

Forty Days of Passion:

In Christ

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Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Acknowledgments

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Preface

You might be wondering, “Why forty days?” It rained forty days while Noah was in the ark. Moses was forty days upon the mountain. Joshua, Caleb and the spies searched the land for forty days. And, of course, Jesus was both in the wilderness and walked in a resurrected body for forty days. These and other “forty-day” experiences were used of God to make history and mold lives. Also, this length of time can prove to work in the establishing of new patterns and habits of behavior.

If you have only one Bible verse memorized, it is very likely John 3:16 KJV. “*For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*” The Apostle Paul prays that those in Ephesus might grasp how wide, long, deep, and high is God’s love for them in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:17-19). The great apostle goes on to state that it is the love of Christ that compels us (2 Corinthians 5:14). The churches of Ephesus, Sardis, and Laodicea all struggled with a lack of spiritual passion (Revelation 2, 3). I believe that if the heart is right, we can get most everything else right. Spiritual lethargy is a cause of so much sin and hurt. No matter whether we have “left our first love,” “have a reputation for being alive, but are dead,” or “are lukewarm,” it is sickening to God, and we are less than effective.

We call it renewal. It is the restoration of spiritual passion. The desire and goal is that over the next forty days God might forgive us, shine upon us, and restore our devotion, love, and passion for Him. May these be days of spiritual formation, preparation, and renewal.

If Jesus carries and the Lord grants you life, may the next forty days be *Forty Days of Passion*. “In Christ” is a daily study of the Scripture passages of the Apostle Paul that include the phrase “in Christ”. Pray for eyes to see and ears to hear these teachings from these Scriptures. May the experience of these forty days deepen faith, increase love, and truly be forty days of passion.

Toby Snowden

Introduction

“What do you want for Christmas?” Many ask this question at the holiday season each year. I am sure that you have been asked, “What do you want for your birthday?” “What do you want for supper?” This is a common question at our house. What do you want? The Apostle Paul answers this question in Philippians 3:10, 11, *“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection of the dead.”* Hebrews 12:2, 3, states, *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”* The goal of this study is to focus upon Christ and spiritual formation reflected in Paul’s use of the phrase “In Christ”.

During these forty days you are being asked to faithfully complete all the daily studies and journaling. You will need to record your reflections, meditations, spiritual insights, journaling, written prayers and a spiritual concept, “In Christ”, each day. Get a prayer partner and join a small group. Make prayer a priority. Give yourself to the reading, studying, meditating and memorizing of God’s Word. Be faithful in personal daily study, group life and corporate worship. Commit to the concept of worshiping God daily. Ask God each day what adjustments He would have you make in your attitudes, actions, and feelings. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do you have in mind?” Those you need to forgive, forgive. If you have offended another, be reconciled. The “one thing you lack” or whatever is undone, complete it and make it right.

While seeking to accurately handle the Scriptures, the focus of this work is and remains devotional not scholarly. May it inspire, encourage and challenge you in spiritual formation and renewal. These forty days ought to be an adventure in discovery and faith by the truth of His Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Getting Started

Forty Days of Passion: In Christ is a program of study and reflection. However, it is more than a program; it is a process. All spiritual growth is a process. These forty days will require that you study and do more than study. It must be something that you desire and that you give yourself fully to as you ask God to change you for His glory and your good. This season is a time when we lay aside pride, hypocrisy, selfishness, personal interests, and ask God to work in us, to transform us that He might work through us for the sake of His Kingdom.

Make the study times a priority. Set a time and place when and where you can “get alone with God.” Commit to pray. As your church might embrace and promote prayer groups, celebration services, solemn assemblies, days of fasting, or small group meetings, commit to them. Be a part, a vital part. Be a leader. I am issuing a special challenge to men. Commit to be the spiritual leader in your home for these forty days. Do the studies individually and come together regularly to lead your family in reflection and prayer!

Make a commitment to listen to God (see Study Help One) and to make adjustments according to what He reveals to you. Each day, you are to journal your thoughts, reflections, commitments, biblical concepts, responses, and prayers. The journaling is not optional. Be careful regarding your commitments. It is better not to make a vow, than to make a vow and not fulfill it (Ecclesiastes 5:5).

Forty Days of Passion: In Christ is designed to promote spiritual formation and renewal beginning seven weeks before Easter. God does not change (Malachi 3:6). All of our worship is a focus upon and response to who God is and what God has done. Consider *Forty Days of Passion: In Christ* as a way to worship God daily. The focus of this year’s *Forty Days of Passion: In Christ* is Paul’s use of the term “In Christ”. Allow the scripture and daily studies to inform the process of spiritual formation...*till Christ is formed in you. Galatians 4:19*

Index

Daily Assignments Explained		Pages vii-xii
Daily Studies & Journaling		Pages 1-82
Study Helps	Notes and Comments	Page
One	Hearing from God-Hearing God (2021)	83
Two	A Heart for God	84, 85
Three	How to Prepare Your Heart for Revival	86
Four	The Seven Realities of Experiencing God	87
Five	The Names of God	88
Six	Jesus and the Sabbath	89
Seven	The Christ of the Psalms	90
Eight	The Passion of Christ in the Psalms	91
Nine	The Trials of Jesus Christ	92
Ten	The Stations of the Cross	93
Eleven	The Last Words of Christ from the Cross	94
Twelve	Events of Holy Week	95,96
Thirteen	References to Christ's Return in Philippians	97
Fourteen	T.A.C.O.S. - Prayer Acrostic	98
Fifteen	Selected Scriptures on Prayer	99
Sixteen	Pray Hard – Prayer in Colossians	100
Seventeen	Praying for Missionaries – Acts 13, 14	101
Eighteen	Daily Prayer Principles	102,103
Nineteen	Praying for Those Who Need Christ	104
Twenty	How to Pray for Revival	105
Twenty-One	Fasting and Praying – Isaiah 58	106
Twenty-Two	Praying the Virtues of Scripture	107
Twenty-Three	Seven-Fold Plan for Bible Study	108
Twenty-Four	“In Him” Scriptural References	109
Twenty-Five	Biblical Meditation	110
Twenty-Six	Hiding God's Word in Your Heart (Memorization)	111
Twenty-Seven	Seven Realities of the Churches of Revelation	112
Twenty-Eight	Areas of Submission in the New Testament	113
Twenty-Nine	Faith is Believing (John 3:16)	114
Thirty	“One Another's” of the New Testament	115
Thirty-One	Leaven in the New Testament	116

Thirty-Two	“I Am” Statements of Jesus in John	117
Thirty-Three	“I Am” Statements of Jesus in Revelation	118
Thirty-Four	Five Keys to Kingdom Work	119
Thirty-Five	Directions for Singing by John Wesley	120
Thirty-Six	The Elements of Influence	121
Thirty-Seven	How to be Born Again	122
Thirty-Eight	A Process of Spiritual Growth	123
Thirty-Nine	Cycles of Transformation & Decline	124
Forty	The “Be” Attitudes of the Parables	125-127
Forty-One	The Miracles of Jesus	128-130
Forty-Two	Holy Spirit Power Points	131-132
Forty-Three	“Just One Thing” – Spiritual Insights	133-134
Forty-Four	Where to go from here?	135
Forty-Five	Evaluating Your Spiritual Health	136
Digging Deeper Lessons		137-143
40 Days of Passion Schedule		144
References		145
Notes		146

Read *Study Help Twenty-Three* on how to study the Bible. For each passage of Scripture, you will make observations (investigation) of the text and do the explanation phase by interpreting those observations and writing a brief paraphrase that puts the main idea in your own words. Connect these passages to other correlated Scriptures and meditate upon them.

Implementation will be completed as you note specific actions you take or adjustments you make. On the journal page, you will be asked to identify a “key” verse, phrase, words or word. All Scripture is inspired but at times there are those Scriptures or Scripture portions that really stand out. As the Lord might give you a “special verse” or “special phrase” you will note it on the journal page. Be sure to take time to meditate on what you have observed and write a prayer inspired by that day’s study. Allow this exercise to be an open and honest expression of your heart. Read Psalm 19:12-14. After the connection and meditation section you are to write the key lesson, main idea or spiritual principle in the Just One Thing space. The final step is memorization.

Daily Assignments Explained

Take time to thoroughly read *Study Help Twenty-Three*, the *Seven-Fold Plan for Bible Study*. Much of the daily assignments depend upon your mastery of these principles of Bible study. Each day you will have a Scripture portion that is assigned. That portion is what you are supposed to focus upon. The daily studies are selected passages that include the concept of “In Christ.” Some principles are obvious and others you will have to “pull out”. Stay focused to look for the timeless truths. Let’s consider the component parts.

Appreciation – “Love IT” Psalm 119:159

Perspective is everything. It is imperative that one understands that the Holy Bible is the Word of God. See Isaiah 40:8 and 2 Timothy 3:16,17. As you begin the study each day ask God to speak to you from His Word, the Holy Bible. See Study Help One.

Investigation – “See it!” Proverbs 24: 30-34

Note your observations below.

This is the discovery phase. Make as many observations of the passage as possible. You cannot learn what you do not observe. If you do not “see it” you cannot apply or pass it along. Two things will not change as you do these forty studies. The first is the fact that every verse or passage has a context. Do not hesitate to look ahead and behind of the Scripture in question to gain additional information. Look for correlating passages to compare and contrast. See Connection-” Know It” in each daily study.

When you get started, I encourage you to do the investigation phase of the daily study and put the booklet aside for a while. Come back after that and make new observations. It is always amazing to see what you observe from the text by means of a second look.

Do not be reluctant to ask a question for which you do not know the answer or to note a word that is unfamiliar to you. Remember, this portion of the daily assignment is simply and purely investigation. You are to observe and study through close examination. Try to see as much, ask as much and think as much as you can. Remember that this step is to be

done with only your Bible and your booklet. In fact, I encourage you to use a Bible without helps, notes, reference markers and the like. The very real tendency is to “short cut” the process by looking to the helps and notes too soon. See and discover all you can. Ask God to show you His truths from His Word, the Bible. The challenge comes with the excitement of discovery, the discovery of God’s powerful truth as revealed in Scripture.

Explanation—“Say It!” Nehemiah 8:8

Write the main idea in your own words.

To begin this phase answer as many questions, define as many words and clarify as many relationships as you can on your own. Once you have exhausted your knowledge, then and only then, is it time to go to the helps. Have them on hand and get them ready. A good study Bible, Bible dictionary, English dictionary, Bible concordance, Bible commentaries, other Bible translations, internet sources and Bible apps can all be useful.

Remember that the theme of this study is *In Christ*. Try to look at everything through “spiritual” lenses. You will need to be open to the many references and practical spiritual lessons. Do not refrain from considering the mind, will and emotions as you look for spiritual insights. Remember the challenge is to *think, act* and *feel* in new ways. I am asking you to identify the main idea in the passage and to put it in your own words. It is at this point that you will begin to face a new but good challenge. To identify the main idea might be as much Spirit led as it is Bible fed. It is a real challenge to put the main idea in your own words. This is called a *paraphrase*. It has been said that it is only when you can put a passage in your own words that you truly understand what the passage means. If *investigation* is discovering what the passage says, then *explanation* is determining and stating what the passage means.

Your prayer/accountability partner and your home, small group, or class can be very helpful at this point. *As iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another*, Proverbs 27:17, and so you need to hear the insights of others. Remember the two great challenges are determining the main idea and then putting it in to your own words. If you can’t say it do you really know it?

It can also be helpful to go back to the passage after having left it alone for a while. Also, it can be interesting to see how your thoughts on the *explanation* of the passage may change the further you get into the study. Remember, “*Openness to challenge is opportunity to change.*” Always be open to new and additional ideas and to new and better ways of saying them. Remember that in the case of the paraphrase, “less is more.” The fewer words in a paraphrase, generally the better.

Connection – “Know it!” Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible. In this portion of the study write any verses the Lord brings to mind that relate to, complement, explain, comment upon or harmonize with the passage of Scripture that you have studied today. Once you have done this you may use such helps as a center column reference or footnotes in your Bible but only do so after you have looked up and read the verses on your own.

Volumes are packed in the little five-word phrase “close your time in prayer.” Do not let this portion of the time be incidental or accidental. The prayer component should be strategic, intentional, and powerful. I encourage you to reference and read thoroughly *Study Helps Thirteen* through *Twenty-One* concerning prayer.

I trust that these will be days of spiritual formation, renewal, and preparation. Enjoy the journey. Be blessed and be a blessing. May you grow in grace and truth and in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” Luke 11:1
Pray continually. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2
Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1-8. Wrestle in prayer, Colossians 4:12

Please pray for God’s kingdom to come and His will to be done. And personally, pray for the knowledge of God’s will for your life and for the courage, power and perseverance to carry it out.

At the end of each study will be a ***Just One Thing “In Christ”*** section where you are to write the main idea, the key spiritual insight for the day.

This is the truth that you have learned that day about God, the things of God, and Jesus Christ put in your own words.

Be sure and check your concept with what I have written in study help forty-two Just One Thing “In Christ”. May God richly bless you as you think, act, and feel in new ways as Christ is formed in you. Galatians 4:19

Meditation – “Ponder It”: Upon reflection note your key verse, phrase, words, or word in the space below.

God speaks through His Word, the Bible. As you do the daily studies you will discover that there will be certain verses, or thoughts within a verse, that just seem to “jump out” at you. Don’t just look for the familiar but also consider the lesser-known portions as well. These selected Scriptures all contain the concept “In Christ”. As the title represents, some days it might be a verse, some days a phrase and yet other days it will only be a word. In the realm of the profound often we find that less is more. Ask the Lord to guide you. The goal of this step is to ponder, reflect upon, and consider what God is saying to you.

Some days the “key” verse or thought will be obvious and irresistible. On other days you will need to look for it. Nevertheless, be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit will speak through the Bible. Please see Study Help Twenty-Four and Study Help Twenty-Five to learn more on meditation and memorization. By looking for a “key” verse or phrase you might better unlock the meaning of the passage and meditate upon it, see Joshua 1:8. Write a prayer prompted by your meditation.

Implementation – “Do It!” Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22 The Nike Corporation has had a slogan for a long time that reminds us of the importance of action, “Just Do It!” The name of the company comes from the Greek word that means “victory.” In order to be victorious in life you must do what the Bible says.

In my office there is an art object that says, *“Change is good, you go first.”* It is very easy to point out the faults and flaws in others but to miss or be unwilling to deal with our own. James 1:25 states that whoever looks

intently into the Bible and does and keeps on doing what it says will be truly blessed. In applying the Bible to our lives, we make personal, measurable, and specific changes. Another art object in my office states “*Motivated People Find a Way!*”

Notice, if you will, the three-fold challenge of **think, act and feel in new ways**. The Bible says we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, Romans 12:2. We have just seen that it is when we act upon what the Bible says and keep on doing it that we are truly blessed. Notice, that feelings come last. Make every attempt to keep them there. Feelings change frequently so never allow yourself to be ruled by your feelings. Many people just want to feel better not get better. The real goal is to get better and as a result you will feel better. Two popular Christian psychologists remind us that real, lasting, and spiritual change requires grace, truth and time.

Growth is a process and change comes by steps, “baby steps.” I encourage you to select no more than one item, step, change or application per day. If the study brings up more than one, pick one and start there. Spiritual formation comes when you are overwhelmed by your own personal need for change and transformation. It is here, in the implementation phase, that you deal with confession, repentance, godly sorrow, forgiveness, acceptance and other core issues of spiritual transformation and renewal. You may wish to incorporate *Study Help Twenty-One - Praying the Virtues of Scripture*. Ask God to change you. Remember, the goal is to **think, act and feel in new ways**.

Memorization “Recall It”

Commit to memory a key word, phrase, or verse.

“A short pencil is better than a long memory”. Be sure and journal, make a note, of what it is that you want to commit to memory. We tend to remember the things that are important to us.

Journal your reflections and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

As you journal your insights, reflections, impressions, or commitments, as you seek to think, act, and feel in new ways. Do not just read the words but study the Bible text for what is being communicated about the life and teachings of Jesus, practical Christian living, and the key phrase Just One Thing “In Christ” spirited insight. Let your thoughts flow. Some days it

may be a truth you grab and other days it may a truth that grabs you. All is grist for the mill.

Baptists and evangelicals have not been known for written prayers. Reference Acts 4:23-31 and see how Scripture, experience, passion and desire impacted this prayer of the early church. Do not miss the fact that this is a written prayer. This discipline may be challenging at first, but I am hoping that this exercise will be enriching and empowering to you personally, to your prayer partners, your group, and to your church. The written prayers do not have to be long. Remember, it is better to have heart without words than words without heart. Be sure and use the Saturday reflection time to re-read your prayers for the week. Also, let your Bible intake and meditation upon it inform the prayers you write. Consider using some of the Names of God, Study Help Five, as you address the Lord in your written prayer. As you close each daily study remember to select your key Just One Thing “In Christ” word, phrase, or spiritual insight.

Day One-Sunday

Before beginning Day One – please see
Daily Assignments Explained on pages vii-xii.

2 Corinthians 5:11-21 (17)

Prepare Your Heart for Worship

Worship – “Live It!”

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

Meditation – “Ponder It!”

Reflect upon today’s passage.

Prayer – “Ask It!”

Write a prayer prompted by today’s scripture and reflection.

Sunday Sermon Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing sermon notes.

Day Two-Monday

Romans 3:21-31(22,24)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Three-Tuesday

Romans 6:11-23(11, 23)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Four- Wednesday

Romans 8:1-11(1,2)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Five - Thursday

Romans 8:31-39(39)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Six-Friday

Romans 12:1-8(5)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Seven-Saturday

Read Psalm 1:1-6

Meditation - "Consider It!"

Today, and every Saturday in this 40-day study, you will be asked to reflect, consider, and meditate. Give special attention to Psalm 1:2. Spend time today reflecting on what you studied this week. Write your key word, phrase, or verse, the subject of your meditation, in the space provided below.

Memorization - “Know It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s reflection.

Day Eight-Sunday

Romans 16:1-27(7,9,10)

Prepare Your Heart for Worship

Worship ~ “Live It!”

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Reflect upon today’s passage.

Prayer ~ “Ask It!”

Write a prayer prompted by today’s scripture and reflection.

Sunday Sermon Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing sermon notes.

Day Nine-Monday

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 1(2,30)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Ten- Tuesday

1 Corinthians 3:1-9(1)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Eleven-Wednesday

1 Corinthians 4:1-21(10)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twelve-Thursday

1 Corinthians 15:18-34(18,19,22,31)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirteen-Friday

2 Corinthians 3:1-18(14)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Fourteen-Saturday

Read Joshua 1:1-9

Meditation - "Consider It!"

Today, and every Saturday in this 40-day study, you will be asked to reflect, consider, and meditate. Give special attention to Joshua 1:8. Spend time today reflecting on what you studied this week. Write your key word, phrase, or verse, the subject of your meditation, in the space provided below.

Memorization - “Know It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s reflection.

Day Fifteen-Sunday

2 Corinthians 12:1-10(2)

Prepare Your Heart for Worship

Worship - "Live It!"

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

Meditation - "Ponder It!"

Reflect upon today's passage.

Prayer - "Ask It!"

Write a prayer prompted by today's scripture and reflection.

Sunday Sermon Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing sermon notes.

Day Sixteen-Monday

Galatians 2:11-21(16)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Seventeen-Tuesday

Galatians 3:10-18(14, 17)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Eighteen-Wednesday

Galatians 3:19-29(22, 26)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Nineteen-Thursday

Galatians 5:1-26(6)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Friday

Galatians 6:1-18(15)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-One-Saturday

Read Micah 6:1-8

Meditation ~ "Consider It!"

Today, and every Saturday in this 40-day study, you will be asked to reflect, consider, and meditate. Give special attention to Micah 6:8. Spend time today reflecting on what you studied this week. Write your key word, phrase, or verse, the subject of your meditation, in the space provided below.

Memorization - “Know It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s reflection.

Day Twenty-Two - Sunday

Ephesians 1:1-14(3, 10, 12)

Prepare your heart for worship.

Worship - "Live It!"

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

Meditation - "Ponder It!"

Reflect upon today's passage.

Prayer - "Ask It!"

Write a prayer prompted by today's scripture and reflection.

Sunday Sermon Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing sermon notes.

Day Twenty-Three-Monday

Ephesians 1:15-23(20)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Four-Tuesday

Ephesians 2:1-10(6, 7, 10)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Five - Wednesday

Ephesians 2:11-20(13)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Six-Thursday

Ephesians 3:1-13(11)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Seven-Friday

Ephesians 4:11-32(32)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Eight-Saturday

Read 1 Timothy 4:7-16

Meditation - "Consider It!"

Today, and every Saturday in this 40-day study, you will be asked to reflect, consider, and meditate. Give special attention to I Timothy 4:15. Spend time today reflecting on what you studied this week. Write your key word, phrase, or verse, the subject of your meditation, in the space provided below.

Memorization - “Know It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s reflection.

Day Twenty-Nine-Sunday

Philippians 2:1-11(1,5)

Prepare your heart for worship.

Worship ~ “Live It!”

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Reflect upon today’s passage.

Prayer ~ “Ask It!”

Write a prayer prompted by today’s scripture and reflection.

Sunday Sermon Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing sermon notes.

Day Thirty-Monday

Philippians 3:1-11 (3, 9)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-One-Tuesday

Philippians 3:12-21(14)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Two-Wednesday

Philippians 4:1-23(21)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It!”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Three-Thursday

Colossians 1:1-8(2, 4)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Four-Friday

Colossians 2:1-10 (5)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Five-Saturday

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

Meditation - "Consider It!"

Today, and every Saturday in this 40-day study, you will be asked to reflect, consider, and meditate. Give special attention to Hebrews 12:3. Spend time today reflecting on what you studied this week. Write your key word, phrase, or verse, the subject of your meditation, in the space provided below.

Memorization - "Know It!"

Commit to memory your "Just One Thing", key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today's reflection.

Day Thirty-Six-Palm Sunday

Colossians 1:24-29(28)

Prepare your heart for worship.

Worship ~ “Live It!”

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Reflect upon today’s passage.

Prayer ~ “Ask It!”

Write a prayer prompted by today’s scripture and reflection.

Sunday Sermon Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing sermon notes.

Day Thirty-Seven-Monday

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10(3)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Eight-Tuesday

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18(16)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Nine-Wednesday

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22(18)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Forty-Maundy Thursday

2 Timothy 1:8-12(9)

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

Meditation ~ “Ponder It!”

Note your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

Implementation ~ “Do It!”

Think, act and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

Memorization ~ “Recall It”

Commit to memory your “Just One Thing”, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Reflect, Journal and Prepare

Good Friday

Trials and Mt. Calvary- Matthew 27:1-66; Mark 15:1-47;
Luke 23:26-56.

Notice the miracle on the night of Jesus' betrayal, Luke 22:51.

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Hebrews 12:3

Meditate and "consider" what you have learned this week.

Holy Saturday

Reflect today on Jesus' finished work on the Cross.

"Meditate on these things" Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8; Micah 6:8;

1 Timothy 4:15; Hebrews 12:3.

Remember the Sign of Jonah? Matthew 12:39, 40. Read Isaiah 53.

Easter Resurrection Sunday Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24,
John 20-21

Prepare your heart to worship. Bring a guest and celebrate the most wonderful reality and miracle of eternity.

He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

Because He is Risen, we shall rise!

1 Corinthians 15:1-58 & 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Sermon Notes: Luke 24:1-53

Study Help One

Hearing from God – Hearing God (2021)

God has spoken through...

1. Direct Revelation
2. Dreams
3. Written Words
4. Prophets - People
5. Circumstances
6. Angels
7. Jesus Christ
8. The Holy Spirit
9. Visions
10. Creation
11. Still Small Voice

God speaks today primarily through...

1. His Word (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. His Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16)
3. Other believers in Christ (John 1:40-42)
4. Circumstances (Acts 9:11-19)

Remember to always test everything you think you hear God saying against the Bible! God will not speak against the Bible!

Hearing from God through His Word-The Bible

1. Pray-Ask boldly for God to speak through His Word
2. Listen-God may bring a particular passage to mind
3. Read-Begin to read particular passages or a book
4. Persist-God will eventually speak to you- wait on the Lord
5. Continue-Read the Word daily and let God speak
6. Compare-Correlate other passages on the subject
7. Meditate- Reflect on God's Word – *Study Help 24*
8. Memorize-Hide God's Word in your heart-*Study Help 25*
9. Journal-A short pencil is better than a long memory
10. Pray Scripture-Pray Bible words, principles, and prayers

Note: Seek godly counsel on how to apply what you hear!

Taken from *Listening to God*, Charles Stanley (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996) and from Keith Thompson.

Study Help Two A Heart for God

Exodus 25:2	A Willing Heart
Deuteronomy 6:5	All your Heart
Joshua 24:23	Incline your Heart
1 Samuel 12:20	A Servant's Heart
1 Samuel 13:14	A Man after God's own Heart
1 Samuel 16:7	God Looks on the Heart
1 Kings 3:12	A Wise and Understanding Heart
1 Kings 14:8	A Following Heart
1 Kings 15:14	A Perfect Heart
2 Kings 22:19	A Tender Heart
1 Chronicles 22:19	A Seeking Heart
2 Chronicles 19:3	A Prepared Heart
2 Chronicles 29:34	An Upright Heart
Nehemiah 2:12	"Holy Heart-Burn"
Job 23:16	A Soft, Faint Heart
Psalms 9:1	A Whole Heart
Psalms 24:4	A Pure Heart
Psalms 34:18	A Broken Heart

Study Help Two A Heart for God

Psalm 57:7	A Steadfast Heart
Psalm 62:8	Pour out Your Heart
Psalm 119:80	A Blameless Heart
Psalm 139:23	Search my Heart
Proverbs 4:23	Guard your Heart
Proverbs 17:22	A Merry Heart
Proverbs 23:7	As you Think in your Heart, you Are
Isaiah 30:29	A Glad Heart
Isaiah 57:15	A Humble & Contrite Heart
Matthew 6:21	Where your Treasure is, there will Your Heart be Also
Matthew 11:29	A Meek and Lowly Heart
Matthew 12:34	Out of The Heart the Mouth Speaks
Luke 2:19	A Reflective Heart
Luke 24:32	A Hot, Passionate Heart
Acts 16:14	An Open Heart
2 Corinthians 9:7	A Purposeful Heart
Colossians 3:1,2	A Set Heart

Study Help Three

How to Prepare Your Heart for Revival

1. Get thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself.
 2. Set your face like a flint toward sweeping transformation of your life.
 3. Put yourself in the way of blessing.
 4. Do a thorough job of repenting.
 5. Make restitution wherever possible.
 6. Bring your life into accord with the Sermon on the Mount and such other New Testament Scriptures as are designed to instruct us in the way of righteousness.
 7. Be serious-minded.
 8. Deliberately narrow your interests.
 9. Begin to witness.
 10. Have faith in God.
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Taken from *Heart Cry for Revival*,
Stephen Olford, Zondervan, 1969.
Stephen Olford quoting A. W. Tozer.

Study Help Four

The Seven Realities of Experiencing God

Reality No. 1:

God is always at work around you.

Reality No. 2:

God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.

Reality No. 3:

God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.

Reality No. 4:

God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

Reality No. 5:

God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.

Reality No. 6:

You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

Reality No. 7:

You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

Taken from, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*, Henry Blackaby, LifeWay, 1991.

Study Help Five
The Names of God

Elohim	<i>Powerful God</i>	Genesis 1:1
Adonai	<i>Lord</i>	Genesis 15:2
El Elyon	<i>God Most High</i>	Genesis 14:19
El Shaddai	<i>Almighty God</i>	Genesis 17:1
Yahweh/Jehovah	<i>LORD</i>	Genesis 2:4
Jehovah Jireh	<i>The LORD Provides</i>	Genesis 22:14
Jehovah Rophe	<i>The LORD Heals</i>	Exodus 15:26
Jehovah Nissi	<i>The LORD Is My Banner</i>	Exodus 17:15
Jehovah Mekadesh	<i>The LORD Who Sanctifies</i>	Leviticus 20:8
Jehovah Shalom	<i>The LORD Is Peace</i>	Judges 6:24
Jehovah Tsidkenu	<i>The LORD Is Our Righteousness</i>	Jeremiah 23:6
Jehovah Rohi	<i>The LORD Is My Shepherd</i>	Psalms 23:1
Jehovah Shammah	<i>The LORD Is There</i>	Ezekiel 48:35

Taken from The Names of God by Kenneth S. Hemphill, Broadman
& Holman Publishers, 2001.

Study Help Six
Jesus and the Sabbath

Matthew 12:1	Disciples Picked Grain on the Sabbath
Matthew 12:7	“I Desire Mercy, not Sacrifice.”
Matthew 12:8	Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath
Matthew 12:12	Lawful to do Good on the Sabbath
Mark 1:21	Jesus went to the Synagogue
Mark 2:27	The Sabbath was made for Man, not Man for the Sabbath
Luke 4:31	On the Sabbath he Taught the People
Luke 13:10-13	Jesus Healed on the Sabbath
John 5:16-18	God is Always at Work
John 7:21-24	Jesus did Miracles on the Sabbath, “Stop judging by mere appearances, make a right judgment.”

Study Help Seven
The Christ of the Psalms

PSALM	PORTRAYAL	FULFILLED
2:7	The Son of God	Matthew 3:17
8:2	Praised by children	Matthew 21:15, 16
8:6	Ruler of all	Hebrews 2:8
16:10	Rises from death	Matthew 28:7
22:1	Forsaken by God	Matthew 27:46
22:7, 8	Derided by enemies	Luke 23:35
22:16	Hands and feet pierced	John 20:27
22:18	Lots cast for clothes	Matthew 27:35, 36
34:20	Bones unbroken	John 19:32, 33, 36
35:11	Accused by false witnesses	Mark 14:57
35:19	Hated without cause	John 15:25
40:7, 8	Delights in God's will	Hebrews 10:7
41:9	Betrayed by a friend	Luke 22:47
45:6	The eternal King	Hebrews 1:8
68:18	Ascends to heaven	Acts 1:9-11
69:9	Zealous for God's house	John 2:17
69:21	Given vinegar with gall	Matthew 27:34
109:4	Prays for enemies	Luke 23:34
109:8	His betrayer replaced	Acts 1:20
110:1	Rules over His enemies	Matthew 22:44
110:4	A priest forever	Hebrews 5:6
118:22	Chief cornerstone	Matthew 21:42
118:26	Comes in name of the Lord	Matthew 21:9

Taken from *The Believer's Study Bible*, Thomas Nelson
Publishers, Nashville TN, 1991, The Christ of the Psalms, pg. 731.

Study Help Eight
The Passion of Christ in the Psalms

- Psalm 2:2** “The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.”
- Psalm 16:10** “because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”
- Psalm 22:1** “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
- Psalm 22:7** “All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.”
- Psalm 22:16** “...they have pierced my hands and my feet.”
- Psalm 22:18** “They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.”
- Psalm 34:20** “he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.”
- Psalm 41:9** “Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”
- Psalm 49:15** “But God will redeem my life from the grave.”
- Psalm 68:18** “When you ascended on high...”
- Psalm 69:21** “They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.”

Study Help Nine

The Trials of Jesus Christ

Matthew 26:36-56 Jesus prays and is arrested in Gethsemane

John 18:12-14, 19-23 Jesus taken to Annas

John 18:24 Jesus taken to Caiaphas the high priest

Matthew 26:57-67 Jesus before the high priest, teachers of the
Mark 14:53-65 law, elders, and the whole Sanhedrin
Luke 22:66-71

Luke 23:1-7 Jesus before Pilate

Luke 23:6-12 Jesus before Herod

Matthew 27:11-26 Jesus before Pilate, Jesus condemned and
Mark 15:1-15 Barabbas released
Luke 23:13-25

Study Help Ten
The Stations of the Cross

Station One	Jesus is Condemned to Die
Station Two	Jesus Carries His Cross
Station Three	Jesus Falls the First Time
Station Four	Jesus Meets His Mother
Station Five	Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross
Station Six	Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face
Station Seven	Jesus Falls the Second Time
Station Eight	Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem
Station Nine	Jesus Falls the Third Time
Station Ten	Jesus is Stripped
Station Eleven	Jesus is Nailed to the Cross
Station Twelve	Jesus Dies on the Cross
Station Thirteen	Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross
Station Fourteen	Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Taken from Creighton University Web site
<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations.html>

Study Help Eleven
The Last Words of Christ from the Cross

Matthew 27:46 “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
Mark 15:34

Luke 23:34 “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Luke 23:43 “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

John 19:26, 27 “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the Disciple, “Here is your mother.”

John 19:28 “I am thirsty.”

Luke 23:46 “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

John 19:30 “It is finished.”

*Remember the last words that were spoken by
Jesus Christ before He ascended into heaven.*

Matthew 28:18-20 “Go and make disciples of all nations.”

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...”

Remember that Jesus is still speaking today.

Hebrews 7:25 “He always lives to intercede...”

Study Help Twelve Events of Holy Week

Day	Event	Biblical Reference
Sunday	The triumphal entry into Jerusalem	Mark 11:1-11
Monday	Cleanses the temple in Jerusalem	Mark 11:15-19
Tuesday	The Sanhedrin challenges Jesus' authority	Luke 20:1-8
	Jesus foretells of the destruction of Jerusalem and His return	Matthew 24:25
	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany	John 12:2-8
	Judas bargains with the Jewish rulers to betray Jesus	Luke 22:3-6
Thursday	Jesus eats the Passover meal with His disciples and institutes the Memorial Supper	John 13:1-30 Mark 14:22-26
	Prays in Gethsemane for His disciples	John 17
Friday	His betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane	Mark 14:43-50
	Jesus questioned by Annas, the former high priest	John 18:12-24
	Condemned by Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin	Mark 14:53-65

Friday continued...	Peter denies Jesus three times	John 18:15-27
	Jesus is formally condemned by the Sanhedrin	Luke 22:66-71
	Judas commits suicide	Matthew 27:3-10
	The trial of Jesus before Pilate	Luke 23:1-5
	Jesus' appearance before Herod Antipas	Luke 23:6-12
	Formally sentenced to death by Pilate	Luke 23:13-25
	Jesus is mocked and crucified between two thieves	Mark 15:16-27
	The veil of the temple is torn as Jesus dies	Matthew 27:51-56
	His burial in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea	John 19:31-42
Sunday	Jesus is raised from the dead	Luke 24:1-9

Taken from *The Believer's Study Bible*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville TN, 1991, Events of the Holy Week, pg. 1483.

Study Help Thirteen

References to Christ's Return in Philippians

The Book of Philippians is known as the book of “joy.” There are almost as many references to Christ’s return and last things as there are to joy. Do not allow the promise and prayer, “Maranatha, even so come quickly Lord Jesus,” to be absent or overlooked in your life or experience.

Philippians 1:6	“the day of Christ Jesus”
Philippians 1:10	“the day of Christ”
Philippians 1:23	“depart and be with Christ”
Philippians 2:10,11	“every knee should bow ...and every tongue confess
Philippians 2:16	“on the day of Christ”
Philippians 3:10,11	“power of his resurrection...attain to the resurrection from the dead”
Philippians 3:14	“God has called me heavenward in Jesus Christ”
Philippians 3:20,21	“our citizenship is in heaven...we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ...will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body”
Philippians 4:5	“the Lord is near”
Philippians 4:19	“his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”

Study Help Fourteen

T.A.C.O.S. – Prayer Acrostic

From the days of my youth, I remember various acrostics that were used to assist people in prayer. The acrostic provides an approach to praying that can enhance and deepen your prayers. Also, remember that variety is helpful. Do not get into the rut of “vain repetitions.”

Thanksgiving

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Adoration

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.” *Psalms 150:6*

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen”

1 Timothy 1:17

Confession

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

Others

“...pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

James 5:16

Self

“Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might. Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.”

Psalms 54:1,2

Study Help Fifteen

Selected Scriptures on Prayer

“At that time men began to call on the name of the Lord.”

Genesis 4:26b

“As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you.” *1 Samuel 12:23a*

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:6, 7*

“I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.” *1 Timothy 2:1*

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” *Ephesians 6:18*

“Pray continually.” *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

“You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” *James 4:2b, 3*

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

James 5:16b

The prayer of Jabez

1 Chronicles 4:10

A prayer of Solomon

2 Chronicles 6:14-42

A prayer of Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1:4-11

Prayers of Jesus

Matthew 6:9-15; 26:36-46; John 17

A prayer of the early church

Acts 4:24-31

Paul's prayer for the:

Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14-21

The prayer of Epaphras

Colossians 4:12

Study Help Sixteen
Pray Hard - Prayer in Colossians

Always Pray	Colossians 1:3, 4, 12
Give Thanks	Colossians 1: 3, 12, 24; 2:7; 3:15-17; 4:2
Pray Virtues of Scripture	Colossians 1:5, 9-11; 3:12-16
Don't Stop Praying	Colossians 1:9
The Prayer of Faith	Colossians 1:9-11
Prayer as Declaration & Praise	Colossians 1:12-21
Pray Scripture	Colossians 1:12-21
Pray Your Purpose	Colossians 1: 28, 29
Agonize/Yearn in Prayer	Colossians 1:29; 4:12, 13
How to Pray	Colossians 3:16
Singing as Prayer	Colossians 3:15-17
Pray from Your Heart	Colossians 3:16, 22
Be Serious/Devoted to Prayer	Colossians 4:2
Pray in the "Plural"	Colossians 4:3
Pray to be A Bold Witness	Colossians 4:2-6
Pray Hard-Wrestle in Prayer	Colossians 4:12, 13
Request Prayer	Colossians 4:3, 18
Pray a Blessing	Colossians 4:18

Study Help Seventeen

Praying for Missionaries – Acts 13, 14

1. Hear and heed the call of the Lord. *Acts 13:2*
2. Appointment, sending and support. *Acts 13:3*
3. Effective work, perseverance and strength. *Acts 13:2; 14:26*
4. The Holy Spirit's leadership. *Acts 13:4*
5. Safe travel and other travel related issues. *Acts 13:4*
6. Building the missionary team. *Acts 13:5*
7. Understand and work well with authority. *Acts 13:3, 5*
8. Courage to face opposition. *Acts 13:6-12*
9. The impressive work of God through missionaries. *Acts 13:12*
10. Souls would be saved. *Acts 13:12*
11. Acculturation, adapting, flexibility and effectiveness.
Acts 13:13-15
12. Bible-based ministry. *Acts 13:16-41*
13. The Gospel (Good News of Jesus Christ) would go forth.
Acts 13: 31, 32, 38, 39
14. Responsive people. *Acts 13:42-46*
15. Boldness. *Acts 13:46; 14:3*
16. Withstand persecutions. *Acts 13:50, 51; 14:19, 20, 22*
17. Meet the needs of people. *Acts 14:8-10*
18. Humility and give God the glory. *Acts 13:48; Acts 14:11-18*
19. Make disciples. *Acts 14:21*
20. Plant and strengthen churches. *Acts 14:21-23*
21. Train and appoint indigenous leadership. *Acts 14:23*
22. Prayer, fasting and spiritual disciplines. *Acts 14:23*
23. Continue in God's grace and be blessed. *Acts 14:26*
24. Accomplish goals and complete tasks. *Acts 14:26*
25. Celebrate the victories. *Acts 14:26*
26. Keep up communication. *Acts 14:27*
27. Long term commitments. *Acts 14:28*
28. Be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. *Acts 13:52*
29. To make the most of every opportunity. *Acts 13:15*
30. To be culturally relevant. *Acts 13:26*

Study Help Eighteen

Daily Prayer Principles

1. Learn the names of God and use them in prayer!
2. Remember who you are and to whom you are speaking!
3. Bless God and others through prayer!
4. As you pray tell God how great He is!
5. Ask God for spiritual growth for yourself and others!
6. Ask God for wisdom for yourself and others!
7. Ask God to hear your prayer and to forgive your sins!
8. Ask God to turn your heart in full commitment to Him!
9. Where are your tears? Ask God for a tender heart!
10. Be a grateful saint! Give thanks to God!
11. Ask God to make you a willing, cheerful and generous giver!
12. Pray for spiritual power and His glory in your church!
13. Admit your sin and pray for moral purity!
14. Ask God to break your heart over the things that break His!
15. God keeps His covenants and so should you!
16. Repent and do the things you did at first! Revelation 2:5
17. Establish set times to pray and pray spontaneously!
18. Pray in the plural! Use we, us, our and ours!
19. Pray the virtues of Scripture!
20. Pray for revival!

Study Help Eighteen continued...
Daily Prayer Principles

21. Memorize and pray Scripture!
22. Be honest with God and agree with Scripture!
23. God hears, sees, knows and rewards! Pray like it!
24. Make more spiritual than material requests!
25. Fast and pray!
26. Pray and live to please God!
27. Pray like Jesus!
28. Make prayer a priority! First things first!
29. Pray for great boldness to speak God's Word!
30. Be persistent in prayer! Pray without ceasing!
31. Watch and pray! Be vigilant! Pray for one hour!
32. In humility seek God and adjust your life to Him!
33. Pray aggressively! Pray for Kingdom growth!
34. Engage in spiritual warfare! Pray for victory!
35. Ask God for pure motives!
36. Say and pray, "Lord willing," "Your will be done!"
37. Pray believing! Ask God for great things!
38. Agonize in prayer!
39. First things first! Pray first, fervently and frequently!
40. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! Pray for Christ's return!

Study Help Nineteen

Praying for Those Who Need Christ

1. **Pray** in agreement with God's will.
2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4
2. **Pray** for the Gospel message to be heard.
Romans 10:17
3. **Pray** for the "spiritual blinders" to be lifted.
2 Corinthians 4:4
4. **Pray** for strongholds to be broken.
2 Corinthians 10:4,5
5. **Pray** for the convicting work of the Holy Spirit.
John 16:8-11
6. **Pray** for God to draw the unbelieving to Jesus.
John 6:44
7. **Pray** for repentance and faith.
Mark 1:15
8. **Pray** for receptiveness to the Gospel.
Matthew 13:23
9. **Pray** for your witness.
Acts 4:29; 1 Peter 2:12; 1 Peter 3:15
10. **Pray** for the church, evangelism, church planting and missionary enterprises.
Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

Study Help Twenty

How to Pray for Revival

“When I shut up the heavens so that there is not rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:13, 14

The Posture of Prayer

Humility

If my people will humble themselves

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 14:11

The Petition of Prayer

Ask God for Revival

And pray

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.” Colossians 4:2, 12

The Pursuit of Prayer

God Alone

And seek My face

“Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.” Psalm 24:6

The Pivoting of Prayer

Repentance

And turn from their wicked ways

“He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Study Help Twenty-One

Fasting and Praying - Isaiah 58

Disciple's Fast - "To loose the bonds of wickedness." *Isaiah 58:6*
Purpose-Freeing others and us from addictions to sin.
Key Verse - *Matthew 17:21*

Ezra Fast - "To undo the heavy burdens." *Isaiah 58:6*
Purpose-To solve problems and overcome barriers.
Key Verse: *Ezra 8:23*

Samuel Fast - "To let the oppressed go free" *Isaiah 58:6*
Purpose-For revival and soul winning. Key Verse - *1 Samuel 7:6*

Elijah Fast - "To break every yoke." *Isaiah 58:6*
Purpose-To conquer mental and emotional problems.
Key Verses - *1 Kings 19:4,8*

Widow's Fast - "To share our bread with the hungry" *Isaiah 58:7*
Purpose-To meet humanitarian needs of others.
Key Verse - *1 Kings 17:16*

Saint Paul Fast - "Light to break forth like the morning" *Isaiah 58:8*
Purpose-Bringing insight and clarity for crucial decisions.
Key Verse - *Acts 9:9*

Daniel Fast - "Thine health shall spring forth" *Isaiah 58:8*
Purpose-For a healthier life or healing.
Key Verse - *Daniel 1:8*

John the Baptist Fast - "Your righteousness shall go before you." *Isaiah 58:8*
Purpose-To enhance testimony and influence.
Key Verse - *Luke 1:15*

Esther Fast - "the glory of the Lord will protect us." *Isaiah 58:8*
Purpose-Challenge, victory, and breakthrough.
Key Verses - *Esther 4:16; 5:2*

Taken from *Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough: A Guide to Nine Biblical Fasts*,
Elmer L. Towns, Regal Books, 1996, pp.20-23.

Study Help Twenty-Two

Praying the Virtues of Scripture

There are numerous examples in the Bible where God's people prayed Scripture back to God, i.e. *Acts 4:25, 26*. I recommend that you begin to pray the virtues of the Bible into your life and into the lives of others. By doing so it is tantamount to asking God to make you more like Jesus. Familiarize yourself with the Scriptures below and begin to pray them into your life and the life of others.

Matthew 5:3-12	The Beatitudes
Acts 6:3-5	Full of Faith, Holy Spirit and Wisdom
1 Corinthians 13:4-8	The Love Chapter, Love's Virtues
Romans 5:3-5	Suffering, Perseverance, Character and Hope
Ephesians 4:32	Kind, Compassionate and Forgiving
Colossians 1:9-11	Wisdom, Courage and Perseverance
James 3:17, 18	Heavenly Wisdom
1 Timothy 6:11	"The Man of God"
2 Peter 1:5-9	Prayer for Effectiveness

You can pray *2 Peter 1:5-9* like this. "Lord, please give me increase and growth in faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. Lord, in so doing please keep me from being unfruitful and unproductive in my life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pray these virtues into your life and the lives of others.

Study Help Twenty-Three

Seven-Fold Plan for Bible Study

1. **Appreciation** - Grasp the nature, quality and significance.

Love It - Have a deep love and respect for the Word of God.
Psalm 119:159... I love your precepts...

2. **Investigation** - Observe, cross-examine, and inquire.

See It - The ability to notice all key factors in a Bible text.
Proverbs 24:30-34...I learned a lesson from what I saw.

3. **Explanation** - Tell the meaning, understand & make plain.

Say it - Paraphrase-put the meaning in your own words.
Nehemiah 8:8...make clear and give the meaning.

4. **Connection** - To show a relationship.

Know It - Locate others references that correlate to the text.
The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible!

5. **Meditation** - To contemplate, reflect upon and ponder.

Ponder It - Think deeply and consider seriously God's Word.
Psalm 1:2...delight in and meditate upon God's Word.

6. **Implementation** - Put to use for some practical purpose.

Do It - Specific, simple, singular, measurable, helpful response.
James 1:22...don't just listen, do what it says.

7. **Memorization** - To bring to mind what has been learned.

Recall It - Spend time committing God's Word to mind & heart. Psalm 119:11...I have hidden your word in my heart.

Study Help Twenty-Four
“In Him” Scriptural References

Verse Reference	Phrase	Context
Romans 4:24	Believe in Him	4:16-24
Romans 10:14	Believe in Him	10:14-18
Romans 15:12	In Him we have Hope	15:7-13
2 Corinthians 1:19,20	In Him “Yes & Amen”	1:15-22
2 Corinthians 5:21	Righteousness of God	5:17-21
2 Corinthians 13:4	Power of God	13:1-4
Ephesians 1:4-13	Chosen, Redeemed, Predestined	1:1-14
Ephesians 3:12	Boldness, Access, Confidence	3:8-13
Philippians 1:29	Believe & Suffer	1:27-30
Philippians 3:9	Righteousness from God	3:7-11
Colossians 1:17,19	All Things Consist	1:9-20
Colossians 2:6-11	Walk, Established Consist Fullness of God	2:6-15
2 Thessalonians 1:12	Jesus Christ Glorified in You	1:11, 12

Study Help Twenty-Five

Biblical Meditation

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1:2. See Joshua 1:8.

The word here for meditate is *bagab*, to murmur or ponder.

Meditate on these things; give yourselves entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 1 Timothy 4:15 NKJV

The word meditate is *meletao*, take care of, revolve in the mind.

Biblical meditation is a spiritual pursuit and discipline for spiritual growth, formation and transformation. It is *not* some kind of mystical, empty headed, palms up, New Age endeavor. It is pondering, reflecting and seriously considering the things of God in order that you may better implement and adjust to God, God's Will and God's Word.

Meditate on:

1. God-*"Consider Him,"* Hebrews 12:3
2. Scripture-*"in His law he meditates day and night."* Psalm 1:2
3. Creation-*"when I consider your heavens."* Psalm 8:3
4. Bible Directives-this is meditating on the things the Scripture tells us to. *"look at the birds, the lilies"* Matthew 6:26, 28
5. Virtues-*"whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy, think about such things."*
Philippians 4:8
6. Events & Experiences-*"men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do."* 1 Chronicles 12:32
7. Implementation-*"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* James 1:22

Study Help Twenty-Six
Hiding God's Word in Your Heart
Memorization

The disciples asked Jesus, “Lord increase our faith,” and without faith it is impossible to please God. The resources of faith are the Word of God (the Bible), prayer, and service. The practice of the disciplines of the Christian life can be linked to and flow from these three powerful resources. One of the areas of discipline is that of Scripture memory. To grow and increase as a committed follower of Jesus Christ you must hide God’s Word in your heart.

1. Consider Jesus. Read *Matthew 4:1-11*. Jesus practiced Scripture memory.
2. “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (*Psalms 119:11*).
3. Make a commitment. Determine to make Scripture memory a part of your life.
4. Have a system. You may use cards, a notebook, a computer, or whatever system works for you. Your system should provide a functional plan.
5. Start simply. Start with single verses. Move from that point to multiple verses and passages of Scripture. “All Scripture is profitable,” but begin with that “special” verse that you have always wanted to put to memory. Advance from that point.
6. Give time to your verse every day for six days, several times a day. Review the verse one day a week for six weeks. Then review the verse every six weeks. Review the old as you add the new.
7. Hide God’s Word in your heart, not just in your head. Ponder and apply what you memorize.

Study Help Twenty-Seven
Seven Realities of the Churches of the Revelation

Ephesus	Revelation 2:1-7	The Loveless Church
Smyrna	Revelation 2:8-11	The Living Church
Pergamum	Revelation 2:12-17	The Lawless Church
Thyatira	Revelation 2:18-29	The Licentious Church
Sardis	Revelation 3:1-6	The Lifeless Church
Philadelphia	Revelation 3:7-13	The Loved Church
Laodicea	Revelation 3:14-22	The Lukewarm Church

1. Christ knows the truth about and speaks the truth to His churches and the message is still, “The Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.”
2. The vast majority of churches are in need of spiritual remedy and all are in need of spiritual vitality.
3. Repentance is still the spiritual remedy.
4. Persecution works to purify the churches.
5. Churches can be deceived concerning their true spiritual condition (Revelation 3:17).
6. Christ rebukes and chastens those He loves (Revelation 3:19).
7. All true believers overcome and possess precious promises and await glorious rewards (1 John 2:12-14; Revelation 12:11).

Study Help Twenty-Eight

Areas of Submission in the New Testament

The word *submit* in the New Testament is the Greek word *hupotasso*. The prefix *hupo* means under, and the word *tasso* means to arrange. Submission in the New Testament means to arrange in an orderly fashion under the authority of another.

Another word used in this context means to hear under and is often translated to obey.

To be a committed follower of Jesus Christ you must submit to His Lordship. Also, you must submit to all areas that the New Testament instructs. Note well the seven areas of submission in the New Testament.

1. Submit to God
James 4:7; Hebrews 12:9
2. Submit to Government
Romans 13:5; 1 Peter 2:13
3. Wives to their own husbands
Ephesians 5:22, 24; Colossians 3:18
4. Children to their parents
Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20
5. Employees to employers
Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22; 1 Peter 2:18
(Slaves to masters)
6. Mutual submission within the Church
Ephesians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 16:16
7. Submit to spiritual leaders
Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24
8. Younger to the older
1 Peter 5:5

Study Help Twenty-Nine
Faith is Believing (John 3:16)

2 Chronicles 20:20	Believe God and his prophets
Mark 1:15	Repent and believe the gospel
Mark 5:36	Don't be afraid, just believe
Mark 9:24	I believe, help me overcome my unbelief
Luke 8:12	Believe and be saved
Luke 24:25	How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken
John 1:12	To those who believed on his name he gave the right to become the children of God
Acts 16:31	Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved-you and your household
Hebrews 11:6	Without faith it is impossible to please God! You must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him
1 John 5:13	I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life!

Study Help Thirty
“One Another’s” of the New Testament

In the “One Another” statements of the New Testament are found a beautiful description of how we are to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ.

LOVE	John 13:34
BE DEVOTED	Romans 12:10
HONOR	Romans 12:10
LIVE IN HARMONY	Romans 12:16
STOP JUDGING	Romans 14:13
ACCEPT	Romans 15:7
INSTRUCT	Romans 15:14
GREET	Romans 16:16
AGREE WITH	1 Corinthians 1:10
SERVE	Galatians 5:13
BEAR BURDENS	Galatians 6:2
BEAR WITH	Ephesians 4:2
FORGIVE	Ephesians 4:32
BE KIND & TENDER	Ephesians 4:32
SPEAK IN SONG	Ephesians 5:19
SUBMIT	Ephesians 5:21
TEACH & ADMONISH	Colossians 3:16
ENCOURAGE	1 Thessalonians 5:11
SPUR ON	Hebrews 10:24
DO NOT SLANDER	James 4:11
PRAY FOR	James 5:16
OFFER HOSPITALITY	1 Peter 4:9
DO NOT GRUMBLE	1 Peter 4:9
BE HUMBLE	1 Peter 5:5
FELLOWSHIP WITH	John 1:7

Commit Ephesians 4:32 to memory. Think of specific people and measurable ways whereby you can apply this verse of Scripture.

Study Help Thirty-One

Leaven in the New Testament

Many times, in the Scriptures leaven is used to represent sin. When the children of Israel are instructed regarding the institution of the Passover they are told to remove the leaven from their houses.

There are five distinct references to leaven as sin in the New Testament.

1. THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES - *Hypocrisy*

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy.”

Luke 12:1 - NKJ

2. THE LEAVEN OF THE SADDUCEES - *Rationalism*

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Matthew 16:11 – NKJ

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection.

Matthew 22:23.

3. THE LEAVEN OF HEROD - *Pride*

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” *Mark 8:15 – NKJ*

Herod was more concerned with looking good than doing what was right. *Matthew 14:1-12.*

4. THE LEAVEN OF THE CORINTHIANS - *Immorality*

“Purge out the old leaven.”

1 Corinthians 5:7

1 Corinthians 5:1-8

5. THE LEAVEN OF THE GALATIANS - *Legalism*

“A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”

Galatians 5:9 - NKJ

Galatians 5:1-15

Study Help Thirty-Two
The “I Am” Statements of Jesus
In the Gospel According to John

I am He	John 4:26 (Messiah Claim)
I am the Bread of Life	John 6:35, 41, 48, &51
I am the Light of the World	John 8:12; 9:5
Before Abraham was, I am	John 8:58
I am the Door/Gate for the Sheep	John 10:7, 9
I am the Good Shepherd	John 10:11, 14
I am the Resurrection and the Life	John 11:25
I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life	John 14:6
I am the True Vine	John 15:1, 5

Study Help Thirty-Three
The “I Am” Statements of Jesus
In the Book of the Revelation

I am the Alpha and Omega
The Beginning and the End
The First and the Last

Revelation 1:8, 17;
2:8; 21:6; 22:13

I am the Almighty

Revelation 1:8

I am the Lord Who Is, Who Was,
And Who Is to Come; He Who Lives,
Was Dead, and Behold I am Alive Evermore

Revelation 1:8, 18

I am He Who Searches the Hearts
and Minds

Revelation 2:23

I am the Root and Offspring of David

Revelation 22:16

I am the Bright and Morning Star

Revelation 22:16

I am Coming Quickly/Soon

Revelation 3:11;
22: 7, 12, 20

Study Help Thirty-Four

Five Keys to Kingdom Work

1. Win Souls –

He that wins souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30

It has been called every Christians job. It is the work of evangelism. We are to fish for people, Mark 1:17

2. Make Disciples –

The Great Commission commands us to make disciples of all peoples. Committed Followers!
Matthew 28:19-20

3. Train Leaders –

The job of the leader is to train leaders.
We must train leaders for Kingdom work.
Ephesians 4:11,12; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Timothy 4:7,8

4. Plant Churches –

(See the church planting ministry of Paul- Acts 13-21).
New churches grow faster and baptize more people than established churches. New builds momentum.

5. Send Missionaries –

It is the job of the church to send missionaries to needy areas to carry on all these keys of ministry. John 20:21; Acts 13:1-3; Romans 10:15

Study Help Thirty-Five

Directions for Singing by John Wesley

Learn these tunes before you learn any others, afterwards learn as many as you please.

Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it to be a blessing.

Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us and sing all our tunes just as we did at first.

Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this, attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so, shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when He cometh in the clouds of heaven. John Wesley's *Select Hymns* 1761

Study Help Thirty-Six
The Elements of Influence

The Elements of Influence

I Me, Myself & I Who are you? Who is the authentic you?
"I AM" Jesus said." *Mark 14:62*
"I am crucified with Christ." *Galatians 2:20*

N Network - Expand, strengthen and utilize your network.
"I was cupbearer for the King." *Nehemiah 1:11*

F Friend - Be a friend of God and others
"Abraham... was called the friend of God." *James 2:23*
"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." *Proverbs 18:24*

L Learn - Learn "from" and learn "of" others.
Be an attentive, active, empathetic observer and listener.
"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." *Matthew 11:29*

U Under - Willing, glad, appropriate submission.
"Lead, follow or get out of the way."
"I too am a man under authority." *Matthew 8:9*

E Encourage - Bless and bolster others.
Encourage...to put courage in.
"Let us encourage one another." *Hebrews 10:24,25*

N New - Be open, flexible and willing to change.
"Always make new mistakes" *Esther Dyson*
"Anyone in Christ is a new creation." *2 Corinthians 5:17*

C Consider others and cooperate -
Curious, interested, concerned.
"Consider others better than yourselves." *Philippians 2:3*

E Energy - Have the strength and vitality for the task.
"He has given us a spirit of power." *2 Timothy 1:7*

Concept, not content, inspired by *Becoming a Person of Influence*, John C. Maxwell & Jim Dornan, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997

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www.highpointe.org

Study Help Thirty-Seven

How to be Born Again

“I tell you the truth no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again...you must be born again.” John 3:3, 7

How do you accept God’s gift of eternal life? You must:

1. **Believe** - You must believe that Jesus died for you and is alive today. You must also believe that Jesus is the only way for you to get to heaven.

The Bible says, “Yet to all who received him (Jesus), to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

2. **Repent** - Understand that you sin (disobey God) and you must turn from your sin. To repent, tell God you have sinned, ask Him to forgive you and to help you obey and please Him. The Bible says, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out” (Acts 3:19).
3. **Receive** - You must invite Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Savior. By inviting Him, you are promising to obey Him in all areas of your life.

You can accept God’s gift by praying a single prayer. When you do this, God forgives and removes the sin that has separated you from Him. Then Jesus comes to live in you as Savior and Lord. You become a part of God’s family.

The Bible says, “*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*” (Romans 10:13).

Taken from *God’s Special Plan for Children*, North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Pkwy., Alpharetta, GA 30022, Pages 16, 18.

Study Help Thirty-Eight

A Process of Spiritual Growth

Read *John 15:1-17* to discover growth as abiding and bearing fruit

Much of Paul's letters to Timothy, 1 & 2 Timothy, are given to the sharing of spiritual principles that would help Timothy to grow and mature so that he could be a dynamic Christian leader. Below are listed a few of those principles. Learn and apply these principles and engage in this process of growth.

PRAYER - *1Timothy 2:1, 2.*

The "first of all" step in spiritual growth is prayer and praying. Be given to prayer and pray without ceasing.

SERVICE & GOOD DEEDS – *1 Timothy 2:10.*

The Bible tells us to abound in good deeds, we are ordained unto good works and that people will glorify God because of our good deeds.

THE BIBLE – *1Timothy 4:5-7.*

We should be mighty in the Word of God through reading, knowledge, memorization, meditation, study, and the spoken word.

THE COMPANY YOU KEEP – *1Timothy 6:5.*

If you want to grow spiritually spend time with the spiritually mature. Bad company corrupts good character. 1 Corinthians 15:33.

PURSUE A VIRTUOUS LIFE – *1Timothy 6:11.*

Pursue righteousness and a godly life. Ask God to change your life and to make you more like Jesus. Say no to the bad and yes to the good.

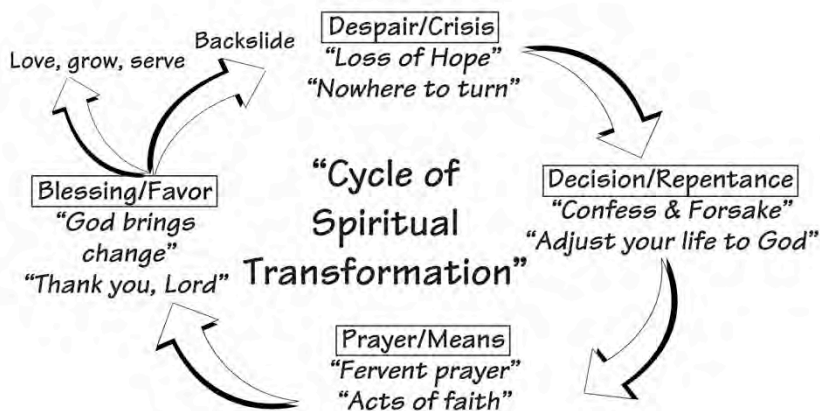
Andy Stanley describes spiritual formation with five components.

1. Practical Teaching
2. Private Disciplines
3. Personal Ministry
4. Providential Relationships
5. Pivotal Circumstances

Deep & Wide, Zondervan, 2012, pg. 144.

Study Help Thirty-Nine

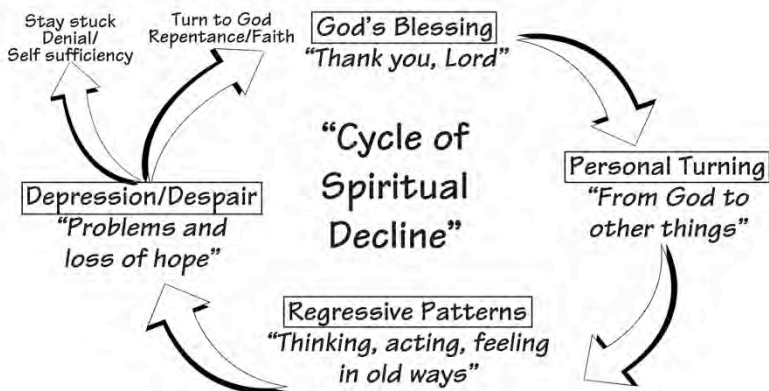
Cycles of Spiritual Transformation & Decline



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Study Help Forty
The “Be” Attitudes of the Parables

THE PARABLE	THE REFERENCE	THE “BE” ATTITUDE
Hidden Lamp	Matthew 5:14-16 Mark 4:21-22 Luke 8:16-17	Be the Light
Wise Builder	Matthew 7:24-27 Luke 6:47-49	Be Wise
New Patch	Matthew 9:16 Mark 2:21 Luke 5:36	Be Flexible
New Wine	Matthew 9:17 Mark 2:22 Luke 5:37-38	Be Fresh
House Divided	Matthew 12:25-29 Mark 3:23-29 Luke 11:17-22	Be Strong
The Sower	Matthew 13:1-23 Mark 4:2-20 Luke 8:4-15	Be Industrious
Weeds/Tares	Matthew 13:24-30	Be Alert
Mustard Seed	Matthew 13:31-32 Mark 4:30-32 Luke 13:18-19	Be Growing
Leaven	Matthew 13:33 Luke 13:20-21	Be Influential
Hidden Treasure	Matthew 13:44	Be Seeking

Great Pearl	Matthew 13:45, 46	Be Looking
The Net	Matthew 13:47-50	Be Informed
Lost Sheep	Matthew 18:12-14 Luke 15:1-7	Be Concerned
Wicked Servant	Matthew 18:21-35	Be Forgiving
The Vineyard Workers	Matthew 20:1-16	Be Content
Two Sons	Matthew 21:28-32	Be Obedient
The Tenants	Matthew 21:33-45 Mark 12:1-12 Luke 20:9-19	Be Accepting
Wedding Feast	Matthew 22:1-14	Be Saved
Fig & All Trees	Matthew 24:32-44 Mark 13:28-32 Luke 21:29-33	Be Aware
Wise Manager	Matthew 24:45-51 Luke 12:42-48	Be Prudent
Ten Virgins	Matthew 25:1-13	Be Ready
The Talents	Matthew 25:14-30	Be Faithful
Growing Seed	Mark 4:26-29	Be Trusting
Absentee Owner	Mark 13:32-37	Be Watchful
The Debtors	Luke 7:40-43	Be Grateful
Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37	Be Merciful
Friend in Need	Luke 11:5-13	Be Bold

Rich Fool	Luke 12:16-21	Be Godly
Watchful Servants	Luke 12:35-40	Be Prepared
Fruitless Tree	Luke 13:6-9	Be Fruitful
Place of Honor	Luke 14:7-11	Be Humble
Great Banquet	Luke 14:15-24	Be Respectful
Cost of Discipleship	Luke 14:25-35	Be Committed
Lost Coin	Luke 15:8-10	Be Joyous
Lost Son	Luke 15:11-32	Be Forgiving
Shrewd Manager	Luke 16:1-15	Be Savvy
Rich Man & Lazarus	Luke 16:19-31	Be Evangelistic
Unworthy Servants	Luke 17:7-10	Be Dutiful
Persistent Widow	Luke 18:1-8	Be Persistent
Pharisee & Sinner	Luke 18: 9-14	Be Remorseful
The Minas	Luke 19:11-27	Be Diligent

Study Help Forty-One
The Miracles of Jesus

THE MIRACLE	THE REFERENCE
Man with Leprosy	Matthew 8:2-4 Mark 1:40-44 Luke 5:12-14
Centurion's Servant	Matthew 8:5-13 Luke 7:1-10
Peter's Mother-In-Law	Matthew 8:14-15 Mark 1:29-31 Luke 4:38-39
*Heals Many	Matthew 8:16-17 Mark 1:32-34 Luke 4:40-41
Storm in Galilee	Matthew 8:23-27 Mark 4:35-41 Luke 8:22-25
Gadarene Demonic (Legion)	Matthew 8:28-34 Mark 5:1-20 Luke 8:26-39
Paralytic (Palsy)	Matthew 9:1-8 Mark 2:3-12 Luke 5:17-26
Jairus's Daughter	Matthew 9:18-26 Mark 5:21-43 Luke 8:40-56
Issue of Blood	Matthew 9:20-22 Mark 5:24-34 Luke 8:42-48
Blind Healed	Matthew 9:27-31
Deaf Healed	Matthew 9:32-34

Withered Hand in Synagogue on Sabbath	Matthew 12:9-14 Mark 3:1-6 Luke 6:6-11
Blind (Mute)	Matthew 12:22-23 Luke 11:14-16
Feeding the 5,000	Matthew 14:13-21 Mark 6:30-44 Luke 9:10-17 John 6:1-15
Walks on Water	Matthew 14:22-36 Mark 6:45-52 John 6:16-24
Touches Cloak Receives Healing	Matthew 14:34-36 Mark 6:53-56
Daughter of Canaanite Woman	Matthew 15:21-28 Mark 7:24-30
Deaf Mute	Matthew 15:29-31 Mark 7:31-37
Feeding of the 4,000	Matthew 15:29-39 Mark 8:1-10
Boy with Demon	Matthew 17:14-23 Mark 9:14-29
Temple Tax Fish	Matthew 17:24-27
Two Blind Men (Bartimaeus)	Matthew 20:29-34 Mark 10:46-52 Luke 18:35-43
Fig Tree Withers	Matthew 21:18-22 Mark 11:20-25
Demon Possessed in Synagogue	Mark 1:21-28
Deaf Mute	Mark 7:31-37 Luke 4:31-37
Blind Man Bethsaida	Mark 8:22-26

Walks Through Crowd	Luke 4:28-30
First Miraculous Catch	Luke 5:1-11
Son of Widow of Nain	Luke 7:11-17
Cripple Woman on Sabbath	Luke 13:10-17
Dropsy on Sabbath	Luke 14:1-6
The Ten Lepers	Luke 17:11-19
Malchus' Ear	Luke 22:49-51

Miraculous Signs in the Book of John	
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Water to Wine	John 2:1-11
Official's Son	John 4:43-54
Bethesda Pool	John 5:1-15
*Feed of the 5,000	John 6:1-15
*Walks on Water	John 6:16-24
Man Born Blind	John 9:1-11
Lazarus	John 11:1-57
Second Miraculous Catch	John 21:1-14

* Appears in other Gospels as well.

Study Help Forty-Two Holy Spirit Power Points

1. You will receive power and be a witness for Jesus Christ.
2. Spiritual power produces real love and biblical community.
3. There is power in prayer.
4. God blesses those who meditate on His word--the Bible.
5. Spiritual power reveals itself in changed lives.
6. Being born again is a spiritual birth.
7. We are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ.
8. Having believed, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit.
9. Spiritual anointing is God's seal of ownership.
10. We know we live in Christ by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
11. We receive the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ.
12. Spiritual power requires a spiritual birth.
13. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
14. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us.
15. Truly spiritual people keep in step with the Holy Spirit.
16. Do not make the Holy Spirit sad by what you say or do.
17. Do not lose your spiritual passion--do not quench the Spirit.
18. Fully yield your life to the influence of the Holy Spirit.
19. Spiritual power grows with Spirit fullness & control.
20. By grace we are saved and gifted.

Study Help Forty-Two continued...
Holy Spirit Power Points

21. Spiritual gifts are to build up the body of Christ--the church.
22. Spiritually gifted leaders train God's people for service.
23. Spiritual gifts & gifted people are always for God's glory.
24. Members of the body must always stay connected to Christ.
25. Spiritual people use their gifts in service to Christ & church.
26. Spiritual power is expressed through spiritual gifts.
27. Spiritual people possess and manifest the fruit of the Spirit.
28. Spiritual living is virtuous living.
29. The Holy Spirit provides heavenly wisdom and graces.
30. All that matters is faith that works itself out through love.
31. Kingdom living is gracious, virtuous, fruitful living.
32. Spiritual power is seen in patience and perseverance.
33. Spiritual power produces spiritual fruit.
34. Spiritual people fulfill the law of Christ.
35. Being full of faith and wisdom displays spiritual power.
36. Being open to challenge is an opportunity to change.
37. The greatest among us is servant of all.
38. Jesus suffered, died and rose that we might be saved.
39. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us.
40. Spiritual power results in spiritual transformation.

Study Help Forty-Three

Just One Thing- "In Christ" Spiritual Insights

1. Reconciled
2. Redeemed
3. No condemnation
4. More than conquerors
5. One body
6. Eternal life
7. Meditate
8. Ministry partners
9. Sanctified
10. Fellow workers
11. Servants and stewards
12. Confidence
13. Hope and boldness
14. Sufficient Grace
15. Day & Night
16. Justified by faith
17. Blessing & promise
18. Children of God
19. All that matters - "faith working through love"
20. New creation
21. Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly
22. Every spiritual blessing
23. Mighty Power
24. Heavenly places
25. Brought near

Study Help Forty-Three continued
Just One Thing “In Christ” – Spiritual Insights

26. Eternal purpose
27. Be kind and forgive
28. Take heed, meditate, continue
29. Consolation, comfort, fellowship, mercy
30. Joy and rejoicing
31. Upward call
32. Greet every saint
33. Faith, love and hope
34. Steadfast faith
35. Consider
36. Perfect in Christ
37. Work, labor, patience
38. Resurrection
39. Rejoice, pray, give thanks
40. Saved and called by His grace
41. Reflection – Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection
42. Easter Resurrection Sunday
He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!
Maranatha! Even so Come Quickly Lord Jesus!

Study Help Forty-Four

Where to go from here?

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6, 7

Hopefully, during these forty days you have been challenged and stimulated spiritually. What you have put into practice during these days continue and build upon. May the Lord do a powerful work in you that He might do a powerful work through you.

1. Continue in daily study, journaling, and disciplines.
2. Witness for Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8; 4:29).
3. Submit to God fully, gladly, and obediently.
4. Seek to be reconciled in all broken relationships.
5. Fan into flame your gift and fulfill your ministry (2 Timothy 1:6; Colossians 3:17).
6. Be a prayer-warrior, wrestle in prayer (Colossians 4:12).
7. Walk in accountability and fellowship in the local church. Walk in a healthy balance of grace and truth (John 1:17).
8. Ask God to increase your faith (Luke 17:5).
9. Be a faithful and fruitful steward. Don't just spend. Invest in Kingdom work (Matthew 25:23; Colossians 1:10).
10. Matthew 22:36-40! Matthew 28:18-20!
Love God, Love People, Make Disciples.

What is the love of Christ compelling you to do?

See “Resources for Reference” on page 149.

Study Help Forty-Five
Evaluating Your Spiritual Health

1. Do You Thirst for God?
2. Are You Governed Increasingly by God's Word?
3. Are You More Loving?
4. Are You More Sensitive to God's Presence?
5. Do You Have a Growing Concern for the Spiritual and Temporal Needs of Others?
6. Do You Delight in the Bride of Jesus Christ?
7. Are the Spiritual Disciplines Increasingly Important to You?
8. Do You Still Grieve over Sin?
9. Are You a Quicker Forgiver?
10. Do You Yearn for Heaven and to be with Jesus?

Taken from *Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health*
Donald S. Whitney, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO 2001.

Ice Breaker Activity: Begin your time in prayer, *first things first*. Share with the group the excitement you experienced when you received something new. Sometimes the “new” item is brand new or sometimes it is something that has been refreshed or rejuvenated. Enjoy this time of sharing experiences.

Today’s passage is 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 with the focus upon 2 Corinthians 5:17. Spend some time opening the discussion with the reading aloud of this passage from different translations. Listen intently and allow the Word of God to speak to you. Share what stood out to you.

The phrase “In Christ” is often used by the Apostle Paul. Discuss what it means to be “In Christ” and how one gets there.

In 2 Corinthians 5:11 Paul writes of trying to persuade. Discuss the importance of persuasion and influence in the Christian life. Are you being a good steward of your influence? Discuss ways you might improve in trying to persuade others in the things of God.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes of being a new creation when one is in Christ. As a group list as many ways we are new by being and Christ and the benefits that accompany it.

See 2 Corinthians 5:14 regarding the phrase “the love of Christ compels us.” What are some of the things that compel us?

See 2 Corinthians 5:16. What are some practical ways that we may view people from a spiritual point of view?

Look for the theme in 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. Discuss how this concept should impact our approach to ministry.

Digging Deeper - Session Two

Day Eight

Romans 16:1-27 (7,9,10)

Ice Breaker Activity: Begin your time in prayer, *first things first*.

Share with the group a time where you were a part of some group or team. Share fond memories of those times and some meaningful relationships that may have resulted from those experiences.

Read aloud Romans 16:1-27. Share what impressed you.

As a group list all the names of individuals in this chapter. Along with the names list the titles or commendations Paul makes for these persons, i.e., Mary worked hard, Romans 16:4. Share in your group some of the most impressive titles or commendations.

In light of this, what might Paul say of us? (Make notes below).

Note the “In Christ” verses in this passage; Romans 16:7, 9, 10. Again, discuss how one gets in Christ and what are some of the benefits. Could this description have been used for almost all those listed ?

Close your time by reading then discussing the doxology found in Romans 16:25-27. Make your comments and close your time in prayer.

Digging Deeper - Session Three

Day Fifteen

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (2)

Ice Breaker Activity: Begin your time in prayer, first things first. Share with the group your favorite restaurant in the area. What type of food do they serve, what is your usual order and why is it your favorite?

As a background text, read and discuss 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. See the “through Christ” in verse 5. Share with the group times where you have been comforted by both God and others.

As an additional background text note the attitudes in giving in the following verses. 2 Corinthians 8:2, 12, 17, 19, 22 and 2 Corinthians 9:2, 5, 6-11. Discuss how important are our attitudes in giving, see 2 Corinthians 9:7. (List below).

Our focal passage is 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Read this Scripture portion aloud. Discuss the concepts of boasting, telling the truth, strength, weakness and “sufficient grace” along with any other observations you may have. How might this “sufficient grace” differ from “saving grace”? See Ephesians 2:8-10. Discuss thoroughly how we are to steward our difficulties and troubles in life and how God’s grace can be sufficient and sustain us. Close your time in prayer.

Digging Deeper - Session Four

Day Twenty-Two

Ephesians 1:1-14 (3, 10, 12)

Ice Breaker Activity: Begin your time in prayer *First things first*. Share with the group what is your favorite movie of all time and why.

As background read aloud the two portions of Scripture in this book of Ephesians where Paul gives thanks and prays for the Christians in Ephesus. For what is he praying and for what is he giving thanks. How might Paul's example of thanksgiving and prayer impact us and how we pray? See Ephesians 1:15-22 and Ephesians 3:14-21. Note your observations below.

Read aloud Ephesians 1:1-14. Repeat the "In Christ" verses, Ephesians 1:3, 10, 12. Working individually, in the space below, list all of the "spiritual blessings" that can be found in these verses. Discuss in your group what you have discovered and how these realities should shape our lives and impact our thoughts. *Think, act and feel in new ways*. Close in prayer.

Digging Deeper - Session Five

Day Twenty-Nine

Philippians 2:1-11 (1, 5)

Ice Breaker Activity: Begin your time in prayer *First things first* “One person’s trash is another person’s treasure.” Share with the group something that is a personal treasure for you that may not be of value to others. Share the background that makes this a treasure.

Along with this passage please begin your time by looking at another Christological passage. Read aloud John 1:1-19. See John 1:14 for the key concept.

Read aloud Philippians 1:1-2. Notice the senders and receivers in Philippians 1:1 and the standard salutation (opening address) in Philippians 1:2.

As was his custom in his prison epistles; Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon, Paul opens the letter with thanksgiving and prayer. Individually read Philippians 1:3-11 then discuss in the group what Paul is praying for the Philippian Christians and for what he is thankful. For further background on the church at Philippi see Acts 16.

Read silently and individually Philippians 2:1-11. Give special attention to the “In Christ” verses Philippians 2:1, 5 along with verse 7. Discuss aloud both the attitudes and actions that are exemplified in Jesus and are to be modeled in us. *Think, act and feel in new ways.* Close in prayer.

Digging Deeper - Session Six

Day Thirty-Six

Palm Sunday

Colossians 1:24-29(28)

Ice Breaker Activity: Begin your time in prayer *First things first*.

I have discovered that the root word for the word vacation is the word vacate. Share with the group either a favorite vacation you have taken or would like to take. Also, you may want to add why this particular venue and with whom you might like or did share the experience.

Today is Palm Sunday. The beginning of what is known as Holy Week. The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is recorded in Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:12-15. These passages are for personal study and should be looked at on your own.

As a background text please consider the Christological passage of Colossians 1:13-23. What do you see as the theme of the passage and list below and discuss the benefits we have in Christ.

Read silently then aloud in the group Colossians 1:24-29. From this passage what is the body of Christ, what is Paul's role, what is the "mystery" and hope, what is Paul's goal and how does he state that it will be accomplished? Note your observations and discuss.

Close in prayer.

Digging Deeper ~ Session Seven

Day Forty-Three

Easter Resurrection Sunday

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Ice Breaker Activity:

I have very fond memories of Easter Sunday Dinner. What a special time of gladness, warm fellowship, meaningful blessing and delicious food. Share with the group some “Easter Memories” that warm your heart. Be sure and share some of the traditions and food items that helped make it special.

Have individuals/small groups take an assigned passage below and through these Scripture portions tell the story of Easter Resurrection.

Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18 -
The Resurrection-

Luke 24:13-35 – The Emmaus Road-

John 21:15-25 – The Reinstatement of Peter

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-47; John 20:21 –
Commissioning Statements of Jesus

40 Days of Passion Schedule 2024

Day #	Day	Date			Comments
Day 1	Sunday	February	18	2024	Week 1
Day 2	Monday	February	19	2024	
Day 3	Tuesday	February	20	2024	
Day 4	Wednesday	February	21	2024	
Day 5	Thursday	February	22	2024	
Day 6	Friday	February	23	2024	
Day 7	Saturday	February	24	2024	
Day 8	Sunday	February	25	2024	Week 2
Day 9	Monday	February	26	2024	
Day 10	Tuesday	February	27	2024	
Day 11	Wednesday	February	28	2024	
Day 12	Thursday	February	29	2024	
Day 13	Friday	March	1	2024	
Day 14	Saturday	March	2	2024	
Day 15	Sunday	March	3	2024	Week 3
Day 16	Monday	March	4	2024	
Day 17	Tuesday	March	5	2024	
Day 18	Wednesday	March	6	2024	
Day 19	Thursday	March	7	2024	
Day 20	Friday	March	8	2024	
Day 21	Saturday	March	9	2024	
Day 22	Sunday	March	10	2024	Week 4
Day 23	Monday	March	11	2024	
Day 24	Tuesday	March	12	2024	
Day 25	Wednesday	March	13	2024	
Day 26	Thursday	March	14	2024	
Day 27	Friday	March	15	2024	
Day 28	Saturday	March	16	2024	
Day 29	Sunday	March	17	2024	Week 5
Day 30	Monday	March	18	2024	
Day 31	Tuesday	March	19	2024	
Day 32	Wednesday	March	20	2024	
Day 33	Thursday	March	21	2024	
Day 34	Friday	March	22	2024	
Day 35	Saturday	March	23	2024	
Day 36	Sunday	March	24	2024	Week 6
Day 37	Monday	March	25	2024	
Day 38	Tuesday	March	26	2024	
Day 39	Wednesday	March	27	2024	
Day 40	Thursday	March	28	2024	Seder
	Friday	March	29	2024	Good Friday
	Saturday	March	30	2024	Holy Saturday
	Sunday	March	31	2024	Easter Resurrection Sunday

Resources for Reference:

www.blueletterbible.org www.youversion.com www.Bible.com

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life,
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