.

Primary Lies of the Devil

(with the Scriptures that answer his accusations).²²

1. The Bible has errors, and it’s not reliable! It’s not the Word of God, but the word of man. (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. You’re not saved. (John 1:12; John 10:28; 1 John 5:13)
3. God has given up on you. (Phil. 1:6)
4. Your past is too bad. You can’t overcome it. (Phil. 3:13-14)
5. There’s more pleasure in sin than in following God. (Ps. 16:11)
6. It’s my body and I can do with it what I want. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)
7. Your sin will not hurt anyone. (Romans 8:6; James 1:15)
8. Not even God can forgive what you did (1 John 1:9; 1 Tim 1:15)
9. It doesn’t pay to live for God. (Ps. 73)
10. You’d be happy if only you had _____. (Phil. 4:11-13)
11. You are not needed (1 Cor. 12:22-23)
12. No one will ever find out (Numbers 32:23)
13. You’re too good for God to send to hell. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 64:6)

²² Compiled from multiple sources, but primarily “Lies and Truth” by: Fellowship Bible Church, and Joshua Harris “Not Even a Hint”, appendix.

14. You're not worthy (Luke 15:21-24; Heb. 4:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
15. God doesn't care about you. (1 Pet. 5:7; Isaiah 41:10, 13)
16. This crisis is too difficult for you to bear. (Psalm 119:92)
17. If it feels right it must be right. (Eph. 4:22-24; heart is deceitful)
18. No one will ever know what you are about to do... Go ahead... no one is watching! (Heb. 4:13)
19. It's okay to take revenge: he/she deserves it! (Romans 12:19)
20. You have a right to be angry. You were hurt. (Eph. 4:31-32)
21. God is keeping something good from you... (Ps. 84:10-12)
22. You could be happy if only you had a little more money. (Heb. 13:5-6; 1 Tim. 6:6-10)
23. You'll never have victory over this sin. (Phil. 1:6)
24. Go ahead... God will forgive you anyway! (1 John 3:6, 9)
25. You won't have to suffer the consequences! (Gal. 6:7-8) (Romans 14:12) (Hebrews 12:6) (James 1:15).
26. It's just a little sin. It's not a big deal. (1 Pet. 1:14-16)
27. You can't change... That's just the way you are. (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 12:2)
28. This temptation is impossible to resist. (1 Cor. 10:13)
29. You're the only one who has to deal with this. (1 Cor. 10:13)
30. Don't tell anybody about this... You can overcome it by yourself. (Jas. 5:16)
31. If you forgive them, no one else will make them pay for how they hurt you. (Romans 12:19-21)
32. It doesn't pay to stay in the battle. (Gal. 6:9)
33. No one loves you (John 15:9)
34. God won't hear your prayer (1 John 5:14-15)
35. God won't mind a little compromise. (Colossians 3:5-6; Ephesians 5:3)
36. It's okay to do this sin because the Bible doesn't specifically talk about it. (1 Corinthians 6:12)

Lies about Lust and Sex

(with the Scriptures that answer his accusations):

1. Sex is OK as long as you love each other. God wants you happy. (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 6:18-20 TLB)
2. People get away with adultery. (Proverbs 5:3-5; Proverbs 5:8-11).
3. Lust is not a big deal (Job 31:11-12 NLT)
4. Too much purity will keep me from seeing and enjoying beauty. (Matthew 5:8; Psalm 11:7, ESV; Isaiah 33:17)
5. I can't control my sex drive. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6)
6. A little fantasizing doesn't hurt anybody. (Matt. 5:27-30)
7. Looking at a few pornographic pictures won't affect me. (Proverbs 6:25-27; Psalm 101:3)
8. Radical action against sin isn't necessary (Matthew 5:29-30; 2 Timothy 2:22)
9. God made you this way. Go ahead and give in to your desires. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

Becoming a Follower of Christ

Perhaps you have found this book, and you have never turned from your sins and placed your faith in what Jesus did on the Cross. Perhaps you are just not certain that you are saved. Salvation means being rescued from your sin. In order to be rescued from your sins, you must understand a few Bible facts:

- 1. *God Loves You.*** - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)
- 2. *Your Sin Separated You From a Loving God.*** - "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- 3. *God Sent Jesus To Take Care of the Sin Barrier Between You and Him.*** - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
- 4. *We Respond To God by Receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.*** - "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

Once You believe these four facts, you must make a few decisions:

- 1. *You are a hopeless sinner, and you need Jesus.*** - "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)
- 2. *You must be willing to turn completely from the sins that have held you captive.*** - "I tell you, No; but unless you

repent (change your mind for the better and heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), you will all likewise perish and be lost eternally.” (Luke 13:3, AMP)

3. You must believe that Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, actually died for you on the cross and rose from the grave. – “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

4. Through prayer, you must invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life, making Him Lord.

“Dear God, I know that You loved me, and I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me. You promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust you. By faith I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Save me, Lord Jesus. Thank You for doing it. I receive it by faith like a child, and that settles it. Now begin to make me the person You want me to be, and help me, Lord Jesus, never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen.”

You may have read this and said, “I did not do this,” then, my friend, today is the day that you can come to Christ for the first time. You can read this again, pray that prayer and Jesus will save you from your sin! You, too, will be a child of God! The prayer does not save you, but praying a prayer like this one, from your heart to God, is the way Jesus will enter your life and you will be completely changed! Do it today! Make your salvation sure!

Today I have given my life to Jesus Christ!

(sign)

(date)

* please contact Josh at inferno4god@hotmail.com to receive more information about beginning your journey with Jesus Christ.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Josh Franklin has been serving in local church ministry since April, 2002, and has been walking with the Lord since 1995.

He holds 3 earned degrees, including his Masters of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry in Expository Preaching from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Biblical Studies through Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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