

CHRIST CENTERED. COMMUNITY FOCUSED



DEEPENING FAITH II

A Journey Through
Christian Theology



Table of CONTENTS

02	A message from Pastor Thomas
03	How to use this study guide
04	Week one: Scripture Intake
10	Week one: Digging Deeper
18	Week two: Prayer - Communing with God
22	Week two: Digging Deeper
26	Week three: Worship - Responding to God's Worth
30	Week three: Digging Deeper
34	Week four: Fasting - Seeking God with Undivided Focus
39	Week four: Digging Deeper
43	Week five: Stewardship - Managing God's Gifts Faithfully
48	Week five: Digging Deeper
52	Week six: Service - Living for the Good of Others and the Glory of God
56	Week six: Digging Deeper
60	Week seven: Fellowship - Sharing Life in the Body of Christ
64	Week seven: Digging Deeper
68	Week eight: Evangelism - Sharing the Good News of Christ
72	Week eight: Digging Deeper
76	Final Reflection

Special note: Note pages can be found right before each Digging Deeper section.

Welcome MESSAGE



Welcome to "Deepening Faith II: A Journey Through Christian Theology." This course aims to explore the foundational doctrines that shape our faith, deepening our relationship with Christ and enriching our connection with others.

I am grateful that you have chosen to begin this journey. The next eight weeks are designed to guide you into a deeper walk with God through the practice of spiritual disciplines. These are not meant to feel like burdens or tasks to complete, but invitations to draw near to the Lord who delights in His people.

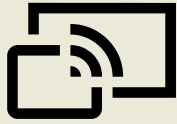
My prayer is that as you move through these lessons, you will not only learn about the disciplines but also experience their power in your own walk with Christ. May your love for Him grow deeper, your obedience become more joyful, and your life reflect His glory more fully.

Each week you will encounter truth from God's Word, examples from biblical history, and practical steps that can help you put these truths into practice. You will also have opportunities to reflect on what you are learning and how God is shaping your life.

Walk through these pages with an open heart, and trust that the Spirit of God will meet you in every step.

In Christ,

Dr. Shannon L. Thomas
Senior Pastor, Rockwall
Friendship Baptist Church



BE SURE TO
CONNECT TO
THE GROUP
ON THE APP



HAVE
QUESTIONS
ALONG THE
WAY? SUBMIT
THEM HERE



How to use THIS STUDY GUIDE

1 Join the lecture.

Whether you join us in person on Monday nights, stream online, or rewatch later in the week, be sure to join the lecture each week.

2 Reflect with Daily Devotionals.

Dig deeper each week with our devotionals to stay engaged. These devotionals are designed to reiterate and explore the concepts covered during the session at a personal level.

3 No need to read ahead.

There's no need to read the lecture notes ahead of time.

4 Stay Engaged with Group Discussions

Tap into the group for further discussion through the link provided. Engaging with the group can enhance your understanding and provide additional insights.

Welcome to Week 1 of our course on "Deepening Faith II: A Journey Through Christian Theology. Scripture is the lifeline of the Christian faith. Without God's Word, we cannot know Him, understand His will, or grow into Christlikeness. Scripture intake is more than reading a sacred text; it is encountering the living God through His inspired Word. This week, we will explore how hearing, reading, meditating on, memorizing, and studying the Bible shapes the believer's mind, heart, and life. We will see how this discipline has anchored God's people throughout history, how it fuels every other spiritual discipline, and how it equips us for faithful living in every season.

Learning Objectives

- Define Scripture intake and describe its biblical foundation.
- Explain the five key practices of Scripture intake.
- Understand the theological significance of God's Word in spiritual formation.
- Identify the connection between Scripture intake and other disciplines.
- Commit to practical steps that increase your daily engagement with the Bible.

Lecture Notes

Scripture as Our Source

Spiritual maturity never happens by accident.

- God has given His Word as the primary means to _____ Himself, _____ our minds, and _____ our lives.
- Scripture intake is the believer's ongoing, intentional engagement with the _____ for the purpose of knowing God, trusting His promises, and obeying His commands.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Sufficiency means the Bible contains everything we need for life and godliness.

What is Scripture Intake?

- Scripture intake is the practice of hearing, reading, meditating on, memorizing, and studying the Bible in order to grow in the _____ of God and live according to His _____.
- It is not merely collecting information but allowing the Holy Spirit to apply God's _____ so that we are changed from the inside out.

His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3

God's Word renews the mind

- Transformation begins internally; Scripture changes how we think, which shapes how we live.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2

Biblical Foundations:

God's Word is inspired and sufficient

- Inspiration means that every word of Scripture is God-breathed.

God's Word guards against sin

- Scripture provides truth to resist temptation and conviction to turn from sin.

*I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11*

God's Word gives direction

- It provides clarity in decision-making and wisdom in navigating life's challenges.

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. Psalm 119:105

Biblical History of Scripture Intake:

From the earliest days of God's _____, Scripture intake has been both communal and personal, oral and written. Understanding how God's Word was received and practiced in biblical times enriches our own _____ today.

Oral Transmission in the Old Testament

- Before the Scriptures were written, God's Word was passed down through spoken recounting of His acts and commands (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).
- Parents were instructed to talk about God's commands at home, on the road, in the morning, and at night.
- Festivals like Passover were designed to retell God's saving works to future generations (Exodus 12:24-27).

Public Reading of the Law

- After the Law was given, Moses read it to the people (Exodus 24:7).
- Joshua read "all the words of the law" to the assembly of Israel (Joshua 8:34-35).
- Kings like Josiah reinstituted public readings to call the nation back to covenant faithfulness (2 Kings 23:1-3).

Synagogue and Temple Practices

- By the time of the exile and return, synagogues became central to weekly gatherings, where Scripture was read aloud and explained (Nehemiah 8:1-8).
- This pattern carried into New Testament times, where Jesus read from Isaiah in the synagogue (Luke 4:16-21).

Jesus and the Apostles

- Jesus affirmed the authority of the written Word and modeled quoting it in daily life (Matthew 4:1-11).
- The early church devoted itself to the apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42) and regularly read letters and Old Testament Scriptures aloud (Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27).

Key Milestones in Preservation and Access

- The completion of the _____ Testament canon by the time of Christ.
- The production and circulation of apostolic letters in the _____ century.
- Early _____ like the Septuagint (Greek OT) which expanded access to Scripture beyond Hebrew-speaking Jews.

Takeaway:

God's people have always engaged His Word in ways that shaped their _____, fueled worship, and directed obedience. Our modern access to Scripture in multiple formats is a _____ that calls for the same reverence and commitment seen in biblical times.

The Five Key Practices of Scripture Intake:

_____ - Listening to the reading or preaching of God's Word in gathered worship or through personal audio resources, with a readiness to believe and obey.

So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ. Romans 10:17

He said, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." Luke 11:28

_____ - Consistent, broad reading to grasp the overall story of God's redemption.

_____ - Thoughtful, prayerful reflection on Scripture so that it shapes the heart and mind.

Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. Psalm 1:2

This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. Joshua 1:8

_____ - Committing Scripture to memory for spiritual battle, encouragement, and witness.

Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3:16

_____ - Careful, intentional examination of Scripture to understand its meaning and apply it (Acts 17:11).

The people here were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, since they received the word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Acts 17:11

Why Scripture Intake Matters:

- Reveals God's _____
- _____ Our Thinking and Living
- Protects Against _____ Teaching
- _____ Us for Every Good Work

Practical Encouragement:

- **Make it daily** - Choose a time and place.
 - Action: Block it on your calendar this week.
- **Pray before you read** - Ask God to open your heart.
 - Action: Use Psalm 119:18 as your prayer.
- **Mix breadth and depth** - Use a reading plan and focused study.
 - Action: Pick one of each this week.
- **Memorize one verse** - Start small and repeat daily.
 - Action: Write it on a card or in your phone.
- **Apply immediately** - Record one actionable takeaway.
 - Action: Note one step to live out today.

Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wondrous things from your instruction. Psalm 119:18

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In the Digging Deeper section of this study guide, you can explore the topics from the lecture through a devotional designed to deepen your understanding. This section provides reflective questions and additional insights to help you connect the material to your personal faith journey. Use this time to meditate on the teachings and integrate them into your daily life.

Tuesday

Devotional: Hearing God's Word

Hearing is the first gateway for Scripture to enter your life. A distracted ear often leads to a distracted life.

Scriptural Support:

Romans 10:17 (CSB) – So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.

Nehemiah 8:3 (CSB) – While he was facing the square in front of the Water Gate, he read out of it from daybreak until noon before the men, the women, and those who could understand. All the people listened attentively to the book of the law.

Commentary:

Romans 10:17 reminds us that faith grows when the message of Christ is heard and received. Hearing is not just the physical act of listening; it is an attentive and receptive engagement with God's truth.

Nehemiah 8:3 shows God's people standing for hours to hear His Word, a posture of reverence and hunger that challenges our often casual approach.

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How does your posture toward hearing the Word reflect your hunger for God?

2. What could help you listen with greater attentiveness in church or study settings?

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

1. When was the last time hearing the Word stirred you to action?
2. How can you prepare better before hearing God's Word this week?

Life Application:

Choose one practical change to make in how you listen to God's Word.. How can you incorporate regular moments of observing and appreciating creation into your daily routine to strengthen your awareness of His presence?

Closing Thoughts:

From the earliest days of my faith, I learned to value hearing the Word read aloud in worship. Over time, I realized that the more I prepared my heart beforehand, the more the message took root in me. Hearing well is an act of worship in itself.

Wednesday

Devotional: Reading and Meditation

Reading without meditation is like glancing at a meal without eating it.

Scriptural Support:

Psalm 1:2-3 (CSB) – Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Luke 24:27 (CSB) – Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.

Commentary:

Psalm 1 describes the stability and fruitfulness that comes from a life rooted in God’s Word. Meditation is what moves truth from our eyes to our hearts.

Luke 24 reminds us that all Scripture points to Christ, so our reading should never stop at information but lead us to deeper worship of Him.

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How has meditation on Scripture brought stability to your life?

2. How can you ensure your reading points you toward Christ?

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

1. When do you find it easiest to meditate on God's Word?
2. What could help you slow down more when reading Scripture?

Life Application:

Pick one short passage and write it below. Meditate on it daily this week.

Closing Thoughts:

Meditation has been the practice that slows me down long enough for God's truth to sink in. In my own walk, the verses I meditate on become the ones that speak back to me in seasons of need.

Thursday

Devotional: Memorization

Memorization is preparation. You may not need the verse today, but you will need it someday.

Scriptural Support:

Psalms 119:11 (CSB) – I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.

Matthew 4:4 (CSB) – He answered, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

Commentary:

Psalms 119:11 shows the protective power of God’s Word stored in the heart.

Matthew 4 reveals Jesus using memorized Scripture to defeat temptation. Memorization is not just for recall—it shapes the way we think and respond in the moment.

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. What verse could you memorize this week to help in your current circumstances?

2. How does having Scripture memorized change your response to temptation?

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

1. Which verse has stayed with you the longest in life?

2. How can you make memorization a regular habit?

Life Application:

Write your chosen verse for this week and review it daily.

Closing Thoughts:

Some of my most needed moments of strength have come when the Spirit brought to mind verses I had memorized long before. Memorization has been my storehouse of hope and truth.

Friday

Devotional: Studying to Live

Studying Scripture is more than gathering knowledge—it is preparing for godly living.

Scriptural Support:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (CSB) – All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Acts 17:11 (CSB) – The people here were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, since they received the word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Commentary:

Paul's words in 2 Timothy affirm the divine origin and practical purpose of Scripture—to equip us fully for godly living.

Acts 17 commends the Bereans for eagerly studying and verifying truth. Study moves us from surface familiarity to deep conviction.

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How can you develop a more eager attitude toward Bible study?

2. What one study tool could you start using this month?

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

1. What has deepened most in your faith through Bible study?
2. What obstacle most often keeps you from deeper study?

Life Application:

Schedule one hour this week to study a passage with the aid of cross-references or a commentary.

Closing Thoughts:

In my own life, the times I have studied Scripture most deeply have been the seasons when my obedience grew most clearly. Study teaches me not just what God says but how to walk it out.

Prayer: Communing with God

Welcome to Week 2 of our course on "Deepening Faith II: A Journey Through Christian Theology. Prayer is the believer's direct access to God. It is where we speak to Him, listen for His voice, and align our will with His. Through prayer, we adore Him for who He is, confess our sins, give thanks for His goodness, and bring our needs and the needs of others before Him. Prayer is a privilege and a command. This week, we will explore prayer in Scripture, learn from biblical examples, and take steps toward a deeper life of prayer.

Learning Objectives

- Define prayer biblically and explain its theological foundation.
- Understand the role of prayer in the life of Jesus and the early church.
- Identify various biblical forms of prayer.
- Recognize the connection between prayer and other spiritual disciplines.
- Commit to consistent, intentional prayer practices.

Lecture Notes

Prayer as Our Source

Prayer is the _____ of the Christian life.
Neglecting it _____ our relationship
with God and our spiritual _____.

What is Prayer?

Prayer is the personal, reverent, continual
_____ between God and His people in
which we worship Him, confess sin, express
gratitude, and make requests according to His will.
It is both _____ and _____.

Biblical Foundations:

God Commands Prayer

Do not worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

Prayer is Rooted in God's Character

Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Matthew 6:9

The Spirit Helps Us Pray

In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. Romans 8:26

Biblical History of Scripture Intake:

Hebrew Background (Old Testament)

- Primary Term:
 - תפלה (tefillah) Root: פלל (palal) — "to _____" or "to _____." Prayer approached God as Judge and King.
- Other Expressions:
 - יצא (za'aq) — "to _____ out" in distress
 - קרא (qara) — "to _____ upon" for help or praise.

Greek Background (New Testament)

- Primary Term:
 - προσευχή (proseuchē) From pros ("toward") + euchē ("vow", "wish"). Indicates _____, intentional approach to _____.

Prayer: Communing with God

- Verb Form:
 - προσευχή (proseuchomai) — ongoing _____ of prayer.

Common Practices in Biblical Times

- Old Testament:
 - Standing with hands lifted, kneeling, or prostration; prayer morning and evening; facing Jerusalem.
- Intertestamental:
 - Rise of synagogue life, fixed hours of prayer, reciting the Amidah.
- New Testament:
 - Jesus' early morning prayer, prayer before decisions, interceding for disciples; the early church praying at fixed hours, in homes, and with fasting.

The Five Key Practices of Prayer:

- _____ - Focusing on God's character and works.
- _____ - Acknowledging our sin before Him.
- _____ - Expressing gratitude for His grace and provision.
- _____ - Bringing personal and intercessory requests before Him.
- _____ - Creating intentional space to hear God.

Listening Prayer in Scripture

Listening prayer is _____ attentiveness to God's voice, _____ by Scripture.

My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27

He told Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came, stood there, and called as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel responded, "Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:9-10

Stop fighting, and know that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth. Psalm 46:10

I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the lookout tower. I will watch to see what he will say to me and what I should reply about my complaint. Habakkuk 2:1

Why Prayer Matters:

- Deepens _____ with God.
- _____ our will with His.
- Strengthens spiritual _____.
- Fuels the _____ of God.

Practical Encouragement:

- Set a _____ appointment with God.
- _____ Scripture.
- Keep a prayer _____.
- Use prayer _____.
- _____ silence.

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Tuesday

Devotional: Adoration - Worshiping God for Who He Is

Scriptural Support:

Psalms 145:3 (CSB) – The Lord is great and is highly praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

Matthew 6:9 (CSB) – Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.

Commentary:

Adoration lifts our focus from needs to God's greatness. It resets our perspective and frames the rest of our prayers.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How does starting with praise change your prayer?
2. What attribute of God moves you to worship today?

Life Application:

Start your next prayer with three truths about God.

Closing Thoughts:

When I begin prayer with adoration, I remember that God is bigger than my problems and stronger than my fears. I find that my concerns shrink as His greatness comes into view. Adoration slows me down, forces me to see His holiness, and deepens my trust that He is in control. It reminds me that prayer is not about convincing God to act but about aligning my heart with who He already is.

Wednesday

Devotional: Adoration - Confession: Agreeing with God About Our Sin

Scriptural Support:

Psalm 32:5 (CSB) – Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

1 John 1:9 (CSB) – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Commentary:

Confession is not simply admitting wrongdoing. It is agreeing with God about our sin, turning from it, and receiving His forgiveness. frames the rest of our prayers.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. Why is confession difficult?
2. How does confession restore fellowship with God?

Life Application:

Ask God to reveal unconfessed sin today.

Closing Thoughts:

Confession clears the distance between me and God. I can pretend that my sin is small, but when I face it honestly, I find His grace to be far greater. Every time I confess, I experience the relief of being known and still loved. The weight of guilt is replaced by the peace of restored relationship. God’s forgiveness does not excuse sin, but it does free me from its hold.

Thursday

Devotional: Thanksgiving - Remembering God's Goodness

Scriptural Support:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (CSB) – Give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 103:2 (CSB) – My soul, bless the Lord, and do not forget all his benefits.

Commentary:

Thanksgiving keeps us aware of God's activity in our lives. Gratitude is a weapon against discouragement and a source of joy.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. What can you thank God for today?

2. How does gratitude in trials strengthen your faith?

Life Application:

Write down three things you are thankful for each day this week.

Closing Thoughts:

When I practice thanksgiving, I start to see God's fingerprints everywhere. Even in hard seasons, I can find reasons to give thanks because His presence never leaves me. Gratitude does not make problems disappear, but it changes how I face them. It shifts my focus from what is lacking to what God has already provided, and it opens my eyes to blessings I would have otherwise missed.

Friday

Devotional: Adoration - Supplication and Intercession - Bringing Requests to God

Scriptural Support:

Philippians 4:6 (CSB) – Do not worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Timothy 2:1 (CSB) – First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone.

Commentary:

Supplication is bringing our personal needs to God. Intercession is praying on behalf of others. Both are acts of dependence and love.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. Who will you pray for this week?
2. How can your prayers reflect God's heart for others?

Life Application:

Pray daily for three specific people this week.

Closing Thoughts:

When I bring my requests to God, I am reminded that He cares for both my needs and the needs of others. Interceding for others shapes my heart to be more like His, moving me to compassion and action. Prayer is not a passive exercise; it is active participation in the work God is doing. I find that the more I pray for others, the more I love them, and the more I am drawn into the mission of God.

Worship: Responding to God's Worth

Welcome to Week 3 of our course on "Deepening Faith II: A Journey Through Christian Theology." Worship is the believer's wholehearted response to who God is and what He has done. It is more than a song, a service, or a Sunday routine. Worship is the posture of the heart that treasures God above all else and expresses His worth in every area of life. When we truly worship, we acknowledge His supreme value and submit ourselves to His authority. This week, we will explore the biblical foundation of worship, how it was practiced in both Old and New Testament times, and how we can live a life that is fully devoted to honoring Him.

Learning Objectives

- Define worship biblically and explain its theological foundation.
- Understand the difference between true and false worship.
- Identify the forms and expressions of worship in Scripture.
- Recognize the role of worship in the life of the believer and the church.
- Commit to living a lifestyle of worship beyond corporate gatherings.

Lecture Notes

Worship as Our Source

Worship is not initiated by _____; it is a response to God's _____. When we see Him for who He is, the only fitting response is to _____, _____, and _____ to Him.

What is Worship?

Worship is the _____ of ascribing honor, reverence, and devotion to God in response to His nature, works, and Word. It involves the _____ person: mind, heart, will, and body. Worship can be _____ individually in private devotion or corporately when the gathered people of God _____ together to His greatness.

Biblical Foundations:

God Commands Worship

Because the Lord is jealous for his reputation, you are never to bow down to another god. He is a jealous God. Exodus 34:14

Worship in Spirit and Truth

But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.

John 4:23-24

Worship as a Living Sacrifice

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

Romans 12:1

Worship: Responding to God's Worth

Hebrew Background (Old Testament)

- Primary Term:
 - שָׁחָה (shachah) – to bow down or prostrate _____, expressing _____ and _____ before God.
- Other Expressions:
 - הָלַל (halal) – to _____, _____, or _____; root of “Hallelujah” meaning “praise Yahweh.”
 - יָדָה (yadah) – to give _____ or _____, often with uplifted hands.
 - זָמַר (zamar) – to _____ praise, often with instrumental accompaniment.

Greek Background (New Testament)

- Primary Term:
 - προσκυνέω (proskyneō) – to _____ toward, _____ down; signifies reverence and surrender.
- Other Expressions:
 - δοξάζω (doxazō) – to _____ or _____ God.
 - αἰνέω (anineō) – to _____, especially in _____.

Common Practices in Biblical Times

- In the Old Testament, worship involved sacrifices, psalm-singing with instruments, physical expressions like bowing, kneeling, and lifting hands, along with annual feasts such as Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles. Public reading of the Law and recounting God's deeds were integral.
- In the Intertestamental period, synagogue worship included structured readings, psalms, and set times of prayer.
- In the New Testament, worship shifted to Christ-centered gatherings on the first day of the week with Scripture, prayer, hymns, and the Lord's Supper, extending into daily obedience and acts of mercy.

The Five Key Practices of Prayer:

- _____ – Directed to God alone, avoiding idolatry.

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen. Romans 1:25

- _____ – Must align with Scripture, ensuring purity of worship.

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth. John 4:24

- _____ – Enabled by the Holy Spirit.

For we are the circumcision, the ones who worship by the Spirit of God, boast in Christ Jesus, and do not put confidence in the flesh. Philippians 3:3

- _____ – Extends beyond gatherings to daily life.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Romans 12:1

- _____ – Honors Christ as mediator and Savior.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5

Therefore, through him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Hebrews 13:15

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Tuesday

Devotional: Worship in Spirit and Truth

Scriptural Support:

John 4:23-24 (CSB) - "But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth."

Commentary:

Worship is no longer tied to a sacred location but is defined by a heart enlivened by the Spirit and grounded in the truth of Scripture. True worship engages both emotion and understanding, aligning the believer's response with God's revealed will.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. What might it look like for you to worship God in Spirit and truth this week?
2. Where do you see the temptation to reduce worship to outward forms instead of an inward reality?

Life Application:

Choose one Scripture passage this week to guide your daily worship, focusing both on understanding its truth and responding from the heart.

Closing Thoughts:

Worship in Spirit and truth is not optional; it is the worship God seeks. Spirit-led worship engages the believer's heart with sincerity, while truth-driven worship ensures it is aligned with Scripture and free from distortion. Together, these elements create a God-honoring response that is both authentic and grounded. When worship departs from either the Spirit or the truth, it loses its power to glorify God and build up the worshiper.

Wednesday

Devotional: Worship as a Living Sacrifice

Scriptural Support:

Romans 12:1 (CSB) – “Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.”

Commentary:

Paul calls believers to offer their entire lives to God as an act of worship. This is not a one-time event but an ongoing commitment that touches every decision, action, and desire.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. What areas of your life are easiest to surrender to God? Which are most difficult?
2. How would your daily schedule look different if you viewed every task as an act of worship?

Life Application:

Identify one daily activity that feels ordinary and consciously offer it to God as worship.

Closing Thoughts:

True worship is not confined to moments of singing or prayer but is demonstrated in a life yielded to God. Presenting oneself as a living sacrifice is an ongoing act of devotion that embraces God's will over personal preference. This type of worship transforms everyday choices into sacred opportunities for obedience. Such worship communicates to the world that the believer belongs fully to God.

Thursday

Devotional: The Power of Praise

Scriptural Support:

Psalm 100:1-5 (CSB) - "Let the whole earth shout triumphantly to the Lord! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Acknowledge that the Lord is God. He made us, and we are his—his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good, and his faithful love endures forever; his faithfulness, through all generations."

Commentary:

This psalm calls all people to praise God for His goodness, faithfulness, and covenant love. Praise shifts the focus from self to God and renews the believer's perspective.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How does starting with praise shape the rest of your prayers?
2. Which attributes of God are you most thankful for today?

Life Application:

Begin and end each day this week by naming three things you are thankful to God for.

Closing Thoughts:

Praise reshapes the believer's outlook by directing attention to the character and works of God. It is both an expression of joy and a declaration of trust, even in seasons of uncertainty. Regular praise strengthens faith and deepens reliance on God's unchanging nature. In both personal and corporate settings, praise unites the worshiper's voice with the testimony of generations who have declared the Lord's goodness.

Friday

Devotional: Worship that Pleases God

Scriptural Support:

Hebrews 13:15-16 (CSB) - "Therefore, through him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Don't neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices."

Commentary:

Worship that pleases God is expressed both in verbal confession and in acts of love and generosity. Praise and obedience are inseparable in the life of the believer.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How can your worship this week move beyond words into tangible acts of love?
2. What sacrifices might God be inviting you to make for the sake of others?

Life Application:

Look for one opportunity to bless someone in a way that points them to Christ.

Closing Thoughts:

Worship that pleases God is holistic, blending the confession of His name with tangible acts of love and service. It moves beyond words to demonstrate God's character through generosity, compassion, and obedience. This pattern reflects the heart of Christ, who perfectly embodied praise through action. When worship is lived out in this way, it becomes a powerful witness to those inside and outside the faith.

Fasting: Seeking God with Undivided Focus

Welcome to Week 4 of our course on "Deepening Faith II: A Journey Through Christian Theology." Fasting is a spiritual discipline that intentionally removes physical nourishment or other forms of engagement for a period of time to seek deeper communion with God. It is not an attempt to manipulate God but a way to humbly position oneself to hear from Him, align with His will, and express dependence on Him. Throughout Scripture, God's people have fasted during seasons of repentance, crisis, spiritual seeking, and preparation for service. This week we will explore the biblical basis for fasting, its purposes, and how it can shape a believer's relationship with God.

Learning Objectives

- Define fasting biblically and distinguish it from other forms of self-denial.
- Understand the various biblical purposes of fasting.
- Identify different types and durations of fasts in Scripture.
- Recognize the dangers of fasting with wrong motives.
- Develop a personal plan for fasting that is Christ-centered and spiritually focused.

Lecture Notes**Fasting as Our Source**

Fasting is not merely abstaining from food. It is replacing the _____ and _____ normally given to physical needs with focused attention on God. In Scripture, fasting is almost always linked to _____, _____, or _____, making it a God-centered rather than a self-centered practice.

What is Fasting?

Fasting is the _____ abstention from food and sometimes drink or other activities for a _____ purpose. It is a _____ of the body that aims to sharpen the focus of the spirit. While fasting may have health benefits, its biblical purpose is always spiritual: to _____ near to God, _____ His guidance, _____ oneself before Him, and _____ for obedience.

Biblical Foundations:**Moses**

Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights. He did not eat bread or drink water. He wrote the Ten Commandments, the words of the covenant, on the tablets.

Exodus 34:28

David

David pleaded with God for the boy. He fasted, went home, and spent the night lying on the ground.
2 Samuel 12:16

Israel

Blow the ram's horn in Zion! Announce a sacred fast; proclaim an assembly. Gather the people; sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the infants, even nursing babies. Let the groom leave his bedroom, and the bride her honeymoon chamber. Joel 2:15-16

Jesus

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.
Matthew 4:1-2

Fasting: Seeking God with Undivided Focus

The Early Church

As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off. Acts 13:2-3

Biblical History of Fasting:**Old Testament Practices**

In Israel, fasting was a recognized act of _____ and _____ on God. It often involved abstaining from food and sometimes drink for a set period, typically from _____ to _____. _____ fasts were proclaimed during national crises, seasons of repentance, or times of urgent petition to God.

The whole Israelite army went to Bethel where they wept loudly before the Lord. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the Lord. Judges 20:26

Individuals also practiced personal fasts for _____, _____, or divine _____. _____.

I proclaimed a fast by the Ahava River so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us, our dependents, and all our possessions. I did this because I was ashamed to ask the king for infantry and cavalry to protect us from enemies during the journey, since we had told him, 'The hand of our God is gracious to all who seek him, but his fierce anger is against all who abandon him.' So we fasted and pleaded with our God about this, and he was receptive to our prayer.

Ezra 8:21-23

Common features included wearing _____, sitting in _____, public reading of the _____, and pairing fasting with _____ and _____.

On the twenty-fourth day of this month the Israelites assembled; they were fasting, wearing sackcloth, and had put dust on their heads.

Nehemiah 9:1

Yet when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting, and my prayer was genuine.

Psalms 35:13

Fasting: Seeking God with Undivided Focus

Intertestamental Period and Second Temple**Judaism**

By the Second Temple period, fasting had taken on more _____ patterns. Pharisees fasted _____ a week.

I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get. Luke 18:12

_____ life often included designated fasting days. While some of this was rooted in genuine devotion, Jesus warned against _____ displays of fasting intended to impress others.

Whenever you fast, do not be gloomy like the hypocrites. For they make their faces unattractive so that their fasting is obvious to people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting is not obvious to others but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:16-18

New Testament Practices

In the New Testament, fasting continued but was given Christ-centered focus. _____ fasted before His ministry.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Matthew 4:1-2

The early _____ fasted before making major decisions

As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off. Acts 13:2-3

When they had appointed elders for them in every church and prayed with fasting, they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Acts 14:23

_____ mentioned fasting among the trials of his ministry.

By purity, by knowledge, by patience, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love... by fasting. 2 Corinthians 6:5-6

My Notes

- Do not deprive one another, except when you agree for a time, to devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again; otherwise, Satan may tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 1 Corinthians 7:5*

- I did not eat any rich food, no meat or wine entered my mouth, and I did not put any oil on my body until the three weeks were over. Daniel 10:3*

- There was great mourning among the Jewish people in every province where the king's command and edict came. They fasted, wept, and lamented, and many lay on sackcloth and ashes. Esther 4:3*

- He is to abstain from wine and beer. He must not drink vinegar made from wine or from beer. He must not drink any grape juice or eat fresh grapes or raisins. Numbers 6:3*

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Tuesday

Devotional: Fasting to Seek God's Guidance

Scriptural Support:

Acts 13:2-3 (CSB) - "As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off."

Commentary:

In the early church, fasting was a normal part of discerning God's direction. It created space to hear the Spirit's voice with clarity and unity. Guidance was not assumed without prayer and fasting.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. Where do you need God's clear direction right now?
2. How can fasting help you become more attentive to the Spirit's voice?

Life Application:

Choose a day this week to fast and focus your prayers on one specific decision or area where you need God's guidance.

Closing Thoughts:

Fasting positions the believer to hear from God without the clutter of daily distractions. Seeking His guidance through fasting acknowledges that divine direction is essential for the believer's steps and that God's wisdom surpasses human reasoning.

Wednesday

Devotional: Fasting for Repentance

Scriptural Support:

Joel 2:12-13 (CSB) - “Even now— this is the Lord’s declaration— turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear your hearts, not just your clothes, and return to the Lord your God. For he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and he relents from sending disaster.”

Commentary:

God calls His people to repent sincerely, not through outward displays but through inward transformation. Fasting becomes a sign of humility and a cry for mercy.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. Are there areas where your repentance has been more external than internal?
2. What would it look like to return to God with your whole heart?

Life Application:

Set aside a meal to confess specific sins before God, asking Him to renew your heart and restore your joy.

Closing Thoughts:

Fasting for repentance is not about earning forgiveness but about aligning the heart with God’s holiness. It is a tangible way to express grief over sin and a desire for restored fellowship with Him.

Thursday

Devotional: Fasting for Strength in Trials

Scriptural Support:

2 Samuel 12:16 (CSB) – “David pleaded with God for the boy. He fasted, went home, and spent the night lying on the ground.”

Commentary:

In deep distress, David turned to fasting and prayer. While God’s answer was not what David hoped for, his posture demonstrates seeking God’s presence and strength in the midst of sorrow.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How have you responded to God in moments of personal crisis?
2. What would it look like to bring your deepest griefs to Him in fasting and prayer?

Life Application:

Identify one area of pain or difficulty and dedicate a time of fasting to seek God’s comfort and strength.

Closing Thoughts:

Fasting in trials expresses dependence on God when human solutions fail. It shifts the focus from controlling outcomes to resting in His sovereignty and finding strength in His presence.

Friday

Devotional: Fasting to Overcome Spiritual Opposition

Scriptural Support:

Matthew 17:21 (KJV) - "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

Commentary:

Jesus taught that certain spiritual breakthroughs require both prayer and fasting. This discipline sharpens spiritual focus and increases sensitivity to God's power at work against the forces of darkness.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. Are there battles in your life that have resisted change despite prayer?

2. How could fasting be part of your spiritual strategy?

Life Application:

Commit to a period of fasting to pray over a spiritual stronghold in your life or in the life of someone you care about.

Closing Thoughts:

Fasting is a tool for engaging in spiritual warfare with greater dependence on God's power. It is a reminder that victory is found not in human strength but in the authority and presence of Christ.

Stewardship: Managing God's Gifts Faithfully

Welcome to Week 5 of our course on "Deepening Faith II: A Journey Through Christian Theology." Stewardship is more than managing money. It is the God-given responsibility to manage all that He has entrusted to us — our time, relationships, abilities, possessions, influence, and physical health — in a way that honors Him and advances His purposes. Scripture presents stewardship not as a burden, but as a privilege and act of worship. This week will explore the biblical foundation of stewardship, how it has been practiced throughout redemptive history, and how believers today can live as faithful stewards in every area of life.

Learning Objectives

- Define stewardship biblically as management of all God has entrusted.
- Recognize the historical and theological foundations of stewardship.
- Identify biblical examples of faithful and unfaithful stewardship.
- Apply principles of stewardship to finances, time, talents, relationships, and physical health.
- Develop a personal action plan for living as a faithful steward.

Lecture Notes

Stewardship as Our Source

Stewardship is rooted in the truth that everything _____ to God. We are _____, not owners. Every resource, opportunity, and ability is _____ to us for a time, to be used for His glory and the good of others. Faithful stewardship requires intentionality, sacrifice, and a heart set on God's _____.

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is the God-given _____ to manage and use wisely the resources, opportunities, and abilities He has entrusted to us for His glory and the good of others. It is a _____ calling that includes money, possessions, time, talents, relationships, influence, creation care, and the body.

Biblical Foundations:

Creation Mandate

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth. Genesis 1:28

Humanity was created to rule and care for _____ under God's authority.

Everything Belongs to God

The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord. Psalm 24:1

Accountability

The Parable of the _____

Matthew 25:14-30 teaches that we will give an account for how we have managed what God entrusted to us.

Stewardship as Worship

Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

Stewardship: Managing God's Gifts Faithfully

Biblical History of Stewardship:**Old Testament Practices**

In the Old Testament, stewardship included caring for the land, handling resources for the tabernacle and temple, and managing God's blessings to serve His purposes. Israel was commanded to tithe from their produce and livestock to sustain the Levites, aid the poor, and celebrate God's provision (A Tenth for the Lord - Deuteronomy 14:22-29).

Every tenth of the land's produce, grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. Leviticus 27:30

Leaders such as Joseph in Egypt managed resources to preserve life during famine (Genesis 41:46-57).

Intertestamental Period

In the Intertestamental period, stewardship principles continued through synagogue support, community aid, and personal management of household resources.

New Testament

In the New Testament, stewardship expanded to include the gospel itself.

A person should think of us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of the mysteries of God. In this regard, it is required that managers be found faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Believers were called to care for one another, share resources freely, and use their gifts to build up the church. The early church's generosity (All Things in Common - Acts 4:32-37) reflected a deep awareness that all they had belonged to God.

Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. Acts 2:44-45

Key Practices of Faithful Stewardship:**God Owns Everything**

- _____ we have — possessions, time, influence, skills, and even our physical health — comes from God.

The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord. Psalm 24:1

- This means our _____ is not to decide what belongs to God, but to live in a way that _____ it all already belongs to Him.

Stewardship is Comprehensive

- Faithful stewardship includes more than _____. It involves our spiritual gifts, our relationships, our time, and our bodies.

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Romans 12:1

- A believer's _____ for their physical health, relationships, and spiritual growth are all expressions of managing what God has entrusted to them.

Stewardship: Managing God's Gifts Faithfully

Financial Stewardship as Worship

- In the Old Testament, the _____ was a set portion given to honor God and sustain His work among His people.

Every tenth of the land's produce, grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. Leviticus 27:30

- In the New Testament, _____ is described as voluntary, generous, and joyful.

Each person should do as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

- Giving is not merely a financial transaction but a spiritual act that declares our _____ in God's provision and our _____ to His kingdom purposes.

Faithfulness is the Measure, Not Amount

- Jesus commended the _____ who gave two small coins because she gave _____.

Sitting across from the temple treasury, he watched how the crowd dropped money into the treasury. Many rich people were putting in large sums. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two tiny coins worth very little. Summoning his disciples, he said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. For they all gave out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had—all she had to live on. Mark 12:41-44

- God values the _____ behind the gift more than the _____ of the contribution.

Stewardship is an Expression of Worship

- Whether through financial giving, serving, or using talents for God's purposes, stewardship is a form of _____ that acknowledges God's _____.

Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

Stewardship is a Kingdom Investment

- Our resources are not meant to be _____ but _____ in God's work. This includes supporting the mission of the _____, helping the _____, and advancing the _____.

Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Tuesday

Devotional: The Owner and the Manager

Scriptural Support:

Psalm 24:1 (CSB) - "The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord."

Commentary:

God owns all things. We are stewards of what He has entrusted to us. Recognizing His ownership should change how we manage resources, time, and relationships. Our role is to reflect His values in how we use what belongs to Him.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How does recognizing God's ownership change your perspective on what you have?

2. In what area of your life do you most need to live as a faithful manager?

Life Application:

Choose one possession or responsibility this week and consciously dedicate it to God in prayer.

Closing Thoughts:

Stewardship begins with a shift in perspective from ownership to management. This truth produces humility and intentionality in the way we live. Every choice becomes an opportunity to honor God with what He has entrusted to us. Faithful stewardship always points back to the One who owns it all.

Wednesday

Devotional: Numbering Our Days

Scriptural Support:

Psalm 90:12 (CSB) – “Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.”

Commentary:

Time is a gift from God and must be used wisely. Unlike other resources, time cannot be regained once it is spent. Scripture calls believers to manage time with an eternal perspective, focusing on God's priorities over personal convenience.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. What changes could you make to align your schedule more closely with God's priorities?
2. How does viewing time as a gift affect the way you plan your days?

Life Application:

Spend 15 minutes each morning this week asking God to help you invest your time in what matters most.

Closing Thoughts:

The way we use time reveals our priorities. Wise stewardship of time comes from recognizing its brevity and eternal value. Each day is an opportunity to grow, serve, and glorify God. When time is managed intentionally, it becomes a powerful tool for kingdom work.

Thursday

Devotional: Giving as Worship

Scriptural Support:

2 Corinthians 9:7 (CSB) – “Each person should do as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.”

Commentary:

Financial giving is an act of worship that reflects our trust in God's provision. While the Old Testament tithe was a set amount, the New Testament emphasizes generosity that flows from a willing heart. Giving with joy demonstrates our gratitude and advances God's work.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How can you make your giving a more intentional act of worship?
2. What would change if you viewed every financial gift as an investment in God's kingdom?

Life Application:

This week, give a financial gift with the mindset of worship, focusing on gratitude rather than obligation.

Closing Thoughts:

Cheerful giving is rooted in trust and gratitude. When giving flows from joy, it becomes a declaration of God's worthiness and our reliance on Him. Financial stewardship is more than meeting needs; it is a form of worship that honors God and impacts eternity.

Friday

Devotional: Stewarding the Body

Scriptural Support:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (CSB) - "Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body."

Commentary:

Our bodies belong to God and are dwelling places for the Holy Spirit. Caring for them is both an act of gratitude and a spiritual responsibility. This includes maintaining health, avoiding harmful practices, and using physical strength to serve God and others.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. What is one change you could make to better honor God with your body?

2. How does viewing your body as God's property affect your choices?

Life Application:

Make one intentional choice this week to honor God with your body, whether through rest, healthy habits, or service.

Closing Thoughts:

Cheerful giving is rooted in trust and gratitude. When giving flows from joy, it becomes a declaration of God's worthiness and our reliance on Him. Financial stewardship is more than meeting needs; it is a form of worship that honors God and impacts eternity.

Service: Living for the Good of Others and the Glory of God

Welcome to Week 6 of our course on "Deepening Faith II: A Journey Through Christian Theology." Service is more than a set of charitable actions. It is the posture of a heart shaped by Christ's example. The Bible calls believers to serve as an expression of love for God and others. Service is not limited to ministry roles or organized outreach. It is the daily willingness to meet needs, encourage hearts, and carry burdens in a way that reflects the gospel. This week, we will explore the biblical foundation for service, how God's people have practiced it throughout history, and how we can make service a lifestyle rather than an occasional activity.

Learning Objectives

- Define service from a biblical perspective.
- Understand the relationship between service, humility, and love.
- Recognize biblical examples of faithful service.
- Identify personal opportunities for service in everyday life.
- Commit to a lifestyle of serving that reflects Christ's character.

Lecture Notes

Service as Our Source

Service is not optional for the _____. It is the natural overflow of a heart transformed by grace. Jesus said He came "not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45), and He calls His followers to walk the same path. In Scripture, service is an _____ of worship, an expression of humility, and a witness to the world of God's love.

What is Service?

Biblical service is the intentional act of meeting the _____ of others, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, in the name of Christ. It is rooted in humility and motivated by love, not by the _____ for recognition or repayment. True service reflects the heart of God, who stoops to care for His creation and _____ His people through self-giving love.

Biblical Foundations:

Modeled by Christ

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
Mark 10:45

Commanded for Believers

For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. Galatians 5:13

Empowered by the Spirit

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.
1 Peter 4:10-11

Service: Living for the Good of Others and the Glory of God

Biblical History of Stewardship:**Old Testament Practices**

In the Old Testament, service was woven into Israel's _____ life. This included acts of _____ (Genesis 18:1-8), caring for the _____ (Deuteronomy 15:7-11), and justice for the _____ (Isaiah 1:17). Service was not merely social obligation but an expression of _____ faithfulness. _____ and _____ served in the tabernacle and temple, offering sacrifices and maintaining worship practices on behalf of the people. _____ and _____ were called to serve by leading with justice and righteousness.

Intertestamental and Second Temple**Context**

During the Second Temple period, service often took the form of community _____ within the synagogue, _____ for widows and orphans, and acts of _____ tied to religious festivals. Serving the community was seen as an extension of serving _____.

New Testament Practices

In the New Testament, _____ redefined service through His life and teachings. He washed His disciples' feet (John 13:1-17) as a model of _____. The early _____ practiced service through the distribution of food (Acts 6:1-6), mutual support (Acts 4:32-35), and care for the sick and persecuted. Service was understood as a Spirit empowered expression of love that built up the church and bore witness to the _____.

Key Practices of Biblical Service:**Service is Rooted in Humility**

- True _____ begins with humility, following the example of Christ who washed His disciples' feet.

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.
John 13:14-15

- Service is not about status or recognition but about lowering _____ to meet real needs.

Service is Motivated by Love

- Biblical service flows from _____ for God and others, not from obligation.

For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. Galatians 5:13

- Love _____ service from duty into worship.

Service is Empowered by Spiritual Gifts

- Every believer has been _____ by the Spirit for service.

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.
1 Peter 4:10

- God _____ His people with different abilities so that the whole body of _____ is built up.

My Notes

- Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Romans 12:1*

- Service demonstrates the reality of the _____ to others.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

- Acts of love and sacrifice point others to _____ and open doors for the message of _____.

- _____ service often requires laying aside personal comfort, convenience, or recognition.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

- 54

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Devotional: Serving with Humility

John 13:14-15 (CSB) - "So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you."

Jesus demonstrated that true greatness is found in humble service. Washing feet was the task of a servant, yet the Lord Himself stooped to do it. His example shows that no task is beneath the believer when it is done in love.

1. What keeps you from serving in lowly or unnoticed ways?

2. How can you reflect Christ's humility in the way you serve this week?

Do one act of service this week that goes unnoticed, not seeking recognition but doing it in the spirit of Christ.

Humility in service reveals the heart of Christ at work in His people. When believers willingly take the lower place, God's character is displayed in powerful ways. Service done with humility builds unity in the church and opens doors for the gospel. Greatness in God's kingdom is marked by the willingness to serve others.

Wednesday**Devotional: Serving Through Love*****Scriptural Support:***

Galatians 5:13 (CSB) – “For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.”

Commentary:

Christian freedom is not a license for selfishness but an opportunity for love. Service is the natural outflow of genuine love for others. When love motivates service, it brings joy instead of resentment and glorifies God.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts***Verse Reflection Questions:***

1. How does love transform the way you approach serving others?
2. What is one relationship where God is calling you to serve more intentionally in love?

Life Application:

Choose one person this week to serve in a tangible way that expresses Christlike love.

Closing Thoughts:

Love turns service into more than duty. It becomes a heartfelt offering to God and a blessing to others. Serving with love breaks down barriers, strengthens relationships, and reflects the nature of Christ. Love is the foundation of all faithful service.

Thursday**Devotional: Serving with Your Gifts*****Scriptural Support:***

1 Peter 4:10-11 (CSB) – “ Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God’s words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”

Commentary:

Every believer has been gifted by God for service. These gifts are not meant for personal recognition but for building up the church and blessing others. Using spiritual gifts faithfully is an act of stewardship and glorifies God.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts***Verse Reflection Questions:***

1. What spiritual or natural gifts has God entrusted to you for service?

2. How can you more intentionally use your gifts to strengthen others?

Life Application:

Commit one of your gifts to God this week and look for an opportunity to use it to serve others.

Closing Thoughts:

Gifts are given for the good of the body and the glory of God. When believers use their gifts to serve, the church is strengthened and God’s name is honored. Service becomes fruitful when it draws on the strength that God supplies. Stewarding our gifts well is an essential part of faithful discipleship.

Friday**Devotional: Serving as a Witness*****Scriptural Support:***

Matthew 5:16 (CSB) – “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Commentary:

Service is not only for the benefit of the church but also for the witness of the gospel in the world. Acts of service point people beyond us to the God we serve. When believers serve faithfully, they demonstrate the love and character of God to those who may not yet know Him.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts***Verse Reflection Questions:***

1. How can your acts of service point others to God rather than yourself?
2. Who in your community could see the gospel through your service this week?

Life Application:

Identify one way you can serve in your community this week that demonstrates God’s love and opens the door for gospel witness.

Closing Thoughts:

Service is a visible expression of God’s kingdom in the world. It gives credibility to the gospel message and invites others to see God’s goodness. When service is directed toward the glory of God, it becomes a powerful witness. The world takes notice when God’s people serve with humility, love, and sacrifice

Fellowship: Sharing Life in the Body of Christ

Welcome to Week 7 of our course on "Deepening Faith II: A Journey Through Christian Theology." Fellowship is more than social connection or friendship. In Scripture, fellowship (Greek *koinonia*) refers to the spiritual sharing of life in Christ. It is the unity of believers who participate together in God's grace, truth, and mission. Fellowship strengthens faith, builds mutual encouragement, and demonstrates the reality of the gospel to the world. This week we will study the biblical foundation of fellowship, how it has been practiced throughout history, and how believers today can pursue authentic community in Christ.

Learning Objectives

- Define fellowship biblically as participation in life with Christ and His people.
- Recognize biblical examples of fellowship in the Old and New Testaments.
- Understand the relationship between fellowship, unity, and love.
- Identify the dangers of neglecting fellowship.
- Commit to practices that strengthen community and build up the body of Christ.

Lecture Notes

Fellowship as Our Source

God never intended the Christian life to be lived in _____. From the beginning, His people have been called into _____. Fellowship is not simply about gathering together but about sharing in the life of Christ and encouraging one another toward faithfulness. True fellowship flows from God's love and creates a people who reflect His _____ in the world.

What is Fellowship?

Biblical fellowship is the spiritual _____ of believers in Christ and with one another. It involves sharing life, resources, encouragement, and mission together. Fellowship is both _____ and _____. It builds unity in the church and advances the gospel.

Biblical Foundations:

Rooted in Christ

What we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3

Unified by the Spirit

If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1-2

Expressed in Sharing

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer... Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Acts 2:42, 44-45

Fellowship: Sharing Life in the Body of Christ

Essential for Growth

*And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.
Hebrews 10:24-25*

Biblical History of Fellowship:**Old Testament Practices**

Though the term fellowship is more prominent in the New Testament, the Old Testament demonstrates _____ life among God's people. _____ shared in covenant identity, gathering for feasts, festivals, and worship at the tabernacle and temple (Leviticus 23). Hospitality was a central expression of fellowship, as seen in _____ welcoming strangers (Genesis 18:1-8). Community responsibility also meant _____ for the poor, widows, and foreigners (Deuteronomy 10:18-19).

Intertestamental and Second Temple Context

Jewish communities developed synagogue life as a hub of _____ worship, teaching, and support. Fellowship during this period emphasized _____ to the Law, communal meals, and mutual aid. Groups like the Essenes practiced intentional community, reflecting the longing for spiritual _____ and _____.

New Testament Practices

The early church _____ fellowship in a profound way. Believers devoted themselves to teaching, prayer, breaking of bread, and mutual care (Acts 2:42-47). They _____ radical generosity, meeting needs within the community. Fellowship included worship, encouragement, correction, and partnership in mission.

Paul often described churches as “partners” in the _____ (Philippians 1:5), showing that fellowship extended beyond _____ gatherings to a _____ mission across the body of Christ.

Key Practices of Biblical Fellowship:**Fellowship is Rooted in Union with Christ**

- True fellowship begins with a shared relationship with _____. Without Him, fellowship is only social connection, not spiritual partnership.
- This means that fellowship is not built on common interests or personalities, but on the _____ work of Christ that unites believers at the deepest level.

*If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
1 John 1:7*

Fellowship is Sustained by the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit _____ believers and creates the bond of fellowship.
- The Spirit keeps unity alive when human effort would otherwise fail, _____ believers to patience, forgiveness, and peace with one another.

Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

Fellowship Requires Devotion

- Fellowship is not automatic. It requires _____ commitment to gathering, sharing, and encouraging one another.

- They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Acts 2:42*

I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 12:34-35

*Share with the saints in their needs;
pursue hospitality. Romans 12:13*

And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

- Fellowship is not only for the benefit of believers but also serves as a witness to the world.
- The love and unity displayed in the church provide a visible testimony that Christ is real and His gospel has power to transform lives.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Tuesday

Devotional: Fellowship in Christ

Scriptural Support:

1 John 1:7 (CSB) – “If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Commentary:

Fellowship begins with Christ. Only those who walk in the light of His truth can experience true fellowship with one another. This unity is not based on shared hobbies or similar personalities but on the saving work of Christ that joins believers into one family.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How does your union with Christ shape the way you relate to other believers?
2. Are there relationships in your life where you need to pursue fellowship rooted in Christ rather than personal preference?

Life Application:

This week, intentionally connect with a fellow believer by discussing what Christ is doing in your life, rather than simply talking about everyday topics.

Closing Thoughts:

True fellowship begins at the cross and is sustained by walking in the light. When believers find their unity in Christ, it creates a bond deeper than any earthly tie. Fellowship grounded in Christ is both spiritual and eternal, drawing the church closer together as it draws nearer to Him.

Wednesday

Devotional: Devoted to Fellowship

Scriptural Support:

Acts 2:42 (CSB) – “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.”

Commentary:

The early church modeled devotion to fellowship as a central priority of their life together. Fellowship was not an occasional activity but a consistent commitment. This devotion revealed their belief that growth in Christ happens best in community.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How do your weekly habits reflect devotion to fellowship with other believers?
2. What steps could you take to make fellowship a greater priority in your life?

Life Application:

Make plans this week to gather intentionally with other believers outside of formal worship, whether for prayer, encouragement, or sharing a meal.

Closing Thoughts:

Fellowship requires devotion and intentionality. When believers commit to sharing life together, their faith is strengthened, and the church becomes a powerful witness. Community that is prioritized and consistent reflects the design God has for His people.

Thursday

Devotional: Sharing in Fellowship

Scriptural Support:

Romans 12:13 (CSB) – “Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.”

Commentary:

Fellowship is expressed through tangible acts of sharing. The church is called to meet both spiritual and physical needs, creating a community where no one is left isolated or without support. Hospitality opens doors for deeper relationships and reflects the generosity of God.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How have you experienced God’s love through the sharing of others in fellowship?
2. What resources or time could you share this week to meet the needs of someone else?

Life Application:

Offer hospitality this week by inviting someone into your home or generously meeting a specific need within your church family.

Closing Thoughts:

Sharing is the natural outflow of true fellowship. When believers are generous with time, resources, and encouragement, they embody the love of Christ. Fellowship deepens when needs are met and lives are shared openly in community.

Friday

Devotional: Fellowship as Witness

Scriptural Support:

John 13:34-35 (CSB) – “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Commentary:

Fellowship has an outward impact. When believers love one another in unity, it provides visible evidence of the gospel to the watching world. Fellowship that is marked by love and sacrifice points others to Christ in a way that words alone cannot.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How does your fellowship with other believers demonstrate Christ to those outside the church?
2. Who in your community might be drawn to Christ by seeing genuine Christian fellowship?

Life Application:

Invite someone outside your church family to join in a gathering or act of fellowship this week, allowing them to see Christian love in action.

Closing Thoughts:

Fellowship is not only for the church's benefit but also for the world's witness. When believers love one another well, it shows that Christ is alive and active among His people. The unity of the church stands as one of the most powerful testimonies to the truth of the gospel.

Evangelism: Sharing the Good News of Christ

Welcome to Week 8 of our course on "Deepening Faith II: A Journey Through Christian Theology." Evangelism is the joyful responsibility of every believer to proclaim the good news of salvation in Christ. It is not reserved for preachers or missionaries but is part of the daily witness of all who follow Jesus. Evangelism flows out of love for God and compassion for others, pointing people to the hope that is found in Christ alone. This week we will study the biblical foundation of evangelism, the ways it was practiced in Scripture, and how believers can faithfully live out their calling to share the gospel.

Learning Objectives

- Define evangelism biblically as proclaiming the gospel in word and deed.
- Recognize examples of evangelism throughout Scripture.
- Understand the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering witness.
- Identify barriers to evangelism and how to overcome them.
- Commit to intentional practices of sharing the gospel with others.

Lecture Notes

Evangelism as Our Source

Evangelism is not about selling a message but bearing _____ to a Savior. Jesus commanded His followers to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). The early church _____ by proclaiming Christ everywhere, often in the face of opposition. Evangelism remains central to the church's _____ and is a _____ for every believer.

What is Evangelism?

Biblical evangelism is the proclamation of the _____ that Jesus Christ died for sins, was buried, and rose again, offering _____ to all who believe. Evangelism is both verbal and visible, spoken through words and demonstrated through lives transformed by the _____. It is motivated by _____ for God, _____ to Christ, and _____ for the lost.

Biblical Foundations:

The Great Commission

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

Empowered Witness

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

Proclaiming Christ

How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14

Evangelism: Sharing the Good News of Christ

Urgency of the Gospel

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.
2 Corinthians 5:20*

Biblical History of Evangelism:**Old Testament Foundations**

While the term evangelism is not used in the Old Testament, _____ was called to be a light to the nations (Isaiah 49:6). Their worship, covenant life, and prophetic witness pointed to God's _____ and His plan of _____. Stories such as Jonah's mission to Nineveh reveal God's _____ for the nations beyond Israel.

Intertestamental and Second Temple Context

During this period, Jewish communities spread throughout the Greco-Roman world (the Diaspora). Synagogues became centers for teaching the _____, and _____ who feared God were drawn to Israel's faith. This created _____ ground for gospel proclamation in the New Testament era.

New Testament Practices

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom, calling people to _____ and _____. He sent His disciples to preach, heal, and announce God's reign. After His resurrection, the apostles spread the gospel boldly in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and beyond. Evangelism in Acts included public preaching (Peter at Pentecost, Acts 2), personal witness (Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8), and missionary journeys (Paul and Barnabas, Acts 13-14). The early church grew as believers shared Christ in homes, marketplaces, and communities, empowered by the _____.

Key Practices of Biblical Fellowship:**Evangelism is Centered on the Gospel**

- Evangelism is not about sharing opinions or personal philosophies but _____ the good news of Jesus Christ.
- The heart of the message is Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for the forgiveness of _____.

*For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. 1
Corinthians 15:3-4*

Evangelism is Empowered by the Spirit

- Believers are not left to share the gospel in their own _____. The Holy Spirit equips, empowers, and gives boldness to witness.
- Evangelism depends on God's _____ to convict hearts and open minds, not human persuasion alone.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

Evangelism is the Responsibility of Every Believer

- The call to _____ the gospel is not reserved for pastors or missionaries. Every Christian is an _____ for Christ.
- Each believer has opportunities in their daily relationships to share the _____ of the gospel. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

- Evangelism involves proclaiming the message of Christ, but it is also supported by how believers _____.
- Integrity, love, and good works give credibility to the gospel and display its _____.

- The gospel addresses humanity's deepest _____ and has eternal _____.
- Evangelism cannot be treated casually, for people need Christ _____.

- God's _____ has always been for the nations. Evangelism extends beyond local witness to global _____.
- Every believer has a _____ to play in praying, giving, sending, or going to reach the nations.

My Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Tuesday

Devotional: The Gospel at the Center

Scriptural Support:

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (CSB) – “For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

Commentary:

The message of evangelism is not about human wisdom or personal testimony but about Christ crucified and risen. Paul identifies this as the most important truth he delivered. Evangelism loses its power when it strays from the central gospel of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. When you share your faith, do you keep the focus on Christ’s death and resurrection?
2. What distractions or side issues sometimes pull your attention away from the heart of the gospel?

Life Application:

Practice sharing the gospel this week in one or two sentences, keeping the focus on Christ’s saving work.

Closing Thoughts:

The gospel is the foundation of evangelism. Without it, our words cannot save or transform. Keeping Christ’s work at the center ensures that the message is clear and faithful. The good news of Jesus remains the power of God for salvation to all who believe.

Wednesday

Devotional: Witness by the Spirit

Scriptural Support:

Acts 1:8 (CSB) – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Commentary:

Jesus promised His disciples that their witness would be empowered by the Spirit. Evangelism is not based on persuasive skill but on the Spirit who convicts, enlightens, and draws people to Christ. The Spirit provides courage, clarity, and effectiveness when believers step out in faith.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How often do you rely on your own words instead of the Spirit’s power when sharing your faith?
2. What difference does it make to know that the Spirit is the true source of evangelistic fruit?

Life Application:

Before engaging in any gospel conversation this week, pray specifically for the Spirit’s guidance and power.

Closing Thoughts:

The Spirit of God makes ordinary believers bold witnesses for Christ. Evangelism without the Spirit leads to discouragement and striving. Evangelism with the Spirit brings conviction, transformation, and eternal fruit. The promise of Acts 1:8 remains true for every believer today.

Thursday

Devotional: Word and Deed Together

Scriptural Support:

Matthew 5:16 (CSB) – “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Commentary:

The gospel must be proclaimed in words, but it is also confirmed by the way believers live. Integrity, kindness, and good works shine light on God’s character and reinforce the truth of the gospel message. Evangelism that combines word and deed reflects the fullness of God’s kingdom.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. Do your daily actions support or weaken your spoken witness of Christ?
2. What practical acts of service could demonstrate the gospel in your community this week?

Life Application:

Pair your words with action. Share the gospel with someone while also meeting a tangible need they have.

Closing Thoughts:

Evangelism is most powerful when word and deed work together. Words declare the good news while actions display its reality. A faithful witness lives in such a way that people are drawn to listen when the gospel is spoken. The consistency of word and deed magnifies the glory of God.

Friday

Devotional: A Global Mission

Scriptural Support:

Matthew 28:19–20 (CSB) – “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Commentary:

The mission of evangelism is global in scope. Jesus sends His disciples to make disciples of all nations. The call to share the gospel extends beyond personal circles to include every culture, language, and people group. Evangelism is both local and global, requiring the church to pray, send, and go.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. How do you see yourself participating in God’s global mission, whether through prayer, giving, or going?

2. What would change if you viewed your neighborhood as part of Christ’s worldwide mission?

Life Application:

Choose one specific way this week to engage in global mission, such as praying for missionaries, supporting gospel work, or sharing Christ with someone from a different background.

Closing Thoughts:

The command to make disciples of all nations is still active today. Evangelism cannot be confined to one culture or location. Every believer has a role in God’s global mission through prayer, giving, sending, or going. Christ’s presence and power guarantee that His mission will succeed until He returns.

The eight disciplines we have studied — Scripture intake, prayer, worship, fasting, stewardship, service, fellowship, and evangelism — are not isolated practices but a way of life. Together, they form a pattern of faithfulness that keeps us rooted in Christ, strengthened by the Spirit, and engaged in God's mission.

These practices are not about spiritual performance but about abiding in Christ. They are means of grace that draw us closer to Him and shape us into His likeness.

As this study comes to an end, the journey continues. The call is not to complete a course but to cultivate a lifelong rhythm of walking with God.

Reflections & Closing Thoughts

Verse Reflection Questions:

1. Which of the disciplines has become most meaningful to you over the past 8 weeks?
2. Where do you sense God calling you to grow in deeper consistency?

Life Application:

How can you build a sustainable rhythm of disciplines in your daily life?

Closing Thoughts:

Remain devoted to the Word, to prayer, and to the fellowship of believers. Serve with humility, give with joy, and proclaim the gospel with boldness. As you practice these disciplines, remember the promise of Jesus: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, CSB).