
January 3

Put Your Trust in God

Psalm 125:1-5 [A Song of degrees.] They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever. For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity. Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts. As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.

As Believers, we must put our trust in the Lord. As we do, we will not be disappointed. The Lord will look out for us when we trust in Him. Trusting God means that we believe He will do what He says. Trust pushes us beyond fear into a place of rest in God, knowing He works all things for our good. He delivers and keeps us when we trust Him. When it looks like we're being taken advantage of, when things seem to be going wrong, we must learn to patiently trust God to protect us. He will not fail us.

Psalm 37:3,5 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37:40 And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for Your anointing working in me and through me to accomplish Your will on the earth.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 71:1 In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion.

Living the Word Today: Trust in the Lord. He will never let us down and He always takes us to a place of victory.

January 4

Praise Ye the Lord

Psalm 149:1-4 Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

God takes pleasure in us. When we humble ourselves before Him, God will save us from the troubles of this world. It takes a degree of humility to sing before the Lord and to dance before Him. We act in pride when we worry about how we look in front of people when we praise the Lord. Verse 3 above says “let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.” In other words, we should go ahead and praise God. We know what He has brought us through. We know of His goodness and mercy.

Psalm 149:5-6 Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand.

All day long, even at night we should praise God. When we praise God, we find out things in the realm of the spirit. The enemy’s hand is bound – his plans to harm us are put to a halt when we praise God.

Prayer Focus: Father, I am not ashamed to praise Your name at home, at church, and wherever I go. Help me to be an example of a true worshipper to the world.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 150:6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Living the Word Today: Get beyond what people think and say about you and do not be ashamed to praise God. Praise will change the way you think and feel. Do not let pride get in the way of you praising God.

January 5

Communicate Well

Psalm 34:13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Proverbs 13:3 He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

It's important that we communicate well, especially with our families, at our workplaces, and at church. We want to avoid relationship problems and the best way to do so is to be good communicators. Some good ways to properly communicate and protect our relationships are:

Be a ready listener. Don't start talking until the other person is finished. Think first – don't be hasty in your words. **James 1:19** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Speak to be understood. We can't expect people to read between the lines. Be direct but also kind. **1 Corinthians 14:9** So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

Don't be harsh. Speak the truth in love. Don't use your vocabulary as a weapon. You may need to postpone conversations until you get beyond your anger. Sometimes the best thing is to tell the person "let's talk about this later." **Eph 4:15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Avoid arguing and speak softly. Raising your voice can ignite anger in others. **Prov 15:1** A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Prayer Focus: *"Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."* Psalm 141:3

Verse of the Day: Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Living the Word Today: Make every effort to communicate well with others, showing the love of God in all that you do.

January 6

Hope Against All Odds

Romans 4:18-21 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Amid situations that look hopeless, we have hope. When things seem impossible, we know that with God, all things are possible. In unfavorable situations, God will turn things around and cause all things to work for our good. What He has promised, He is well able to perform.

When God changed Abram's name to Abraham, he started calling himself the father of a multitude, though he had no children of his own. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were advanced in age, and she was barren. According to man's knowledge and medical science, it should have been impossible for him to become a father. However, Abraham put his hope and trust in God. As a result, he became the father of many nations. We must consider God's word above our circumstances.

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.

Romans 8:24-25 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Prayer Focus: God, thank You for Your word that inspires us and gives us hope. I know Your word is true and I put my hope and confidence in You.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 27:13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Living the Word Today: Be fully persuaded against all odds that God is at work on your behalf.

January 7

The Drawing Power of God's Glory

Isaiah 60:1-3 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Let the glory of the Lord shine bright through you! As we live to please God, His glory is upon us and it attracts people to His light just as moths are attracted to light. We experience miracles as we allow Him to shine through us. Expect to see the glory of God in your life. The Bible describes Jesus as the "brightness (or radiance) of the glory of God." Let Jesus shine bright in you!

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

1 Chronicles 16:23-24 Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation. Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for living in me and allowing Your light to shine through me. Let others see You in me and come to know You for themselves.

Verse of the Day: 2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Living the Word Today: *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* (**Matt 5:16**)

January 8

Be Still and Know

Psalm 46:8-10 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Be still and know that He is God. Put your trust and confidence in Him. It's because of what God has done that we can live, move, and have our being. When you get anxious and wonder how you will do things in life, be still and confident in the fact that He is sovereign. He causes wars to cease – not only wars going on in the world, but what about the wars we have within ourselves? God is Lord over all, so He can cause the battles in our minds to end, giving us perfect peace.

There is nothing too hard for the God that we serve. Yes, we deal with real struggles in life, but we also serve a very real God – the God that created the earth, who hung the stars and moon in place. Be still and recognize that there is no power greater than Him.

When the children of Israel were fleeing Egypt, they got weary and began to murmur and complain. Moses directed them to "...stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." Sometimes we must quiet the chaos in us and around us by focusing on the God of peace.

Prayer Focus: Father, I thank You for who You are, what You've done, and for Your infinite love and power. I take peace and trust You to meet all of my needs.

Verse of the Day: Exodus 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

Living the Word Today: The same God that delivered us from sin, who spoke the world into existence, who created us, is the same God who sustains us and gives us eternal life. Be still and acknowledge the saving power of God.

January 9

Prepare for the Days to Come

Genesis 41:15-16 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Genesis 41:25, 26, 29 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt.

In this scripture, Joseph had been captured and was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and was therefore imprisoned. When the Pharaoh had a dream that troubled him, he sent for Joseph to interpret it. Joseph sought God for the interpretation, and God revealed through him that there would be 7 years of famine in the land and 7 years of plenty. He gave Pharaoh instructions to prepare for the famine in the season of plenty so that his land could survive the years of lack. This dream came to pass, and Pharaoh did as Joseph advised. His kingdom survived the famine and Pharaoh promoted Joseph. We must also seek God's guidance to prepare for days to come in our own lives.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for sustaining me in all seasons. Help me to reassess my spending habits and financial standing. Show me how to financially prepare for every season of my life.

Verse of the Day: Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Living the Word Today: God gives us seasons in life and when we seek Him, He shows us what to do to prepare for each one. Preparation time is never wasted time. Prepare for good seasons as well as challenging times in your marriage and relationships, in your finances, business/job, and in all areas of life.

January 10

God's Medicine

Proverbs 4:20-23 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

God has instructions for us to receive healing and He desires us to be healthy and whole. Just as we go to the doctor and receive a prescription with instructions, the same type of instructions come along with God's methods of healing. Here are some ways that God manifests healing in/for/through us:

Through FORGIVENESS. Matthew 9:2;5 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. 5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

**Forgiveness can unlock healing. Unforgiveness can interfere with our healing.*

Through the words we speak. Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

**Positive words of faith promote health.*

Through the prayer of FAITH. James 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Through obedience to God. Exodus 15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for Your power to heal.

Verse of the Day: Jeremiah 17:14 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

Living the Word Today: In Christ, we are entitled to divine health. Follow God's prescription and be healed today!

January 11

Be Christ-Like

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The word, "Christian," means Christ-like one. That means that Christians should take on the characteristics of Christ. The name, Christian, started in the church of Antioch as a mockery of those who followed Christ, but it became a term of endearment for Christians. Being an imitator of Christ is a good thing. God has called us to conform to the image of Christ. God put us in the same category with Christ in a sense by calling us sons and daughters. Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Every day we should work towards becoming more Christ-like. We aim to conform to His image. We are Christ's representatives on this earth. We should reflect the love and characteristics of Christ.

Colossians 3:9-10 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me to reflect Your love and character, and help me treat people the way that You treat me. I want to be more like You.

Verse of the Day: Eph 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Living the Word Today: Go out today and imitate Christ. Show the world a picture of Him through your words and actions. The more time you spend with God, the more you become like Him.

January 12

The Weapon of Praise

Psalm 107:8 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

If Believers will simply praise God, the world will come just to see what's going on. Praise can be one of the most effective tools for winning souls to Christ, which we are charged to do as Christians.

Acts 16:25-30 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

Because Paul and Silas prayed and praised openly, the jailer and other prisoners were converted to Christ. Their praise prompted God to open a door of opportunity to witness to others, and our praise can do the same.

Prayer Focus: Lord, I praise Your Holy name! You are great, and greatly to be praised. Thank You for delivering me and equipping me with the weapon of praise to draw others to You.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

Living the Word Today: Use praise as a weapon to attack the enemy and to draw souls to Christ. *“O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.”* (Psa 105:1)

January 13

A Ready Answer

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

As Christians, when storms and adverse situations come up in life, how do we answer those things? To have a clue of how to answer, let's look at how Jesus answered when the disciples questioned Him while He was asleep on a boat during a storm.

Mark 4:38-40 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Notice that Jesus did not directly answer the question they asked Him. Rather, He answered with what was in Him: peace. The world tells us that we should answer a certain way, but can you speak faith and peace in the midst of storms? Storms will come, but we must know Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior and take on His peace. If there is no peace in us, we can not speak peace to situations outside of us. If we answer out of anger, we allow the storm to control us. If we answer in fear, we allow the enemy to have a field day with us. When we answer in faith and love, knowing that the power of God works in us and through us, peace will come.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for being the answer to all of the storms in life.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 119:42 So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.

Living the Word Today: God will turn our situations around for the good when we answer in faith, love, and peace. Dwell under the shadow of the almighty so that you have a ready answer of faith to all of life's storms.

January 14

Don't Be Afraid to Try Again

Luke 5:4-6 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

In this scripture, Jesus had used Simon's boat to preach to a multitude that had been following Him. Afterwards, Jesus told Simon to go into deeper water to catch more fish after he had already tried unsuccessfully the whole night. Simon didn't seem confident that he would catch anything, but he obeyed and caught so many fish that his boat nearly sank.

Sometimes we are challenged by God to do things that we have tried and failed at before. Dwelling on past failures can cause us to miss out on future blessings. We must seek God in all that we do and follow His guidance without question. It requires us to forget the former things (past failures and successes) as Paul said in **Philippians 3:13**, "...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before."

Jeremiah 8:4 Moreover thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; Shall they fall, and not arise? shall he turn away, and not return?

Isaiah 43:18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for making me resilient in You. Help me to not be afraid to try again.

Verse of the Day: Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Living the Word Today: Go forward in life with God and leave all fear behind, including fear that stems from past failures. There is no failure in God.

January 15

God's Restoration

Joel 2:25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

When we have power outages in our homes, we call the utility company to figure out what's going on, and they send a representative out to restore the power. We don't have a way to restore power to our homes by ourselves; we must go to the source of the power supply. If we play around with wires and outlets in attempts to fix the problem ourselves, we run the risk of being electrocuted or causing further damage to our property or even to others. Likewise, when we go through trials and tribulations that seem to drain our power, we can not fix ourselves. We must go straight to the source to be restored. God is our power source

One of the main causes of church hurt that keeps people from drawing closer to God is hurt people who hurt other people. Trying to fix ourselves is counterproductive to our mission in Christ – winning lost souls. God is our restorer! Do everything as unto the Lord and He will work in you and through you to properly restore you to total wholeness. What looks impossible is possible with God.

Jeremiah 30:17 For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

Prayer Focus: God, thank You for being my great restorer. Thank You for allowing me to experience continual gains through Your love and power.

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 58:12 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Living the Word Today: Claim God's restoration over your life, whether it is in your marriage, your health, or your finances. God can take what seems to have been stolen from you and lead you into full recovery.

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January 16

Serve the Lord With Gladness

Philippians 2:13-15 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

It's vital that, as Believers, we get beyond murmuring and complaining and allow the power of God to operate through us. We should not have a critical spirit. The children of Israel complained after God delivered them from Egypt, even while He was feeding them daily. For this reason, many of them died in the wilderness before seeing the promised land. If you can't do something without complaining, it is better not to do it at all. When we are serving God, serve Him with gladness.

Psalms 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

1 Corinthians 10:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me not to complain but to walk in love as You love me. Thank You for opportunities to serve You.

Verse of the Day: Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Living the Word Today: Keep a right heart attitude and serve God and others with joy and thanksgiving.

January 17

Work While It Is Day

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

As we walk this Christian journey, it is easy to become weighed down with the heaviness of life. I want to encourage you to not become weary, and to take advantage of the opportunities that God gives us to work. "While it is day" can mean while we have a chance. There will come a day when we will be unable to work, whether that's due to illness, environmental or governmental issues, or even death. The most important work that we do is our work for God, building His kingdom here on the earth. This is the only work that reaps eternal benefits.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Christians have a responsibility to spread the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world. We do that collectively, through propelling the vision and message brought by our local pastor, serving faithfully in church, living a godly lifestyle before others, and raising families to do all of the above. Never underestimate your part in the greater vision of the Kingdom. Every person is important in God's Kingdom. Everyone has different gifts and talents to contribute to the body of Christ.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me to discover, utilize, and maximize my gifts and talents for Your glory, without becoming weary.

Verse of the Day: Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Living the Word Today: Whatever your hands find to do for the Lord, do it with all your might whenever an opportunity presents itself.

January 18

Stay on the Wall

Nehemiah 6:2-4 That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.

In this scripture, Nehemiah was repairing the walls around Jerusalem that had been decaying and neglected by others for years. However, once he had the vision to repair the wall, his enemy tried to distract him and stop him from doing the work. Isn't it something that, when we are serving and progressing in the things of God, the enemy fights against us, trying to stop us? Sometimes the distractions come in the form of attacks on our health, our minds, our finances, even other people. The good news is that the God who lives in us is greater than anyone or anything against us. The victory is already ours.

Another tactic of the enemy is infiltration. In the scripture above, the enemies tried to meet with Nehemiah as if they wanted to befriend him, but they had bad intentions. That's what the devil wants to do in our lives – come to us disguised as friends but with a hidden motive to pull us away from the work of God. Nehemiah stood strong and continued working on the wall, and that's what we should do. Not everyone has our same level of commitment to God. Things that seem innocent, like going out on a Saturday night and being too tired to go to church the next day, can pull us away from ministry. The enemy will use people who are close to us to water down our work for God, and they may not be aware. Guard yourself against anything that lessens your effectiveness for God.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me to stay alert to the enemy's tactics. Thank You for the victory in all things!

Verse of the Day: Proverbs 12:24 The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

Living the Word Today: Stay alert and stay on the wall. Keep working and living for Christ!

January 19

Delivered from Afflictions and Persecutions

2 Timothy 3:11-14 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.

The word says that all who live for God will suffer persecution. We don't like it, but it is a reality. There are times that we will be criticized and ostracized because of our faith. Fortunately, God delivers us from all persecution and gives us strength to endure and overcome. 1 John 5:4 says, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

To get where we need to go, we will have to walk fearlessly through the valleys of life. Keep walking by faith, knowing God is with us, comforting us, leading us, and guiding us. Some of the things we go through are strengthening us to reach a higher level of victory and authority. Jesus suffered persecution and went through temptation in the wilderness, but it strengthened Him to carry out His work on the cross.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for delivering me from every affliction, persecution, and anything that tries to come against me. Cause me to walk in victory, joy, peace, and authority.

Verse of the Day: John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Living the Word Today: Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Victory is yours.

January 20

Be Faithful in Your Assignment

2 Timothy 3:11-14 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.

Faithfulness in your assignment is the key to your reward. Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

This was Jesus' response to the man who multiplied what he was given in the parable of the talents. As Believers, we are supposed to reign and rule in Christ. Faithfulness in our assignment opens doors for us and causes us to be rulers over many things. Our sphere of influence spreads as we are faithful to what God assigns us to do. The task may seem small to you today, but it is not small to God. Every person is important to God.

Guard against apathy – the absence or suppression of passion. **Matthew 9:36** But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

We must stay excited about what God assigns us to do. Jesus was moved with compassion and therefore, He fed the multitude and healed the sick.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me to be faithful in my assignment and to remain compassionate about doing Your will.

Verse of the Day: Proverb 28:20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

Living the Word Today: Have a heart of compassion and remain faithful in your work for God. Resist the temptation to quit. Your labor is not in vain!

January 21

Guard Your Words

Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

The words that we speak can shape the world around us. It is important that we speak words of life. We should ask God to set a watch over our mouths. What we say is powerful! Avoid negative words that can produce an adverse prophesy over your life. Our lives rise to the level of our confession. What we consistently say reflects in our lives;

Prov 6:2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

Prov 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

When we speak God's word over our lives, we have a guarantee that the words will accomplish what God intended. His word does not fail.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me to be faithful in my assignment and to remain compassionate about doing Your will.

Verse of the Day: 2 Cor 4:13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.

Living the Word Today: Let your words reflect what God's word says about you. Talk about the goodness of the Lord and where He has brought you from. Speak His word over your life.

January 22

Living in a Blessed State

Psalm 115:15 Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.

Notice that this verse says that we ARE blessed. So, how do we take advantage of being blessed? Here are a few ways that we can do that:

1. Walk in Love. Gal 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

If we want our faith to work, we must walk in love. The Bible teaches us in John 13:35, *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

2. Abide in the Word of God. John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

We abide in the word by reading it, hearing it, studying it, obeying it, meditating in it..., listening to the preached word of God.

3. Continually Walk by Faith to please God. 2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Faith reaches into the realm of the spirit and brings to the natural realm the things that belong to us. Grab what is yours by faith.

4. Be a Giver. Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for blessing me to be a blessing.

Verse of the Day: 2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Living the Word Today: Believe to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Expect God to do great things on your behalf.

January 23

God's Glorious Church

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Though this verse was referring to the relationship between a husband and wife, it can also apply to the church. We should all have a personal commitment and responsibility to our local church. Today is yesterday's tomorrow, so the future is now. We are living in the last days, and I believe that this is the generation that will usher in the Messiah. It's time for the church to operate with a sense of urgency and be full of the Holy Ghost so that the power of God can flow. We need to see supernatural miracles and the world needs to see the power of God to heal, deliver, and set free.

The church needs to be obedient to the voice of God. We should be doers of the word instead of hearers only. All kinds of deception is going on in the world today. When we are doers of the word, we are blessed and we are doing things that can never fail. Take responsibility for the contributions that you make to your local church individually. When you put something in, you can expect to get something out of what you do. The Lord rewards us for our service to Him. Get beyond offenses and walk in love.

Psalm 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me to get full of Your word and to do my part in my church becoming a glorious church.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 96:9 O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

Living the Word Today: Our motivation for ministry should be to build the kingdom because the love of God is operating within us. Have a heart of worship at home and it will be easy to worship at church.

January 24

Be Strong in the Lord

Deuteronomy 31:6-7 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

When it was time for the Israelites to go into the promise land, the Lord told them several times to be strong. They were capable of going into the promise land. However, they needed a reminder to be strong in order to withstand any obstacles that would come their way in the process. God assured them that He would be with them.

The reason we can stand strong through anything we face in life is because God is with us. He will never leave nor forsake us. In the face of adversity, be strong! Our strength comes from the Lord.

Joshua 10:25 And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

Joshua heard “be strong” so much that it got into his spirit. He then told others to be strong.

1 Chronicles 22:13 Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me to walk in Your strength.

Verse of the Day: Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Living the Word Today: When you know you're in the will of God, you will have boldness. God always causes us to triumph.

January 25

God Will Not Forget You

Isaiah 49:13-16 - Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted. But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

Maybe you have gone to the store with something written in the palm of your hand, so you won't forget to buy it. God said that He has written us in the palms of His hands so He will not forget us. When we had a nursery in the back of our old church building and a baby would cry, the right mother would get up to see about her child. She knew the voice and cry of her child. In the same way, God will not forget you. He knows how to find you. What He has promised, He will perform.

No matter what goes on around you, God knows you personally and has you on His mind.

Psalm 115:12-14 The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great. The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for never forgetting me.

Verse of the Day: Deuteronomy 31:8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Living the Word Today: You are blessed of the Lord who made heaven and earth. He will not forget you.

January 26

Grow Your Faith

Matt 17:15-20 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

According to a study, an average-size aspirin bottle can hold more than 100,000 mustard seeds. One seed can produce a 10ft bush in 3 months. Our faith may be small to us, but when sown into the heart, it can produce a great harvest of life. Make a confession of faith every day of what God says about you. Each seed planted produces a harvest.

Psalms 115:12-14 The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great. The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for multiplying my seeds of faith sown.

Verse of the Day: Colossians 2:6-7 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Living the Word Today: Don't let unbelief rob you of your harvest. Plant seeds of faith wherever you go. Your little faith will go a long way.

January 27

Love Casts Out Fear

1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

One of mankind's greatest fears is the fear of death. What would we do if we knew that we could not fail? Love overpowers fear. In a news story, a family's house caught on fire and the members of the family ran out in fear, but when they realized that a loved one was still inside, their love caused them to conquer the fear and return to the house to rescue them. When it comes to reaching souls for Christ, love should help us overcome the fear of rejection.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

We don't have to fear death because God is greater than death. He is the God of the resurrection. Death is a passageway to eternity for Believers. God gives us eternal life and opportunities to make an impact in the lives of others. We don't have to fear failure, because in God, nothing is impossible. He can turn our failures into victories.

Psalm 56:3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for Your perfect love that casts out all fear.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Living the Word Today: God is bigger than our fears. Put your trust in Him.

January 28

Operating in the Wisdom of God

Proverbs 2:6-7 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Proverbs 2:10-11 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul. Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee.

Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge. Webster's dictionary defines wisdom as "knowledge and the capacity to use it." It is important that we seek after God's wisdom. We may have great natural knowledge, but we need godly wisdom. Read the book of Proverbs and godly wisdom will saturate your mind.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 8:11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Prayer Focus: Father, I ask You for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

Verse of the Day: Proverbs 24:3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established.

Living the Word Today: When you face trials, ask God for the wisdom to overcome the tests and trials.

January 30

Cry Out to God

Psalms 18:5-6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

John 14:13-14 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

We must be confident that when we cry out to God, He hears us. During times of despair, cry unto Him. I've heard people say that they were too sad to pray. If you're drowning in the ocean and someone throws you a lifeline, you can't be too tired to grab it. You must reach out and grab onto it to be saved. In the same way, God has thrown us a lifeline by instructing us to call upon Him. When discouragement tries to set in, call on His name. When the pressures of life try to get you down, call on His name. God will open doors for you and cause favor to shine upon you.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for allowing me to see Your goodness and hearing me when I cry unto You.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 27:13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Living the Word Today: Psalm 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

January 31

Trust in the Lord

Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

We have to trust God. There are many scriptures in the Bible that teach us to trust in God as opposed to trusting in other things. There are many things that compete for our trust. The government wants us to trust them, and thank God for medical science, but our trust should always be in the Lord. We work hard to save for retirement but that can fail us too. When we trust in God and put our confidence in Him, we can not go wrong.

Psalm 34:22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Psalm 37:3-5 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Prayer Focus: Father, I look to You as the Author and Finisher of my faith. I put my trust in You.

Verse of the Day: **Romans 10:11** For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Living the Word Today: Learn to have a child-like faith and trust in God. He never sleeps nor slumbers, and He is always watching over us. We can rest in Him and not worry about life's problems.