

# the WELL

DEEP TRUTHS  
LASTING  
TRANSFORMATION







# *Table of Contents*

<b>Table of contents</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4 - 5</b>
<b>Examples:</b>	
<b>Exercising my faith</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Weekly Prayer Notes</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Sermon Notes</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Special Notes on Bible versions</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Monthly Bible Reading Plan Options</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Exercising My Faith This September</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>The Well - September</b>	
<b>Week One</b>	<b>12 - 23</b>
<b>Week Two</b>	<b>24 - 35</b>
<b>Week Three</b>	<b>36 - 47</b>
<b>Final 10 days of the month</b>	<b>48 - 62</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>62</b>

## ***“With joy shall I draw water from the well of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3***

I heard John Maxwell say, *“The greatest day in a man’s life is the day he was born. The second greatest day in a man’s life is the day he finds out why.”* You are no accident my friend. God created you on purpose, with purpose and for a purpose. A God-designed destiny to impact the world in which we live. The greatest adventure we will ever live is the journey of following Jesus and discovering why He put us here. It is that great adventure that has brought us here to The Well.

The first step on this grand adventure happens when a person makes a decision to become a “follower of Christ.” For example, in Mark 1:17 Jesus is walking by the side of a sea and sees Peter in a boat and says to him - “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” There are 2 parts to this powerful statement - the first is simple “follow Me,” Jesus said. Every person alive at some point will have that same opportunity. To follow Jesus is to first decide that He alone is Lord of every facet of our life. It is to put our full faith and trust that what the Bible says about Jesus and the way in which I should live is absolute truth. It is a great journey into a personal relationship with this amazing God who created the world, everything and everyone in it. When I commit myself to this process I discover the latter half of the statement where Jesus said - “follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Following Him is the key to discovering purpose and fulfilling our God-given destiny.

Anyone who sets out on a grand adventure, must take stock of the necessary supplies and tools we need in order to succeed in our endeavor. According to the Bible, there are really about 5 things we need:

1. Make a quality decision, to be a life-long follower of Jesus Christ.
2. Develop a daily study of the Word of God.
3. Discover and develop a solid prayer life.
4. Become an active part of the Body of Christ.
5. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

The Well is simply a structure, a set of plans, to assist people who are hungry to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus and successfully fulfill this grand adventure. Each month we will look at a different theme and take us deeper into our understanding of the Scripture and how to apply Biblical principles to our daily lives. Thank you for joining us on this adventure of learning to draw the water of life, from the well of salvation.

## ***Drawing water from - The Well***

Different parts of this discipleship tool.

### **Exercising my Faith this month**

- Each month I encourage you to have a faith goal. What are you believing God to do in your life? As you work through this early in the month. Learn to grab a hold of the promises of God by faith and join together with God to see His will fully accomplished in every area of your life. *(Example on p. 6)*

**Weekly: Each Week there are 4 sections:**

- **The Well - Daily Devotional thought written by multiple authors from The Father's House.**
  - Each day we will be looking at a small passage of Scripture and drawing truths up from the Word of God that will inspire the manner in which we live. Each month will have a theme we will be pursuing. Each day ends with a prompting for each reader to "put the Word to work." Remember it's not about how much we simply read, but how much of the Word we apply to our daily life that really matters.
- **Weekly Bible Reading Guide** (4 different options to choose from) *(See Page 9)*
  - Daily reading and study of the Scripture is essential for spiritual health. Here we provide 4 possible reading guides.
    - Option 1 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once in three years.
    - Option 2 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per year.
    - Option 3 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per 3 months.
    - Option 4 - Follow this plan to read the New Testament once per month.
- **Weekly Prayer notes**
  - Recording prayer notes is essential both for remembering what the Holy Spirit is speaking and evaluating what we hear based upon the Word of God. It is also encouraging to look back and see how God has been moving in the areas of life we have been praying about. We encourage you to bring this with you to your prayer time and prayer meetings. Regularly visit and revisit your prayer notes sections and write down what God is doing in and through prayer in your life. *(example, see page 7)*
- **Sermon Notes**
  - Often in services there are many great things said that I want to remember. I have discovered what science has already proven to be correct - if I listen and write down thoughts my retention doubles. Included are pages for sermon notes available to be used for each Wednesday and Sunday of the month. *(Example see page 8)*

In addition, we encourage you to join one of our Growth Groups. Inside these groups of up to 5, people will connect and share insights we are learning and growing in. I highly encourage you to get connected and join one of these groups.

**(Example) Exercising my Faith this Month**

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

**Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing God to do in your life this month?**

*1. I am believing God that He will surround me with His peace in the middle of a troubling time in the world.*

*2. I am believing God will heal my mother and renew her strength and vitality.*

**Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these?**

*Isaiah 26:3 ~ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. John 14:27 ~ Peace I leave*

*with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

*Colossians 3:15 ~ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*

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

*Jesus.*

*Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' Psalm 103:3 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread'*

**Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.**

**Part of my daily prayer:** *God You said, You will keep me in perfect peace when I bind You to my mind. I choose today to intentionally think about You and trust that You will keep me in perfect peace. You promised your peace you would give me, that it would remain with me. I choose to let your peace rule in my heart, I refuse to be anxious, but come to You with my prayers and needs with thanksgiving present my requests unto You, and in return I today receive Your supernatural peace.*

*"God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, we were healed.' That according to Psalm 103 - You have 'healed us from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since my mother is a child of God, I thank you that healing is hers, I ask you to heal, and renew her strength this day and exercise my faith believing that you will in Jesus' name."*

## Weekly Prayer Notes (Example)

Week: \_\_\_\_\_

<p>Specific things I am praying about for my family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Daily for God's protection over my wife and children - (Psalm 91 and Isaiah 54:17)</i></li> <li>- <i>Daily to hear and know God's voice, to be led by His Spirit in all that I say and do. (John 10 and Romans 8)</i></li> <li>- <i>To walk in His supernatural provision and wisdom, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge (Philippians 4, Ephesians 1 and 3).</i></li> </ul>	<p>Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>That God would grant wisdom, protection and provision to our leaders.</i></li> <li>- <i>Every week, I ask for people to come know and follow Christ, to encounter God's presence and to experience His goodness in every service.</i></li> <li>- <i>That God would bring every person He has called to be a part of The Father's House here.</i></li> <li>- <i>That God would heal and deliver those who are in need.</i></li> <li>- <i>_____, the person who was in my row that told me of his desire to see his son come back to the Lord, I am praying for his son by name all week, that God would send someone across His path to lead Him back to Jesus.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Things I sensed from the Holy Spirit while I was praying this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>When I asked God if there was anything He wanted to say to me today, I heard Him simply say - "You are my son, and I love you."</i></li> <li>- <i>I was talking to the Lord, and felt like He reminded me this morning of the story in the gospels when He came walking on the water, and said to Peter, "come out here with me." I felt like He was letting me know, sometimes when He leads it will be in areas I have never gone before, and didn't know I could - such as walking on water.</i></li> </ul>	<p>People I am praying for their salvation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Benjamin</i></li> <li>- <i>Paul</i></li> <li>- <i>Keith</i></li> <li>- <i>Joel</i></li> <li>- <i>Jordan</i></li> </ul>

Series (if applicable):

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further
Genesis 17:21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- God has more in store for me than I have yet discovered</li> </ul>	
2 Peter 1:5 - 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If Abraham laughed when he first heard the promise of God, and could still find God's favor and believe, then I realize I'm not alone, when sometimes I find it almost "too good to be true."</li> <li>- If I "add" these 7 areas to my faith in God - there is unstoppable fruit that will come in my life.</li> <li>- I can lead someone to Jesus</li> <li>- I can bear the fruit of the Spirit</li> <li>- I can discover and develop the call of God on my life</li> <li>- I can be fully assured of my salvation</li> <li>- I can live without stumbling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is Virtue?</li> <li>- What is knowledge referring to?</li> <li>- I think I understand self-control</li> <li>- Are perseverance and patience the same word here?</li> <li>- What is meant here by Godliness</li> <li>- What's the difference between brotherly love and love in 2 Peter 1:7</li> </ul>



## *Versions of the Bible*

There have been many arguments over the centuries about which version of the Bible is the best. Truth be told, I have many versions of the Bible and enjoy reading and studying most. The default version for this study will be the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible. If a contributing author uses a different version it will be labeled as such. Other common versions of the Bible quoted from in The Well include, but are not limited to:

The Amplified Bible (AMP)  
New International Version (NIV)  
The Passion Translation (TPT)  
Young's Literal Translation (YLT)

King James Version (KJV)  
The Message Translation (MSG)  
The New Living Translation (NLT)

Often people will ask, why is the language so much different from one version of the Bible to the next. Very important question. There are two basic distinctions to pay attention to as you are reading the Bible - is the version you are reading a "paraphrase" or is it a literal translation from original language into our language? The goal of a literal translation approach is to have a word-for-word literal translation from the original manuscripts into our modern day language. The goal of a paraphrase is to capture the idea as communicated in the original language and attempt to use modern language to communicate that same idea. For example when we look at the famous John 3:16

*(NKJV) - <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

*(AMP) - <sup>16</sup> "For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

*(YLT) - <sup>16</sup> for God did so love the world, that His Son -- the only begotten -- He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-*

*(MSG) - <sup>16</sup> This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.*

You can quickly see the different approaches in these versions of Bible translation. Some are focused on a direct word for word translation regardless of the difficulty in reading in current language. On the other end of the spectrum authors focus on taking the concept and making it easy to read in our current language.

I am not one that will mandate a single-specific version of the Bible. However, three things I would look to avoid in study of the Bible: 1) Any translation that eliminates the deity of Christ. 2) Some "woke" versions of the Bible being made, for example the "gender neutral" Bible. 3) If an author has attempted to "water" down absolute truths included in Scripture I pay no attention to those versions.

There are many websites that provide access to these translations and more such as biblegateway.com providing free easy access to those who want to compare various translations and paraphrases of the Bible.

### Bible Reading Plan September

	3 year (1)	Once/year	Once Quarterly	New Testament in a month
1	Psalms 58-59	Daniel 9-10	Ezekiel 35 - 45	Matt. 1-3; Rom. 1-4; Act 1; Rev. 1
2	Psalms 60-61	Daniel 11-12	Ezekiel 46 - Daniel 7	Matt. 4-6; Rom. 5-8; Acts 2; Rev. 2
3	Psalms 62-64	Ezra 1-3	Daniel 8 - Hosea	Matt 7-9; Rom. 9-12; Acts 3; Rev. 3
4	Psalms 65-67	Ezra 4-7	Joel, Amos, Obadiah	Matt. 10-12; Rom. 13-16; Acts 4; Rev. 5
5	Psalms 68	Ezra 8-10	Jonah, Micah, Nahum	Mat. 13-15; I Cor. 1-4; Acts 5; Rev. 5
6	Psalms 69	Nehemiah 1-3	Habakkuk & Zephaniah	Matt. 16-18; I Cor. 5-8; Acts 6; Rev. 6
7	Psalms 70-71	Nehemiah 4-6	Haggai, Zechariah	Matt. 19-21; I Cor. 9-12; Acts 7; Rev. 7
8	Psalms 72-73	Nehemiah 7	Malachi - Matt 4	Mat. 22-24; 1 Cor. 13-16; Acts 8; Rev. 8
9	Psalms 74-75	Nehemiah 8-9	Matthew 5 - 13	Matt. 25-28; 2 Cor. 1-4; Acts 9; Rev. 9
10	Psalms 76-77	Nehemiah 10-11	Matthew 14 - 22	Luke 1-2; 2 Cor. 5-8; Acts 10; Rev. 10
11	Psalms 78	Nehemiah 12-13	Matthew 23 - Mark 5	Luke 3-4; 2 Cor. 9-13; Acts 11; Rev. 11
12	Psalms 79-80	I Chron. 1-2	Mark 6 - 16	Luke 5-7; Gal. 1-3; Acts 12; Rev. 12
13	Psalms 81-83	I Chron. 3-5	Luke 1 - 9	Luke 8-10; Gal. 4-6; Acts 13; Rev. 13
14	Psalms 84-86	I Chron. 6	Luke 10 - John 4	Luke 11-13; Eph. 1-3; Acts 14; Rev. 14
15	Psalms 87-88	I Chron. 7-8	John 5 - 14	Luke 14-16; Eph. 4-6; Acts 15; Rev. 15
16	Psalms 89	I Chron. 9-10	John 15 - Acts 5	Luke 17-19; Phil. 1-4; Acts 16; Rev. 16
17	Psalms 90-91	I Chron. 11-12	Acts 6 - 16	Luke 20-22; Col. 1-4; Acts 17; Rev. 17
18	Psalms 92-94	I Chron. 13-15	Acts 17 - Acts 28	Luke 23-24; I Thess. 1-5; Acts 18; Rev. 18
19	Psalms 95-97	I Chron. 16-17	Romans 1-14	Mark. 1-3; 2 Thess. 1-3; Acts 19; Rev. 19
20	Psalms 98-100	I Chron. 18-20	Rom.15 - 1st Corinthians 10	Mark 4-6; I Tim. 1-6; Acts 20; Rev. 20
21	Psalms 101-102	I Chron. 21-23	1 Cor 11 - 2 Corinthians 8	Mark 7-9; 2 Tim. 1-4; Acts 21; Rev. 21
22	Psalms 103, 110	I Chron. 24-25	2 Corinthians 9-13 & Galatians	Mark 10-12; Titus. 1-3; Philemon 1; Acts 22; Rev. 22
23	Psalms 104	I Chron. 26-27	Ephesians & Philippians	Mark 13-16; Hebrews 1-4; Acts 23
24	Psalms 105	I Chron. 28-29	Colossians, 1st & 2nd Thess.	John 1-3; Hebrews 5-8; Acts 24
25	Psalms 106	2 Chron. 1-4	Books of 1st & 2nd Tim, Titus	John 4-5; Hebrews 9-13; Acts 25
26	Psalms 107	2 Chron. 5-7	Books Philemon - Hebrews 8	John 6-7; James 1-5; Acts 26
27	Psalms 108-109	2 Chron. 8-10	Heb. 8 - 13 & Book of James	John 8-9; I Peter 1-5; Acts 27
28	Psalms 110-112	2 Chron. 11-14	1st & 2nd Peter; 1st John	John 10-12; 2 Peter 1-3; Acts 28
29	Psalms 113-115	2 Chron. 15-18	2nd, 3rd John, Jude & Rev. 1-5	John 13-16; I John 1-5
30	Ps. 116-119:48	2 Chron. 19-21	Revelation 6-22	John 17-21; Books of 2nd & 3rd John & Jude

## Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing in God to do in your life this month?

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Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these things you are believing in God for?

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Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

*Example: "God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' That in Psalm 103 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since I am a child of God, I thank you and receive healing in Jesus' name."*

# ***Week One***



## ***Week One Prayer Notes***

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

**September 1st**  
**Eternity Hangs in the Balance**  
**Revelation 21:27**

*“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” —Revelation 21:27*

A sobering reminder of the holiness of God’s eternal kingdom. It paints a picture where nothing impure, nothing defiled by sin, will enter the new Jerusalem. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will be allowed in. The holiness of God’s eternal city is absolute and uncompromising. The stakes are high, and the contrast is stark.

In Revelation 20:15, we read: *“And anyone not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”* The outcome of every person’s life is not simply a matter of temporal decisions but eternal ones. Every choice, every action, every life lived, ultimately points toward an eternal destination. There is no middle ground. For those who do not know Christ, eternity without God awaits—a fate that we as believers must be deeply concerned about. Eternity hangs in the balance. This is where evangelism becomes absolutely essential. The message of Jesus Christ is the only thing that can change this eternal outcome. As followers of Christ, we are entrusted with the gospel—the power of salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). This is not a message we can keep to ourselves, not a message to be hidden behind church walls or lost in the busyness of daily life. The fate of souls depends on it. In Mark 16:15, Jesus commands us, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Notice the inclusivity: every creature. Every soul. Every person you meet is either heading toward eternal life in God’s presence or eternal separation from Him. Evangelism is not just a part of our faith; it is the heartbeat of it. It is the divine mission God has given us—to share the life-saving truth of Jesus with a world in desperate need.

We often think of the Great Commission as something “for others,” but the reality is that the command is for all of us. If we truly grasp the weight of what is at stake, if we understand that eternity hangs in the balance, we will feel the urgency to share the gospel more than ever before. There is no time to waste.

**Putting the Word to Work**

1. Reflect on someone in your life who may not yet know Christ. How does the reality that eternity hangs in the balance for them motivate you to act?
2. How can you shift your perspective on evangelism to recognize that each conversation and opportunity could impact someone’s eternal future? What’s one step you can take this week to make that truth a priority?

September 2

Empowered Witnesses - You Are God's Answer

Acts 1:5-8 (NLT)

*"John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?' He replied, 'The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere- in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'"*

This passage describes the primary purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the life of the believer. Up to this point, the disciples didn't fully understand. (In verse four, Jesus said, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised." They knew it was coming, but they didn't understand the purpose or the picture of what that would look like. Jesus explains to them that they will be baptized in the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit will empower them to be effective witnesses here on earth, essentially to be his hands and feet.

This is great news because we walk in that same power, with the Holy Spirit living in us. The world, whether they know it or not, is so hungry for God. We all have a natural yearning to be close to our Creator. As Spirit-filled believers, we have been called **and empowered** to help the world bridge that gap and become closer to the Lord.

Now...being called and being empowered DOES NOT mean that you are perfect. So let this speak to you when you hear the enemy's lies. He will use anything to convince you that you're not qualified to be an effective witness and spread the gospel to the world. He will tell you things like "You don't really have a testimony," or "You don't have the Bible memorized yet," or "Your past is too bad to win anyone to Jesus." This is where the Holy Spirit comes in; where our abilities end, HE begins. We work towards living perfectly, but we don't need to be perfect. Where we lack, He makes up the difference, where we are weak He makes us strong, where we fall short, He fills the gap.

I was recently asked to pray for healing over a young girl. I had no fear of praying for her; I was happy and obedient to it. However, I had no idea what I was going to say. As I walked over to her, I prayed that the Holy Spirit would move through me and would empower me with the right words. As I began to pray, I felt the Spirit rise up from deep within me and flow out of me like never before. I prayed intensely and fervently. The young girl received healing that night, but let me be clear, I am very much aware it was the power of God moving through my imperfections. He made the difference, I was simply a willing vessel trusting He could do the impossible. In that moment, like perhaps never before I could see it's the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that helps us lead people to encounter God, experience His goodness and Expand His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

### Putting the Word to Work

Are you allowing your human limitations to stop you from furthering God's kingdom? Be encouraged that you are empowered to do the Lord's work simply because you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

September 3

Evangelism Anticipation part 1 - Mouth

Isaiah 51:15-16

*15 But I am the Lord your God, Who divided the sea whose waves roared— The Lord of hosts is His name. 16 And **I have put My words in your mouth**; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand, That I may plant the heavens, Lay the foundations of the earth, And say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’ ”*

God, as God, has the right to rule over all of creation. If we believe in the supremacy of the Almighty God, then who are we to argue with His determination of how His kingdom will function. If I can say it so bluntly, we need to stop arguing with God. There are certain decision God has made regarding how He plans to expand His kingdom on this earth. And whether or not you like it, you are a part of His plan.

God decided that rather than send a glowing angel to convince people He is real, He would send you and I as the body of Christ to speak words of truth and words of His lovingkindness throughout this world. You and I as the body of Christ, are His primary plan for advancing His kingdom on earth.

God is the one who created you, who continues to mold you, form you, fill you and send you. We don't have to travel to an exotic location in order to fulfill the Great Commission. No God has sent you to this place in order to expand His kingdom in the location you currently live. Isaiah says that “God has put His words in your mouth.” That is a promise from the Lord, that you and I must learn to trust in, that He will fill your mouth with the words to speak.

I cannot count the number of times, I have felt prompted to witness about the goodness of God to someone and have not felt I had what it takes, nor the words. But this I tell you, every time, without fail, that God has nudged me to say something, He has always given me the words in the moment I needed them. God gave you a mouth, first and foremost to worship Him and secondly to declare His goodness.

### Putting the Word to Work

How often do you consider the words that come out of your own mouth? Is your mouth a tool used to draw people closer to God? Are you willing to allow God to fill your mouth with His words?

Think of someone you know that is a believer. Ask God for to give you the words to encourage someone in their relationship with God today. Write it down and then call them, text them, send them an email or a letter or arrange to meet with them and converse with them. Simply tell them, “I was praying today, and asked God to give me the words to encourage you in your faith today, and here is what I felt God shared with me...”

Secondly, think of someone else that you are not sure if they are a believer. Ask God to give you the words they need to hear today to turn their heart towards Him.



**September 4**

**Evangelism Anticipation part 2 - Hands**

**Exodus 30:17-19**

*17 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 18 "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, 19 for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it.*

When God was instructing Moses on the pieces of furniture that He was to place in the Tabernacle (Tent of meeting) the second piece of furniture is described here as a large washpot. Everytime before the priests could enter the tent and step into the presence of the Lord, they were required to wash their hands and their feet. To understand the significance of this, we must realize that just before washing their hands, they would have come to the first piece of furniture - the brazen altar - where animals were sacrificed, shedding their blood to cover the sins of the priest but also of the people. Animal sacrifices, like sin, were a bloody mess. Without the shedding of blood there was no covering for sin. The priests however were not supposed to be afraid of the messes of working with people, God would cover and cleanse them.

God is not afraid of people's messes. Jesus took this idea to the max. Think of the people he reached out and touched that the rest of society refused too. He would reach out and touch the lepers, the demonized, the woman caught in the act of adultery, the woman caught in the act of adultery. He allowed the prostitute to wash his feet with her tears, and dry them with her hair and called it an act of worship because of the broken heart response to Him as her Lord. Everyone else in the room seemed worried that to touch a sinner would taint them but not Jesus. He understood the pattern established in the brass laver - we have been commissioned to touch that which is unclean, understanding the power of the water of the Word to keep our hands pure.

One of our main assignments is to reach out with our hands to share the gospel with the world. Whether that be to give a person a hand up (Acts 3) or give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name to someone in need (Matt. 10). We are commissioned to extend our hands to expand His kingdom.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

How today, can you practically reach out and be the hand of Jesus today, showing compassion to someone in need?

**September 5**

**Evangelism Anticipation part 3 - Feet**

**Romans 10:15; Joshua 1:3**

*Rom. 10:15 - As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

*Joshua 1:3 - Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.*

As members of the household of God, our assignment is clear and simple, carry the kingdom everywhere we go. In Genesis 1, God spoke to Adam and said, be fruitful, multiply, fill up the earth and subdue it. After the flood, God spoke in a like manner to Noah. In The Abrahamic Covenant beginning in Genesis 12, God said all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through Abraham and His seed. The people of God have always been the ones who were to be on offense. In the famous response Jesus made to Peter in Matthew 16 when He said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The idea was of the family of God, marching forward unstoppable by the forces of hell.

As a believer we must have this idea in mind, that everywhere the sole of our foot shall go God has given us the authority to advance His kingdom there. That when we show up in any room, we are there with good news, the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Not long ago, when we were at Praise in the Park, a lady came walking over to the tent near the sound board where I stood after preaching the gospel. As I recall the first words she said to me after I had given an invitation was this, "Mr., I don't like church or church people. But you all did something inside of me tonight..." I got to pray with her right there to surrender her life to Jesus and to have the full assurance of her salvation. When we knowingly carry the kingdom of God with us everywhere we go, we can expect to see God "do something" inside the people we interact with.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

Do you live life feeling like you are on offense or defense?

**September 6**

**Evangelism Anticipation part 4 - Eyes**

**Exodus 14:13**

*And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever."*

If you were ever in a staff meeting when Pastor Bill was speaking, you likely heard the phrase "everyone has a need that only God can fill." He wanted to train those who were serving in his church to develop an evangelistic eye. There are really two parts to an evangelistic eye as I have come to understand it.

First the natural eye. We must train ourselves to pay attention to those around us. Salesmen are trained as they approach a house to take note of what is in the yard and the driveway, that you will likely find a connection point with someone if you are observant before you even knock on the door. Is there a nice bass boat parked in the driveway? Are their children's bikes and/or toys in the yard or under the overhang? Are the lawns and flowerbeds well kept or are they needing attention? Are the vehicles nicely washed or covered with mud from running them up in the mountains? Are there obvious animal signs? When they answer the door or stand in the yard are they smiling or do their eyes speak of a deep hidden pain? While we certainly cannot judge a book by its cover, oftentimes if we train ourselves to use our eyes, we can certainly see and notice potential connection points to the people we are witnessing too.

Secondly, we must train our spiritual eyes to look past the present situation until we can see what God can do in the midst of what we see. I love the statement in the above passage, "stand and see the salvation of the Lord..." A great reminder, that when we are looking at a person, at his or her life, it is important that we stand and see until we are not consumed with the problems we see, but we can see the effect the message of salvation can have on their life. When we take these two ideas and put them together; using the natural eyes and things we observe to look for a connection point but then also staring long enough at the person until we begin to see God's plan for their life we have a recipe for developing an evangelistic eye.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

Take a few minutes today, to look at few homes in the area you live or pass by each day. Take time to notice what you see and think to yourself, what that person must value based upon what you see.

Take a few more minutes today and think about someone who needs a touch from God. Begin to ask yourself and the Lord to show you what would happen if God came through in their life. As the vision changes from the problem to the potential solution ask God how you should pray for them, and if He would have you to say anything to them.

**September 7, 2025**  
**Put On Love**  
**John 13:35 (KJV)**

*“By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

To fully understand what is being said in this verse, you must first understand its context. In John chapter 13, Jesus is speaking to His disciples after they had finished eating the last supper. Knowing He is about to be betrayed and die for our sins, this is a critical moment in history. It seems to me, He would only stress the most important things to His followers in these moments.

With that, I believe there are 2 main teachings Jesus brought to the forefront here. In verse five, He “poureth water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet.” In verse 6, Simon Peter is immediately astonished by this and says, “Dost Thou wash my feet? Thou shalt never wash my feet.” Not yet understanding that the Lord was about to teach Simon Peter, along with the whole world, one of the most important lessons ever.

Through this act of washing the disciples feet, Christ was displaying the most authentic example of true humility and love that we would ever see. This should bring all of us to the stark realization that we are no better than anyone else. On the contrary, we are all called to be servants, and “in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

If we think this way, we will have no problem carrying out His next commandment, the 2nd teaching that He is about to direct us toward. When Judas leaves to betray Him (v. 30,) Jesus does something completely unanticipated, since most of us would not react the following way after being betrayed. Jesus first glorifies our Father in Heaven, then He instructs us with a new commandment: “That ye love one another as I have loved you.” (v. 33 & 34.)

Jesus goes one step further saying that “...all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.” At that time they did not know of Judas’ betrayal, but Jesus did. Judas showed a lack of love, and he of course was still dead inside. Unforgiveness is also a form of hate, so I urge you to check your heart regularly to be sure you do not harbor bitterness, so you are not dead inside. (1 John 3:14)

Today I encourage you to ask the Lord to show you any ill-will you may hold towards another believer. Make the conscious decision to forgive them, and give God the ability to heal your heart. Now celebrate as you experience true freedom!

### **Putting the Word to Work**

What does loving another believer look like to you?

Ask yourself and God how/if you can improve in that area.

Are you an active servant? If not, give it a try and watch your love towards others increase!



# ***Week One Sermon Notes***

**Week One Sermon Notes**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Series *(if applicable)*: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

**Week One Sermon Notes**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Series *(if applicable)*: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

# ***Week Two***



## ***Week Two Prayer Notes***

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

**September 8**

**Lifestyle Evangelism - Put on peace**

**Hebrews 12:28**

*28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*

The world is shaking. Everywhere we look there it seems we see chaos and problems. We live in a time of wars and rumors of wars. A time of earthquakes multiplying. A time when the world has not only tried to blur the lines between right and wrong, but has tried to take out an eraser in effort to eliminate any sense of right and wrong. These efforts have not produced peace, but tumultuous times shaking people to the core. Dear friends, I have good news for you, while the world is in a time of great shaking, remember we have been given a kingdom which cannot be shaken.

The peace of God is a truly amazing gift. Knowing God, His character, His nature, His faithfulness to watch over His Word to perfect and perform it produces an internal peace in the hearts and minds of the believer that supersedes anything we see happening in the world around us. Walking in peace in the midst of a chaotic world will also make you magnetically attractive to the souls of those around you who are looking for something stable in the midst of unstable times. As you lift your eyes to Jesus instead of to the news media and live from the inside out focused on His promises as opposed to what you see and feel you become impervious to the negative things happening in the world around you. You will begin to hear questions like, "how can you be so calm in the midst of all this chaos?" The answer you can give is simple - I know Jesus, would you like to meet Him, you can have this same peace.

The enemy of our souls will do everything he can to try and get you to give up on the trust and peace that comes from God, but if you will keep lifting your eyes to heaven, and trusting in Him you will experience a peace that abides and remains regardless of the circumstances swirling around you.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

Have you ever experienced a time when the world was shaking but you had the peace of God that surpasses all understanding?

**September 9**

**Lifestyle Evangelism - Put on Joy**

**Philippians 4:4 TPT**

*"Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let joy overflow, for you are united with the Anointed One."*

The truth is, if we don't display Joy in our day-to-day lives, why would anyone want to join us in the Kingdom of God? Philippians 4:4 TPT "Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let JOY overflow, for you are united with the Anointed One." James 1:2 TPT says, "My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties, see it as an...opportunity to experience the greatest Joy that you can."

I received a lovely and timely gift in the mail one day last week. It was a copy of a Laughing Jesus by James Nesbit. Jesus was sitting on His throne with His head thrown back laughing....I loved it so very much!

That was the day I needed to balance the checkbook, not something I was looking forward to at all as I hadn't been able to perfectly balance it for a few months; some months we gave the bank money and some months they gave us money. I propped up that picture of the Laughing Jesus right where I could glance at Him as I strived to find the balance. He didn't look at all concerned about any of it, so I decided to not be concerned either, even when it did not balance, and I had to, once again, trust the bank's figures. I walked away from the desk in total peace with a happy heart.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

In my prayer room there is a picture of some lovely red poppies in fruit jar vases. Underneath is a verse, James 1:2, that says, "TODAY I CHOOSE JOY!" That is the choice that is before me every morning. How about you....can you trust Him with your day and find JOY in it?

**September 10**

**Lifestyle Evangelism - Self-Control**

**Gal. 5:22-23 (AMP)**

*22But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Self-control - the ability to control one's emotions and desires, especially in difficult situations. I would love to say that self control came like a bolt of lightning. You know just BANG and I was able to control my anger and actions. It just didn't happen that way. Many times I found myself saying or doing something that I never intended to say or do. It would just happen like a reflex of sorts. You know like when the doctor wants to test your reflexes and uses that little hammer on your knee and your leg jumps.

So when someone would cut me off on the highway I would just yell at them, call them an idiot and tell them I would like to smack them upside the head. It was a triggered response. It was a left over piece of who I had been. I love the fact that the amplified bible qualifies patience as not the ability to wait but how we act while waiting. Because I needed that kind of patience. As I sought the Lord, things began to change, my heart began to feel deeply about stuff I had never even considered before. I stopped yelling IDIOT at people on the freeway (most of the time). Then there were times that I would be driving down the street and just feel an urge to pray for someone I saw walking down the street.

To me self control as it pertains to evangelism is about behavior and public actions. Composure when facing adverse people and situations is a real opportunity. Mom always told me you can catch more flies with honey than you can vinegar. So what does this look like and how does that apply to evangelism?

Not too long ago I had the opportunity to spend some time on the river with my nephew. At the time he had a really nice ski boat with a big motor in it. I had never driven a boat before but hey I had driven just about everything else so he let me take the wheel for a bit. Like I said I had never done this before so I didn't really know about the wake a boat can generate. As a result when we were trying to get around some river traffic I gave it some throttle and when I did I kind of swamped the guy behind me who was in a little dingy. I didn't see what happened because I was looking forward, but my nephew did and he started to freak out. The guy was chasing us and he was mad as a wet hornet. Since my nephew only had my past behavior to judge this situation by, and he was scared that there was a BIG confrontation coming. Instead I shut the boat down and when the guy caught up to us I very humbly and quickly apologized. I asked him to forgive my lack of skill and handling of the vessel. I then asked if there was anything I could do about whatever damage I caused from the water washing over his boat. The gentleman was open and accepted my apology, said that everything was ok and just asked that I be more careful. My nephew on the other hand was talking about my handling of the situation all day to everyone. He said uncle I have never seen you humble yourself before. That's when I said it is just God working in me now. I know that situation is remembered and I know it has had a rippling effect. That's the old saying "I would rather see a sermon than hear one."

### **Putting the Word to Work**

Q: Does your public persona equal your private beliefs?

**September 11**

**Lifestyle Evangelism - “Elevator Testimony” - Look how far you’ve come  
Ephesians 2:1-5**

*1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.*

Elevator testimony is part of your story quickly and concisely. Imagine walking into an elevator and striking up a conversation with those present. You may or may not know them, but what you do know is that the ride is brief, and the moment appointed by God. Now, elevator testimonies won't always happen on an elevator, sometimes we are in the grocery store line, at the DMV, at our kids soccer game, or at a birthday party and the moment presents itself to share about the goodness of God.

Ephesians 2 is a reminder of hope in Christ. We have ALL been dead in sin but because of God's great love for us, we are Made Alive! We can relate to those who are in the struggle because we have been in the struggle, but we can also encourage them that you don't have to stay in the struggle.

When I was a young adult I was caught up in the cycle of gratifying the cravings of the sinful nature. I will say it never sat right with me, and I always experienced tension because I had walked with the Lord before. I was miserable in sin but felt stuck by what I had chosen. I broke out of my routine and decided to attend a young adults church service where I knew no one. When I turned toward God everything slowly began to change in my life. I started to experience what it felt like to be alive and unbound.

I have shared this part of my story with many teens and young adults over the years. It is a beautiful reminder to me, “Look how far the Lord has brought me.” And it is also an encouragement for someone who feels stuck, dead, lost, and bound. If He did it for me, He can and will do it for you!

**Putting the Word to Work**

If you had 20 seconds and someone asked why you had and hope? What would you say?

**September 12**

**Lifestyle Evangelism - Your Elevator Testimony (2) - Monumental Moments**

**Proverbs 4:18**

*18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.*

Every born again person has God moments or we might say God encounters that are foundational to our walk with the Lord. For some these are moments of great transformation, or divine deliverance in our lives, or discovery of divine destiny. No one else has your story. Your experience of God's grace is unique to you. These major moments are often high points

One day, I was driving from Roseburg Oregon, to Topeka Kansas (1,826 miles). Day one I drove to Rock Springs Wyoming, and rented a room at the motel 6 quickly fell asleep. After some hours of sleep, I snapped awake very quickly. Got up, showered, packed up my stuff and was about to exit the room, when I looked at the clock - 4:30 am (and I had lost an hour of sleep). This was not normal for me at that time, I had not planned to leave until much later in the morning, but I was awake, ready to I thought to myself, "I guess I will just get in earlier today," and off I went. As I pulled onto the freeway, God spoke to me (although I did not realize it until later) "I want to show you something." I was climbing the Rocky Mountains that morning, the sky was dark for a few hours. I began to realize I was approaching the pass as the sky was getting lighter. On that particular Interstate, there are 3 signs that say "continental divide" and get the elevation. I knew from the previous years drive over that same pathway, that the middle sign was the highest point on the road as I drove. I had a cd playing that I had never really listened to (because that's what you do when you drive 1,826 miles). The chorus had these words, "You are a child of Mine, born of my own design." I had just heard that phrase as I pulled even with that middle sign. At the exact moment, I pulled even with that sign, at the highest point on the Rocky Mountains, the sun popped out from behind the mountain peaks in the distance and God spoke! I have heard people describe how firmly the Lord has spoken that they weren't sure if it was in their spirit or if it was the audible voice of the Lord. I really couldn't tell you which it was, but it was so strong and so real, I heard God say to me, "You are a child of Mine, born of My design. If you will follow Me, the path of your life will be like the path in front of you that will shine brighter and brighter unto the full day." At that time, I did not know Proverbs 4:18. I had believed in God, I was born again, but that day God broke into my world and I was changed forever.

That monumental moment did 3 things in me: 1) It solidified something in me that God was not just something to believe in, but someone to be known. 2) It established an unshakable confidence in the reality of God regardless of what I have seen and experienced since then. 3) It stirred in Me a hunger to help other people hear of and know about this amazing God we serve.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

What was one of your monumental God moment and how has that moment affected your life?

**September 13**

**Lifestyle Evangelism - Your Elevator Testimony (3) - The impact of being forgiven**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

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

God's grace is truly amazing. If we were to look back on our lives, we would likely be able to see a change from our life before Jesus and our life after we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The change that began at the cross where we were forgiven for our sins and knew we were clean by His blood something begins to change. Forgiveness feels so clean and good, our behavioral pattern begins to change as well.

There is no better witness to the world, than a changed life. The practical side of experiencing old things have passed away and all things are made new impacts the people we have known. Do not allow people from your past to decide you are not allowed to change in Christ. If your old circle of friends does not know nor understand your changed life, realize it is not a bad thing, it is a complement. Other people may not understand the changes Christ will make in your life as you are now following Him on a new path, but that's okay. The longer they watch you live Godly it will spark questions and a desire to see the same thing that you have experienced happen to them. Before too long, they will begin to call on you when they need someone to pray for them.

Never be ashamed of a forgiven transformed life.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

Have you ever experienced opposition because you have changed the way in which you live? If so, how did you handle it?

**September 14**

**Winning My Circle – Part 1 - Identify Your Target**

**Acts 8:5**

*Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.*

The first step in winning your circle is to identify your circle! Who are the people within your circle of influence who do not yet have a relationship with God?

Search your heart. Do you have compassion for your family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or classmates who do not yet have a relationship with God? Are there people you feel you know well and whom you are allowing to know you well? If the answer is yes but these people do not share your beliefs about God, you already have a great foundation for starting that conversation. If people trust you, they are more willing to allow conversations about God. If they do not trust you, why would they trust what you tell them is true? How do you develop and deepen someone's trust in you? Ask questions that demonstrate that you care about them and that you are curious about what they think and believe.

Give yourself a goal of asking five people a week a new question. Get to know their real life, not just their spiritual beliefs. Find out how they are doing. Learn about their families and friends. God has placed you in a unique place for a unique time. He wants to use you to represent Him where you are: at work, at home and wherever you relax. What are the places where you cross paths with the same people regularly? Think of your neighborhood, your workplace, your classroom, your gym, your favorite coffee shop, your family, your friends. You are naturally connected to certain people in your life. You have common interests, you come from the same place, or your kids go to school together, for example. So, naturally, you will want to have conversations with these people about what matters to you, including your faith in God.

Make a list of the people in these places you want to have a spiritual conversation with, then pray and ask God where to focus first. When you cross paths with the same people repeatedly, you have multiple opportunities to move conversations forward gradually.

**SET A SOUL GOAL—** The more people that you share the Gospel of Christ with, the more people you will see invite Christ into their hearts. If you are asking the Lord for five decisions for Christ today, you, at least, need to share the Gospel with five people.

**Putting the Word to Work**

Make a list of friends, family, associates, and people within your realm of influence that are not serving the Lord.

Make a record of your encounters with the people on your list:



# ***Week Two Sermon Notes***

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Series (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Series (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

# ***Week Three***

### ***Week Three Prayer Notes***

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

**September 15**

**Winning My Circle – Part 2 - Praying**

**Mark 3:27**

*No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.*

The second step in winning your circle is prayer! Once you have made a list of people you have identified that you would like to see in the kingdom, you should pray for each one of them individually. Why? Because just like Jesus said No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house. The apostle Paul described the challenge: "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

This enigma needs to be recognized before we attempt to share the gospel: "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). In other words, the people on your list do not have the capacity to understand the gospel message and they have been blinded by Satan and thus, cannot recognize the truth you are prepared to share with them.

So, before you attempt to share the gospel, it is imperative that you pray strategically. First, pray that the Father will bind the evil forces at work in the life of each one on your list. Second, pray for opportunities to share the gospel with each person on your list. After you have prayed, be bold and discerning in your approach. Remind yourself, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

After you have shared the gospel message with anyone, pray that the Holy Spirit will dispatch other believers to water the seed that you planted. Remember what Paul said about how the gospel works: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Take courage in knowing that Jesus is praying for your success: "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word" (John 17:20).

**Putting the Word to work**

Make a prayer card for each of the five people on your list and keep a record of your encounters with them and how your prayers for them have been altered as you observe the seed you planted develop.

**September 16**

**Winning My Circle – Part 3 - A Strategic “Battle” Plan**

**Luke 4:18-19**

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*

This was Jesus’ proclamation as He began His ministry on earth, that His coming was the fulfillment of this prophecy given to Isaiah. The apostle John wrote: “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:7). Paul the apostle confirmed that Jesus accomplished the work of our salvation on the cross: “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:13-15).

That is the good news, the gospel that we proclaim. We do not fight for victory; we simply proclaim His victory over death and the devil! The battle is not against flesh and blood but against the minions of hell! And God has equipped you for the fight: “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” (2 Corinthians 10:4-6).

Sadly, many people who profess to be Christians see the church as a cruise liner built and equipped to cater to the needs and desires of its passengers rather than a rescue vessel built and equipped by God to search for people drowning in a sea of sin and lift them to safety, and then train them to search for and rescue others. Our assignment is to accept our role in the battle, learn how to effectively use the weapons He has provided, engage in the conflict, and trust Him for the results. As you go, He will give you the ability to preach the gospel, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, and to proclaim: “now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2)

**Putting the Word to Work**

Take your card of the five people on your list and outline a strategy for each one of them.

**September 17**

**Winning My Circle – Part 4 - Be the gospel witness.**

**Mark 16:15**

*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

Most Christians I know seem timid when it comes to witnessing to others. Often because of feeling unqualified or, God forbid, have excused themselves from the command Jesus gave His disciples. The Bible celebrates the person who will accept the calling of God to preach the gospel: “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach; except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things” (Romans 10:14-15). Jesus promised that you would become His witness after the Holy Spirit came upon you, so if you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit you are one of His witnesses! The way you conduct your life is a witness, with the words you speak and the deeds you do.

Many believers have difficulty knowing what to say to others who do not share their relationship with God, so they rarely bring the gospel into their conversations. When they do, they are discouraged by the lack of response or the outright rejection of the gospel message. The devil exploits their discouragement, and they remain reluctant to share their faith in Jesus Christ.

However, those who will say yes to the assignment to be His witnesses and take the step of faith to proclaim the good news discover: “Preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe” (1 Corinthians 1:17-25).

So do not feel obligated to learn a script to recite, or a convincing argument to persuade others to believe. Just open your heart for those who are lost, pray for opportunities to share your testimony, and tell others about what Jesus accomplished when He went to the cross in their place. Do you want to have overflowing joy in your life? Remember, Jesus said, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38). You were never designed to be a reservoir of the Holy Spirit, but a conduit through which the love and the power of God would flow to others. All you must do is open your mouth and share the gospel with others!

### **Putting the Word to Work**

Write your personal testimony and pray for opportunities to share it with others.



**September 18**

**Winning My Circle – Part 5 - Create opportunities**

**1 Peter 3:15**

*always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear*

If you want to be effective in winning your circle, you must be willing to initiate encounters with the people on your list. The notion that people will knock your door down to hear about your faith in Jesus Christ is fantasy. So, how do you start and where do you begin? The adage, “People don’t care how much you know until the know how much you care,” rings true.

That is why listening is essential to winning your circle. Trust is developed over time, so ask questions about them and what interests them. Get to know them. Build trust by listening and expressing your understanding of what you have heard them say. The goal of conversation is mutual understanding. Once someone trusts you and senses your personal concern for them, conversations will unlock deeper things that will give you opportunity to express your faith in Jesus. Personal evangelism is not about giving people information, it is about helping people understand what Jesus did for them on the cross. Gospel conversations are not gospel presentations. The apostle Peter admonished believers to: “always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

That is not to say that we should be defensive about what we believe, but be ready to offer an explanation for what and why we believe. The most effective way to answer someone who has a question about your salvation and/or your faith in God is to recall specific moments in your own life when the Holy Spirit lead you into the truth and revealed His grace to you personally. Resist the temptation to get all religious and theological! Humbly share your own experience in your personal relationship with God. Relax, be yourself, and let the Holy Spirit have His way. After all, He is the One who wants a personal relationship with everyone in your circle.

You have identified your circle. How much do you know about them? Where do you normally encounter them? Start recognizing ways to spend time with them alone in conversation or activities. Build upon your mutually shared interests or hobbies. Express your interest in getting to know them better. Ask them about needs that you could help supply them, i.e.: information, tasks, chores, projects, or errands.

**Putting the Word to Work**

Take your card with each of the five people on your list and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways you may create opportunities to get to know them better and then invite them to meet you somewhere for an activity, a meal, or conversation.

**September 19th**

**Winning My Circle – Part 6 - Bring them to church**

**Acts 2:42**

*“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers”*

Your local church may be the best ally in your quest to win your circle. Luke identified the characteristics of the church shortly after its birth. Then he described their activities and the outcome: “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46-47). The church grew through the proclamation of the gospel in the words they spoke and the way they conducted themselves daily.

Of course, not everyone was pleased with the church, and when the religious leaders persecuted them and forbade them to speak in the name of Jesus, the disciples overcame that challenge through unity, prayer, and persistence (Acts 4:1-31).

When troubles arose within the church, the leadership handled the difficulty with honesty, humility, and wisdom. The result: “Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7)

The early church was the template. It was populated with people who worshipped God, prayed, and proclaimed the gospel with boldness. They studied the scriptures, and applied them personally and corporately, and relied on the Holy Spirit to lead them and empower them every step of the way. If you attend a local church that mirrors the early church, you have an asset that you should utilize constantly.

In our current culture, people will accept invitations, RSVP, and then fail to show up! Promises, promises! People will offer all kinds of excuses for failing to show up. And that is why pastor and evangelist Greg Laurie admonishes his congregation, “Don’t invite people to church. Bring them!” The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has studied the success of their crusades all over the world, and they have discovered that most of the people who respond to the gospel were brought to the event by a friend.

Think of the men who brought their friend who was paralyzed to Jesus, and because they could not get through the crowd, they went onto the rooftop, removed the tiles, and lowered their friend into the room where Jesus was preaching (Mark 2:1-5). Think of Andrew who declared to his brother, Peter, I have found the Messiah, and then brought Peter to meet Jesus (John 1:41-42). Think of the religious leaders who brought the woman caught in the act of adultery to Jesus (John 8:2-11). Think of the people of Syria who brought desperate people to Jesus (Matthew 4:24).

### **Putting the Word to work**

Go through the cards for each of the five people on your list and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways you may create opportunities to bring them to church.

**September 20th**

**Winning My Circle – Part 7 Next steps**

**2 Timothy 1:6, 7**

*“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

Persistence and perseverance are essential attributes in your efforts to win your circle. Soul-winning is a constant battle. We know where the resistance comes from. Satan does not want you to succeed. His weapons and tactics are numerous, and they are all designed to discourage you in your efforts. Your success depends on your willingness to participate in the process no matter what happens along the way. Spiritual warfare is continuous and composed of many battles, some you will win, and some you will lose. But remember what the apostle Paul told Timothy: “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

When you grow weary or feel defeated in your efforts, remember it was God who equipped you to be an evangelist, it is He who empowers you to be His evangelist, it is His love which compels you to care for the unbelievers in your circle, and it is the Holy Spirit who inspires your thoughts and directs your steps. He has done His part. Now it's your turn to do your part. The apostle Paul wrote these words to encourage you: “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9). And “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Personal evangelism is not a routine; it is not a formula. It is your willingness to seek ways to reach the lost with the good news about what Jesus Christ has done for them. Be creative in your approach to those within your circle. Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire your thinking. Do not give up!

### **Putting the Word to Work**

Record on your card for each of the five people on your list and record your encounters. Then, adjust your approach when you do not see success. Try something new and record their response.

**September 21**

**Power Evangelism – Praying Right There**

**2 Corinthians 6:2**

*“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”*

If not now, when? I believe now means now, not later. I wonder how many salvations, healings and deliverances have been delayed, or worse yet, not received because someone hesitated, doubted the unction of the Holy Spirit.

We, having received the gospel and walking in the Light, being obedient to the Lord’s commands, must be in season. What does that mean? II Timothy 4:2 says, “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” This means, even if you’re having a bad day, be ready to present the gospel to those God brings to you. The word never said that it is only for those in leadership above you... It means you and me. This is our responsibility to God. Matthew 10:8 says, “Freely you have received, freely give.”

When I was young, about 9 years of age, I witnessed something that to this day breaks my heart. It left a mark on me that endures and defines my ministry. My mother was a very godly woman. She was pastoring a church and it was Christmas time, so her time was very precious as her responsibilities were many. My brother played guitar and sang. He would often visit people and play and sing for them. We had a neighbor who had moved in across the street and he went to visit her. He came back to the house and told Mother that he thought she should go over and visit that lady because she cried when he sang gospel songs to her. It was another thing on Mother’s long list of “to do’s.” Christmas came and went. New Year’s day arrived a week later. That’s when we received the news that the lady across the street had been drinking and was killed in a car accident. We all knew her day of salvation came and went and no one was there to help her. Mother’s mourning left its mark on her as well and never again did she miss a divine appointment. We never talked about it again. I know it changed her by the fruit she bore and definitely defined who I am and what I do for God today. I’ve resolved to never miss an opportunity to do what He has led me to do. Today is the day of someone’s salvation.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

1. Holy boldness is the courage to act or speak fearlessly despite risks. Is that you? If not, pray for the courage to do as He wants you to do.
2. Have you ever exercised Holy boldness? And what was the outcome?

# ***Week Three Sermon Notes***

Week Three Sermon Notes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Series (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

**Week Three Sermon Notes**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Series *(if applicable)*: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

# ***Week Four to the end of the Month***



## ***Week Four to the End of the Month Prayer Notes***

<p>Specific things I am praying about for my family.</p>	<p>Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.</p>
<p>Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.</p>	<p>People I am praying for their salvation.</p>

**September 22**

**Power Evangelism - Market Place Miracles**

**Mark 16:15**

*And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

One of my favorite descriptions of this passage, commonly referred to as the Great Commission, a speaker added the word, "as" right before the word "go," so that it reads "as you go into all the world..." Sharing the gospel should not be something reserved for a "mission trip" or a special event or even a designated "Salt and Light outreach day." No, evangelism is a mentality, a perspective, a way of life. We must adopt a mentality that everywhere we go, and every person we meet is an opportunity for the gospel to be demonstrated. Miracles are not reserved for the church.

I was talking with a clerk inside a grocery store one day. He had been sharing with me about some very interesting experiences he had earlier in the day with people. Knowing he was a believer I was encouraging him that it really is a normal experience for people to just know there is something different inside of a believer. Think about it. If the Bible is true that the "same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells within us" (Romans 8:11). If the Holy Spirit really will come upon us and empower us (Acts 1:5-8), then we should not be surprised if His Spirit working on us and through us affects those around us. As we were talking, I pointed towards a guy who was walking in our direction. This man, was slumped over, had an extremely grumpy even angry expression on his face. Basically carrying himself in such a manner most people would avoid making eye contact let alone talking to him. I said to the clerk, watch what happens when this man walks past us. Amazingly, he got about 5 steps away, suddenly began walking upright. His countenance changed, he looked lighter, and lighter as he got closer. He was an arms length away, looked right at us, gave us a great big smile and kept on walking. When he got about five steps away he slumped back over and looked as grumpy as before. The clerk looked at me as things clicked, the Holy Spirit upon our lives, affected that man as he walked past.

There are times I have prayed for people in shopping centers, ball fields, airplanes, rental car drop offs, restaurants. I even remember the time we were having a book club meeting at Starbucks, and a young lady from Portland couldn't help but overhear our conversation. Asked us a question, we got to pray with her, as she confessed she had not been walking with the Lord for sometime, we prayed right there as she rededicated her life to following Jesus. I got her number and connected her with a pastor friend of mine whose church was 15 minutes from where she lived and worked.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

Next time you are going to go into a store, ask the Holy Spirit before you enter, if He would show you someone who needs a touch from Him. Then as you go, keep your eyes open and your heart ready to respond to the opportunity He brings you.

**September 23**  
**Healing**  
**Mark 16:17-18**

*17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.***

Everywhere Jesus went, He not only preached, but also performed great and amazing miracles. The gospels record Jesus working at least 37 distinct miracles. Each of these caught the attention of a crowd and made people step back and realize that there was something different about Jesus. The miracles continue after Jesus' ascension throughout the book of Acts as the Holy Spirit worked through the hands of multiple disciples. Mark's gospel here makes a statement that these signs will follow those that believe... they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

At our summer camp, we saw God do two unforgettable miracles, the first was the healing of a young lady who was legally blind in her left eye as God healed and opened her eye. The second was a young lady who God restructured her hips giving her the ability to walk normally for the first time. These were moments that rocked the young people present. The power of God was evident as more than a theory and an idea and great Bible stories, it was a living present reality visible for everyone to see. When God does a miracle or heals a body it stirs in the hearts and minds of the believers that God is undeniably real.

**Putting the Word to Work**

Now, what are the qualifications to be used by God in the area of healing? Verse 17 says, these signs shall follow those who believe, thus belief is the only pre-requisite. When I am working with someone and preparing them to receive, I like to start people at a place where we all know and agree. If praying for healing and miracles is a new thing to you, perhaps try this as an example.

- First, do you believe God can heal? Yes.
- Do you believe what the Bible says that "By His stripes we were healed" (1 Peter 2:24; Is. 53:5)? Yes.
- Do you believe the Word, when Mark says believers will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover? Yes.
- Do you believe that the Bible says, if there is anyone sick, let them call for the elders of the church to pray, anoint with oil and the prayer of faith shall save the sick (James 5:14, 15)? Yes.
- So God we take You at Your Word and by faith we believe that You will watch over Your Word to perform it, in Jesus Name.

**September 24**  
**Prophetic Evangelism**  
**Acts 1:8**

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

If you're like me, interruptions are not your favorite. Just listening to a list of synonyms for interrupt might make my hair coil. Who wants to be, cut in on, barged in on, intruded on, heckled, have someone put their oar into your life? Most of us do not like to be interrupted. Yet, where we see interruptions as quite inconvenient.... God sees them as opportunities.

A while back, I took a few ladies out with me to do some "interrupting." We split into groups, got into cars. The assignment was to ask Holy Spirit where He wanted us to go, and who He wanted us to minister to. My group felt led to head down to an old train station restaurant. I pulled into the parking spot, feeling a bit like a secret agent " Now what? "Should we go in? Should we watch for people to witness to outside?"

As we prayed I heard one word, "Sarah." That was it. No big instructions just a name. So, we stuck together, headed into the old style restaurant armed with our purses, a few tracks, and a word from God. There was a young blonde girl and a guy sitting out front. They looked like they were on their first date. I politely interrupted."Excuse me, is your name Sarah?"

Nope. We scurried inside. What do you do when you are trying to look inconspicuous? Well, you order French fries and side dishes to go of course. I engaged the young waitress in conversation, gave her an invitation to church. "You know, I've been wanting to get back into church. Do you have anything for kids?" This was getting fun.

Then my crew threw a live idea at me, as they all felt drawn to a certain lady in the booth next to us. "That one?" "Yes, the one in the orange." We got done praying with the lady in orange, got our food, feeling pretty good about all our interrupting, but I still had not found Sarah. One by one we filed out of the restaurant, and on a whim, I leaned toward the booth by the door where two ladies in their thirties sat.

"Excuse me, is your name Sarah, or do you know a Sarah?" "Nope." I said, " Ok, I just feel like I was supposed to pray for a Sarah tonight." "Well, actually we tried to invite a friend of ours, Sarah, to come with us tonight but couldn't get a hold of her. She's been having a really hard time, her mother in law died of Alzheimer's recently." I smiled, extended my hand. "Can I pray for Sarah?" "Yes..." she said, bursting into tears. God showed up.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

In evangelism, there are five main "p's" that give us options for reaching people. They are all important. They are **Presence**, (building relationships and demonstrating God's love through actions) **proclamation** (this involves clearly and boldly declaring the gospel) **Power** ( this emphasizes signs, wonders, miracles, healings) **persuasion** (focuses on reason, logic, and apologetics) and lastly, the **prophetic**. (This involves hearing God's heart and speaking His truth into specific situations.) All of them are skills we can grow in to reach the lost, including powerful, prophetic evangelism. First step? Simply a willingness to allow God to interrupt someone's life, with a touch from heaven.... through you.

**September 25**

**Power Evangelism - Alabaster Moments**

**Mark 14:6 AMP**

*But Jesus said "Let her alone; why are you bothering her and causing trouble? She has done a good and beautiful thing to Me."*

Have you ever felt like your past disqualified you from worship? Maybe like me, you've had moments where you wondered. "How could someone like me come close to Him?" In Mark 14, a woman walks into a room where she knew she didn't belong, and the others in the room definitely felt she did not belong. Everyone there had an opinion about her, but she wasn't there for them. She was there for Jesus. She carried with her a costly, fragile, alabaster jar. And in one scandalous moment, she breaks it open and pours it all over Him. No hesitation. No holding back. And while the people around her judge her and find her wanting, lacking, less than. Jesus says something breathtaking: "Leave her alone... she has done a beautiful thing." Where the world saw waste, Jesus saw worship. Where the men saw a broken past, Jesus saw a beautiful offering. Where others saw shame, Jesus saw her heart. This is an Alabaster Moment, when a person dares to bring all they have, broken or not, and surrender it fully at His feet. And it reminds us that no one is beyond redemption. Not then. Not now. Not ever.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

What is your alabaster jar? What parts of your story are you still clinging to? Whatever it is, can I challenge you to stop sealing it up and start pouring it out? Jesus isn't afraid of your mess. And He never sees worship as a waste, no matter how broken it feels. Stop letting your past disqualify you, bring your whole heart, just as you are, to Jesus.

**September 26**

**To every man an answer**

**1 Peter 3:15**

*“But sanctify the Lord God to your hearts and always be ready to give defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”*

I am particularly fond of the NIV translation of this verse, “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” We need to stand ready to give an example of the hope that we have both for the salvation of others and for the world around us. We need to stay positive in our attitude and live our lives as if we are always expectant of the coming of the Lord.

First, do you have hope in your heart? What does a Christian hope for? We hope for the return of our Lord. We hope for the peace of Jerusalem. We hope for the salvation of our loved ones and our family. We hope for the manifestation of the promises of God. We hope for the opportunity to share our hope with others. There are so many things for the believer to hope for. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” By our faith, we bring things into being that we do not see. We believe in the second coming of our Lord. Our faith is the dynamic that will bring this hope into reality someday.

Our lives need to be a living testimony to the hope we have inside. Our hope starts with the “setting apart” of the Lord Jesus Christ in our hearts. Our outward lives should be a witness to what we possess within. When people see that we are different, and witness that we do not react to the things of this world in the same way that others do, they will want to know why. We need to stand ready to testify to the facts that are present within us. As Pastor John has reiterated on a regular basis, “If nothing else, you are not going to hell.” Stop and think about the difference in your life now and your life before Christ. Testify to the changes that you have experienced. Be ready to give an account of how your life is now. Let your light shine through your way of living.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

There is nothing wrong with rehearsing your testimony. Think about the reasons you have hope and how you might answer certain questions. But, remember the most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit will give you things to say in particular circumstances.

**September 27**

**How can you believe in what you can't see?**

**John 14:26**

*26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

So many children are taught to \*believe\* in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy. In time, they learn it is fantasy. The parents enjoyed their own childhood memories and lied (with good intentions?) to their children. Eventually each child will know the truth. Then, why should that child (at any age) believe other stories that appear to have no evidence? The Bible has amazing, fantastical stories of heroism that capture the imagination. They mostly take place in a faraway time and place, like so many fairy tales and adventure story books. Could they be true? The questions begin.

Our Creator has placed in each of us a longing for Truth. As we are exposed to the Bible, we have a choice to believe it is true or not... that it has power or not. The more we are exposed to the things of God, there begins a connection to the Holy Spirit that opens a way for Him to work in us. He is the source of Truth. With searching questions, life events provide divine understanding. For many, difficulties bring a person to ask God to intervene and finally accept the divine help sought for. It is a process orchestrated by God. Without the Holy Spirit we cannot fully know Truth.

So, to answer the question above: We cannot believe in what we cannot see without the Holy Spirit giving understanding. It is not just choosing to believe. True surrender to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the only way. Then... oh, what peace! And assurance!

Talk to any Christian and you will hear a multitude of different experiences of how their lives changed gloriously when they accepted Jesus as Savior. You will see how \*personal\* our God is. There are no pat answers for the process. The common factor is SURRENDER. It is very private and happens inside of you. When someone is "born again," all things become new.

The next step is to communicate with God. Don't let "prayer" intimidate you. It is just talking to God... the One who loves you so much that He remains in your life always! Life is not always smooth, but you will always have someone to turn to for help and comfort. You will never be alone again. Call on Him. He knows more about what you need than you do, and He wants to teach you. Ask Him! John 14:26

### **Putting the Word to Work**

1. Have you "surrendered" to Jesus, your savior? How do you describe it?
2. Do you seek the Holy Spirit as your Helper in life?
3. How can you teach your "little ones" to replace fantasy with God's Truth?

**September 28**

**How can you believe in a Loving God?**

**1 John 4:16**

*“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. GOD IS LOVE, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”*

Sometimes we can think about something in God's Word and later find out that our thinking was a little out of wack. The love of God is one of those things. I once had a woman at a conference where I was speaking make a statement that I just had to respond to. I was in line for our evening meal and she was behind me talking with a friend. She said, “I don't think God loves me.” I quickly responded to her by saying. “You're not that important!” Of course, she asked me what I said, and I repeated it to her. She asked me what I meant by that, and I explained that God Is Love, and she was not important enough for God to stop being God just for her.

We often think about God from our finite perspective. We relate the love of God to our experiences here on earth. I have heard it said, “How could a loving God allow this or that to happen to a good person.” God is not constrained to this world's time or circumstances. We need to remember, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28 NKJV) Note that this promise is for those that are called according to HIS purpose. God has an eternal purpose for your life, and today's circumstances are just an infinitesimal part of the journey that He has set us on.

When we allow ourselves to question the love of God, we are playing into the hands of the devil. Satan would like nothing better than to plant the seed of doubt in our minds concerning the love of God. The two major places in God's Word that we find the devil tempting someone directly, it was with doubt. In the Garden of Eden he said to Eve, “Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden” (Gen. 3)? This planted doubt in the mind of Eve. In the wilderness he tempted Jesus by prefacing his statements with, “If you are the Son of God, then...” (Matt 4).

God is love, and He will always be love. Try not to take what you see in this fallen world out of perspective. We pray regularly “Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” The reason we pray that way is because satan is still in control of this world and will be until the Lord returns to wrest that control from his hands.

### **Putting the Word to Work**

The next time you see some horrific act that satan has perpetrated, ask God how you should pray for those involved.



**September 29**

**Why should you believe the Bible is really the Word of God?**

Words are powerful! I am a “literalist.” If it is in the Bible, I believe it is pertinent and true. To do that, we must agree that the Bible, Old and New Testament, is the Truth of God. In Bible study, my intent is to share a balance of Scriptures for consideration – for you to make up your own mind what God is saying.

God has placed within every person a need for Truth, to understand, and to have a foundation to stand on. It causes many (like me) to enter into research of various kinds... the “need to know.” Many just look for fun in life, until something in life causes a search for “something more.” What are you looking for? Where are you looking? Romans 10:17 says, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Paul said, “... because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13 Do you believe?

Jesus prayed to God the Father for His disciples and all believers who follow Him. “For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.” John 17:8

Our message today is to confront what you believe. The culture today says you can tell “your truth.” How does that work if it clashes with someone else’s “truth”? You do not have the authority to create your own world. There is only one world and one Truth: the Word of God. It is the only thing that works and holds everything together. There is amazing consistency throughout the Bible, God is in all.

God has given every person a “free will” to choose in life. What do you choose?

**Putting the Word to Work**

What is your personal statement regarding the Word of God? Write it down.

**September 30**

**Where was God when \_\_\_\_\_?**

**Hebrews 13:5**

*“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

God is always there. As Paul said in this Scripture, Jesus will never leave you nor will He forsake you. Even during those times when God seems to be far away, and the heavens seem to be closed to our prayers, He is there. A wise old man once said, *“if you feel far away from God, guess who moved.”* We can place ourselves in situations where it seems like God is not hearing our prayers, nor does He seem to be speaking to us, but He is always there.

It helps to understand the way that the world today is set up. When there is a school shooting, or someone does such a horrific thing, God seems to have turned his back. However, the world in which we live is still under the control of satan. Adam and Eve relinquished the dominion that God gave to them to satan when they sinned in the garden. That is one of the reasons for our daily prayer, “...thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” We are expectantly looking forward to the time when Jesus will return, and that dominion will once again come into the realm of heaven. Then, and only then, will God have full reign over this earth again. God will not override His own rules. When He gave dominion to Adam & Eve, it was without repentance, and so that dominion passed to satan, even though it was through conniving and subterfuge.

When bad things happen to good people, it is not God who is doing it. Even in Job’s case, God limited satan’s ability to take his life but allowed the temptations and disasters to happen. Always keep in mind that God is right there, and even when things are not going as YOU planned, He is with you. He did not promise to deliver you from all trials and testings, but he did promise to be with you as you go through them. The optimal word here is THROUGH. God will be with you no matter what is happening, and He will see that you make it to the other side.

We need to concentrate on and practice turning to God immediately when things seem to be going awry. Too many times, we try to tough it out and handle the problem on our own. Turn immediately to God and ask for the wisdom to handle whatever crisis is occurring. We are to become like little children. What do they do when things go wrong? They immediately go looking for their parents to solve the problem. We need to do likewise.

### **Putting the Word to work**

The next time you find yourself in a dilemma, immediately ask the Lord for the solution. See if he is not there every time.

# ***Week Four to the end of the Month Sermon Notes***

**Week Four to the end of the Month Sermon Notes**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Series (*if applicable*): \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

**Week Four to the end of the Month Sermon Notes**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Series (*if applicable*): \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

# *Acknowledgements*

**Special thank you to the following devotional contributors:**

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**For more information about The Father's House, you can check out our website:**

**thefathershouseint.org or on Facebook or our YouTube channel. Weekly we gather:**

Sunday	9 am & 11 am - Sunday Worship Experience
Tuesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Wednesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
	5:30 pm - Dollar Diner at 5:30
	6:30 pm - Wednesday Worship Experience
Thursday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Friday	7 pm - Prayer meeting
Saturday	6 pm - Prayer Meeting

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