

NOT ALL
BELIEVERS IN CHRIST
WILL MAKE IT
INTO HEAVEN

LOVE LIKE JESUS MINISTRY

NOT ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ARE GOING TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

**NOT ALL
BELIEVERS IN
CHRIST ARE
GOING TO MAKE
IT TO HEAVEN.**

AND THIS IS WHY

How To Lead An Obedient Life To Heaven.

**By Jas Sira of
LOVE LIKE JESUS MINISTRY**

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INTRODUCTION

Many of you may be shocked to learn that most so-called Christians will not make it into Heaven and this book attempts to explain why, I hope and pray that this book will be the catalyst and turning point for people to repent of their sins and turn back to God.

Before we go deep into scripture to prove my point about why many people will not be going to Heaven, let me ask you one simple question.

IS GOD NO. 1 IN YOUR LIFE?

CHAPTER ONE

IS GOD NO. 1 IN YOUR LIFE?

Most Christians will answer, yes of course he is.

Ok now let me ask you another question?

If God asked you to give up the most important person or thing in your life to prove your love for Him, could you do it?

So we need to ask ourselves is God truly number One in our lives?

Do we put God first, before our family, friends, work, business, hobbies, sleep & rest?

Could we give up all the things that keep us away from God?

If God asked us to put our Mother, Father, Son, Daughter, Husband, Wife, Cat, Dog, and Money, on the altar just as he asked Abraham to put Isaac on the altar?

If we have to think about our answer, then we need to think about whether or not we are actually saved.

Many people who call themselves Christians are in real danger of ending up in hell and don't even realize it.

They are breaking the very first Commandment itself.

In Exodus 20:1-26 we can read what God himself says when giving the first commandment.

Exodus 20:1-26 ESV

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ...

When Jesus was asked by his Disciples which great Commandment in the law ie which is the most important he replied,

Matthew 22:36-38 ESV

**"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"
And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul and with all
your mind. This is the great first commandment.**

CHAPTER TWO

GOD IS YOUR PROVIDER, NOT YOUR BUSINESS OR JOB.

Many of us claim to love God more than anything, yet you put your job and your business before God and put it down to paying bills, etc.

God is your Provider, not your Business or Job.

Jesus gave the parable of the young rich man in **Matthew 19:21-23**

Jesus told him, **"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."** When the young man heard this, he went away in sorrow, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

This young man did so many good deeds but could not give up his wealth for God and this is the case for many so-called Christians.

The Bible tells us,

Matthew 6:24 Amplified Bible

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord]."

Here we are clearly being told that we need to make a choice either God or Mammon ie things of the world.

If we choose things of the world first then God becomes second, then that which we chose first over God becomes an idol in our life, and we have already read how God feels about that, and we have also discovered God is a very jealous God.

He loves us so much he is jealous and possessive over us, he does not want our love that should be shared with anyone or anything else.

Is this a wrong jealousy from our Creator?

He created us and we are ignoring Him and giving other gods and things in our lives attention and love that should be his.

E.g, I love my daughter so dearly, that if she were to call her mother's new husband daddy, it would upset me, make me angry, jealous, and all sorts of mixed emotions.

Can you guys not see how you could be angering God as you don't have hardly any time for Him?

Many will be saying I go to Church every Sunday, giving God 3 out of 168 hours in the week which is 1.79% of your time for God.

Does your going to Church on a Sunday cut it, for many, when you are at Church your thoughts are elsewhere.

God is way far down the order when it comes to giving Him our time.

Yet despite our evil and wicked sins, God is so kind and merciful he does not want even one of us to end up in hell.

Matthew 18:12 ERV

"If a man has 100 sheep, but one of the sheep is lost, what will he do? He will leave the other 99 sheep on the hill and go look for the lost sheep. Right?

In this parable, Jesus tells us that God does not even want 1 of us to go to hell.

So why am I making such a strong statement that not many Christians will make it to Heaven?

Many so-called Christians are only Christians by name sake, believing in Christ does not make you a Christian as even the Devil believes and knows who Christ is, but the Devil is not going to Heaven as he does not follow Christ and do the works of Christ and bears the fruits of Christ.

Being born into a Christian family does not mean you are going to heaven, you need to be born again and Jesus tells us explains this in the following verse when he is talking to Nicodemus. You are spiritually dead.

John 3 3:7 ESV

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again[b] he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is

spirit.[c] 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.

CHAPTER THREE

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

You need to be walking in the Spirit.

Remember the parable of the Sower, Jesus warns us in,

Mark 4 13:20

13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? **14** The farmer sows the word. **15** Some people are like seeds along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. **16** Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. **17** But since they have no roots, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. **18** Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; **19** but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. **20** Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some

thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

When Jesus was explaining the meaning of this parable to his Disciples, he quite clearly pointed out, that when we evangelize and share the Word of God with people, it will have the following effects;

It will fall on deaf ears for many, ie the Devil has such a grip on them that it will go in one ear and out of the other.

Some will like what they hear, even agree with what the Word says, but because they do not Repent of their sins, ie make any real attempt to change and accept God's Word. This tends to be people who are in some form of bondage to sin, it could be through an addiction or some form of abuse that they had, etc, because they have not fully given their problem over to God, the devil lures them back into his dark world.

This also includes people from other religions or cultures, as soon as people from their past criticize or persecute them for thinking of following Jesus, they quickly go back to their old way of living.

Then there is a category of Believers that hear the Word but are weak in the faith because they think coming to

Church on a Sunday is enough. This is the category of Believers that I was inspired to write this book for. It is this category of people who only have a relationship with God on a Sunday for 2 or 3 Hours whilst in Church then walk back into the Worldly ways as soon as they walk out of Church.

What they hear in Church sounds good only when in Church, the worries of the world drag them away from God and their excuses are,

I have bills to pay, and a family to support, don't God get that. Then I need a bit of time to myself etc.

We have 24 hours in a day, of which we spend 8 hours at work leaving 16 hours, out of those 16 hours we cannot spare any time to the Lord. Even if it was 30 minutes reading our Bibles, 15 minutes Worshipping God, and 15 minutes praying which equates to 1 hour.

We cannot even find 1 hour for God?

Hence this category which is most Christians fails to bear fruits if any at all.

Then some are obedient to the Lord and His Word and can bear good fruit and multiply and share with others.

These people put God first and recognize that they are nothing without God, and God provides for this kind.

Many of us have gone lukewarm towards God and too caught up in worldly affairs, and as I said earlier I believe most of us are the 3rd type of seed that grows with the weed and the bible tells us,

Revelation 3:15-16 ESV

"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth."

Jesus tells us lukewarm Christians will be thrown into the lake of fire ie Hell.

Most of us need to really take a look at ourselves and question our Salvation.

These days people worship the Leaders of the Church and think that only the Leaders have access to God, we ALL have access to God because of Jesus' sacrifice.

Ephesians 2:18 ESV

NOT ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ARE GOING TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

For through him, we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

CHAPTER FOUR

GOD DESIRE A RELATIONSHIP WITH US

God desires a relationship with us directly the bible says in,

Revelation 3:20 ESV

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me.

God is waiting knocking on the door of our hearts hoping that we will let him in.

God loves us so much that he knows that Sin separates us from him, so he sent His sinless Son ie Jesus to die for us His Sinful Children.

John 3:16-17 ESV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world

to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through him.

Romans 5:8 ESV

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Such is His love for us and we struggle to give Him time which "He" has given to us and "He" can take away, such is our ignorance and wickedness that we continue to ignore him in pursuit of Worldly possessions which none we will be able to take.

Following the Leaders of the Church is NOT enough.

Many people think that going to church and following the Leaders of the Church is enough.

But the Prophet Hosea warned us in,

Hosea 4 6 – NIV

**"my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.
"Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children."**

I often have tried to reason with myself about how can God allow people to go to hell if they have been misled by a false Teacher or Prophet.

It is wrong for me to judge and bring people into condemnation and say that these types will go to hell, but I think these types of people are playing a risky game of Russian Roulette.

God looks at our heart and motive when judging I believe according to these 2 scriptures.

1 Samuel 16:7 ESV

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Jeremiah 17:10 ESV

"I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Many Christians are dependent on the Leader of the Church to teach them about God.

But have no time to find out for themselves, again as they are too busy with their worldly life.

The Bible tells us clearly to test every Spirit,

1 Thessalonians 5:21 ESV

But test everything; hold fast to what is good.

1 John 4:1 ESV

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

We have been warned of false prophets and teachers in quite a few places in the Bible

Matthew 24:24 ESV

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 7:15 ESV

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Jude 1:4

Certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

If the traffic lights are red and you ignore them and drive through, whose fault is it if you meet with an accident.

If you smoke and ignore the warning signs on the box of cigarettes and then get cancer whose fault is it?

This is why I think people who go to Churches being led by False Teachers and Prophets, God will look at their hearts and motives for going to the church.

Was their heart and motive to go to church to seek God and repent of their sins, or was it for the Health & Wealth Gospel that is preached?

Or was it for the Super Natural Breakthroughs and Promises of God that are being preached?

Many people come to Church as they see God as an Insurance Policy, ie let's go to Church just in case this Hell thing is right, these people have one foot in Church and one foot in the World, the bible quite clearly tells us you can't serve 2 Masters.

You are either in or out.

This is why John writes in

1 John 2:26-27 ESV

I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

The anointing inside us will teach us all the truth.

What is the anointing inside us?

The Anointing is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. It enables the believer to understand, apply, and administer spiritual truth. Simply put, the presence of The Anointing enables believers to have a spiritual connection.

I can personally testify that the anointing in me is the Holy Spirit allowed me to be in the wrong Churches so that I can experience and recognize how these people

lure people into Churches misquoting and manipulating scripture to preach their own doctrine.

There are so many different denominations each claiming to be right.

As mentioned previously the bible quite clearly tells us to test every Spirit.

God desires a relationship with each one of us personally and not through any Church Leader or Pastor.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE PRICE OF SIN

We also need to remember there is a price to pay for sin,

Sin cost Satan his original position. **(Ezekiel 28:13-17 ; Isaiah 14:12-15)**

Satan was not created as Satan but as Lucifer the anointed Cherub that covereth (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:14). Satan was lifted up in his own heart and through pride he said that he would be higher than God and as a result, he lost his position as the anointed Cherub and is now the being that we call Satan. And if you are wondering what will happen to Satan as a result of all of this read Revelation 20:10 and you will see that he winds up in the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

Sin cost Adam his physical life and living in Paradise. **(Genesis 3:19, 22-24)**

God told Adam that on the day he ate the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil he would die. Now Adam did die spiritually at that very moment and also from that point on he began to age physically. Remember that the

result of sin is death (**Romans 5:12-14**). Also, Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden as a result of their sin and they also suffered many other physical conditions as a result of their sin. So sin cost Adam a whole lot.

Moses could see the Promised Land but was not allowed to enter it due to his disobedience of not speaking to the rock to pour water, but instead struck the rock twice in frustration towards the Israelites.

If David could have seen all that would flow from his sin with Bathsheba—the cost to his family, the cost to his career, the cost to God's people, and ultimately the cost to his Savior, who one day would die for these sins—don't you think that he would have turned away from Bathsheba in a moment? He would have said, "No fleeting pleasure is worth that kind of pain."

Solomon started out well but ended terribly. He married countless women and worshiped their idols. Because of his sin, God told him he would tear the kingdom from him, yet because of the promise He had made to David, God would not tear it entirely away.

So as we can see even God's loved and favoured sons have had to pay a heavy price for their sins.

The Good News is that Jesus paid the price for our sins past, present, and future, however, when we still sin this can prevent further blessings and rewards from coming our way.

When we go to heaven and we are given our rewards for serving the Lord, God will tell us it was my Will and Plan to give you this £10million House, but your disobedience and not doing my Will has meant that you have only earned this £100k house.

Once Saved Always Saved Message

I think we need to be very careful when banking on God's grace to get us into heaven.

I personally believe that there are a remnant few that are God's chosen ones who will make it to heaven as God has created them for his purpose and glory, as was with Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Peter, and Paul to name a few of the great heroes of the bible.

All these men sinned but repented and had a heart for God, so are in heaven.

But none the less they had a heavy price to pay for their sins.

Grace does not give us the license to sin, and those who continue to sin without regret or remorse or the need to repent need to ask themselves whether or not they are actually saved in the first place.

Once Saved Always saved advocates will recite bible verses such as,

John 15:16

New International Version

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

For by grace, you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Even if you believe in the "once saved always saved" message such a person should be walking in the spirit at the very least and God should be No 1 in their lives.

Remember the parable of the Sower, we need to be walking in the Spirit and following or doing our best to follow the Commandments of God to receive His grace.

When we become disobedient and ignore and do nothing then I believe we have come out of God's grace if we continually and intentionally ignore God and conscientiously decide to put worldly things before God.

So God has not stopped being gracious to us, but we have decided to walk away from His Grace to do things our way or have the things of the flesh.

CHAPTER SIX

HOW TO LIVE AN OBEDIENT CHRISTIAN LIFE TO GET INTO HEAVEN

Christian Obedience

Obedience in a biblical and Christian context refers to the act of willingly submitting to the authority and will of God as expressed in the teachings and commandments found in the Bible. It is a fundamental Christian concept and is often associated with faith and discipleship. Here are some key aspects of obedience in this context:

Obedience to God: Christians believe that obeying God is the highest moral duty. It involves following God's commandments, living according to His principles, and aligning one's actions and choices with His will. This is based on the belief that God is the ultimate authority and source of truth.

Obedience to Jesus Christ: For Christians, Jesus Christ is seen as the ultimate example of obedience to God. They strive to follow His teachings and example, including His

commandment to love one another and His Sermon on the Mount, which includes principles of righteousness and ethical living.

Faith and Obedience: Obedience is often seen as a demonstration of one's faith in God. The Bible teaches that faith without works is dead (James 2:26), meaning that genuine faith leads to obedient actions. Christians are called to demonstrate their faith through their actions and obedience to God's will.

Biblical Commandments: Obedience in the Christian context involves following the moral and ethical guidelines laid out in the Bible. The Ten Commandments, found in the Old Testament, are a foundational set of moral principles that guide Christian behaviour.

Repentance and Forgiveness: When Christians fall short of God's standards, they are encouraged to repent, seek forgiveness, and return to obedience. The Christian faith emphasizes God's grace and forgiveness, allowing believers to reconcile with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit: Christians believe that the Holy Spirit helps them in their journey of obedience by providing

guidance, courage, and empowerment to live by God's will.

Obedience in Daily Life: Obedience is not limited to religious rituals but extends to all aspects of life. It encompasses how one treats others, conducts business, serves the community, and more. It is about living a life that reflects Christian values and principles. "Walk in the Spirit" Bible Verse.

What Must We Do To Make It To Heaven

These are simple but important things we must be doing to live an obedient life

Daily Prayer

Daily Reading Your Bible

Daily Praise and Worship

Worship the Lord with Music

Worship through Prayer

Worship through Praise and Thanksgiving

Worship through Confession of Sin

Worship through the Word

Worship the Lord in Silence

Worship through Giving

Worship through Serving

Worship through Nature

Worship in the Daily-ness of Life

Fellowshipping with other Saints/Born Again Believers of God.

Attending a Bible following Church.

CHAPTER SEVEN

WHAT IS WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

In the most basic sense, to walk in the Spirit means to live a life that depends on the Spirit's power to

- (1) Grow in godliness,
- (2) Obey God's commands, and
- (3) Experience increasing intimacy with God.

In Galatians 5:16, Apostle Paul states, "...walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

"By **"the flesh,"** Paul does not mean the body.

The flesh here is a general term for evil actions, the depraved will, the earthly mind, the slothful and careless soul - things that are under our control, not part of human nature. **This flesh is crucified with Christ (Gal. 5:24).**

It is not human nature that is put to death, but its evil deeds.

It comes from a life of "Our walk in the Spirit" in the Spirit.

The advice apostle Paul gives is exemplified through his own life.

The rule of behavior is to be inspired by Christ, which is not only the standard of faith but also of practice.

He is the lamp unto our feet, and the light unto our path, guiding us into all truth and in the way of holiness and righteousness unto the land of uprightness.

We need to take Him as our guide and depend on His grace and strength for assistance throughout our entire walk and conversation.

We should exercise the graces of the Spirit of God, such as faith upon the person and grace of Christ which the Spirit is the author of, and love to God, Christ, and one another, which is a fruit of the Spirit, as well as humility, lowliness of mind, meekness, and condescension.

All of these help us to walk in the Spirit or spiritually, and strengthen the argument for love that the apostle is upon. The apostle encourages us to live this way by observing.

What Does Paul Mean by 'Walk by the Spirit'?

Walking by the spirit is just living a life in the spirit.

It's living your life in the continual presence of the spirit of God.

Jesus put it like this in **John 15** that we need to abide in him, basically the same thing.

If we abide in Jesus, the spirit is working within us.

So as we abide in Jesus Christ, as we abide in that vine, as a branch abides in the vine, the Holy Spirit is pulsating the sap into our body, if I could put it that way.

And he is producing then, fruit in our lives.

But as Jesus said, "When I'm separated from that vine, I shrivel up and I die."

So, walking in the spirit is a God-consciousness.

It's having Christ foremost in all your affections.

It's pursuing God with all of your heart, as we're commanded to. As the Great Commandment.

It's to have no other idols before you and no other gods before you but to serve God alone with all of your heart.

I think what's important to understand, too, when we talk about abiding in Jesus is that the way we abide in Jesus is to practice what we call the spiritual disciplines.

I can't abide in Jesus just by doing what I want to do.

Abiding Jesus is giving us the means he has given us that he uses to bring grace into our lives.

Things like Bible reading, memorization, meditation, prayer, fellowship, church attendance, evangelism, serving others.

These are ways that we abide in Jesus.

Now, a lot of people ask, "Can we have a specific explanation as to how long I need to pray and how long I need to read the word?"

Well, that would contradict everything Paul has already argued in Galatians because now we're back to legalism again.

We can't do that.

So God has to place that upon your heart, somehow using the spiritual disciplines he gave us.

As we remain in them, we abide in Jesus, and as we abide in Jesus, his spirit is working in our lives, and we are then walking in the spirit.

We can, throughout the day, and this is true for every Christian, either in the spirit or in the flesh.

I don't think it's 75/25%, or 50/50.

You're either in one or the other.

And it is our goal as Christians now that we have the spirit dwelling within us and the ability and power to overcome the flesh, to continually live a life walking in the spirit.

However, I would urge every reader to read their bible every day, even if it's one chapter.

The theologian Charles Spurgeon was once asked what is more important to pray or to read the bible. To which he replied what is more important to breathe in or to breathe out?

How to Walk in the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is one of God's most precious gifts to His beloved children.

He takes up residence within the believer at the moment of salvation, empowering him to overcome sin and live for God's glory and purposes.

However, the Spirit's power can be "turned off" or ignored.

Only those who choose to walk with Him have unhindered access to His strength and guidance.

Walking by the Spirit denotes reliance upon Him.

He leads the way, and we follow.

As He speaks, we listen, heed His warnings, and obey His directions.

The Spirit's way is a path of surrender, which, although difficult, leads to the fullness of life.

God's Spirit guides and empowers us because the challenge of obeying Him is impossible in our own strength.

The Holy Spirit supplies everything we need to live a godly life and produces His amazing fruit in us.

Being led by the Spirit should be the natural lifestyle of the sons and daughters of God.

As you intentionally seek to maintain an awareness of His presence throughout the day, He is only a thought away.

When your mind turns to Him, He gives sensitivity to the things of God and understanding about the situations and people in your life.

Take a walk with the Spirit today, and learn to know His voice.

Whenever your mind is not occupied with the day's duties, focus your thoughts on Him, asking for His guidance and looking expectantly for His leading.

When He gives it, rely on His power to obey.

7 Steps to Walking the Spiritual Walk

Romans on Living Life in the Spirit

Life in the Spirit is a journey, and while many great passages throughout Scripture discuss the role and person of the Holy Spirit, Romans 8 is perhaps one of the most insightful. Here are 7 suggestions that will fuel a passion for the things of the Spirit and further educate how to live a life directed by him.

1. Walk in the Spirit (Rom. 8:4)

There is no shortcut to learning how to walk with the Spirit. It's not just for ultra-spiritual people nor is it reserved for charismatic Christians. Life according to the Spirit is not simply trying to do the right thing, nor is it trying to live according to God's Law. Walking in the Spirit is the central metaphor for describing what it means to live as a Christian. The person who walks according to the Spirit will in fact have the essence of the Law fulfilled in his life.

2. Set your minds on the things of the Spirit (Rom. 8:5)

The question "How does one overcome the pull of the flesh?" sounds like an old riddle: How can someone extract all of the air out of a drinking glass? The most direct way to get all the air out of a glass is by filling it with something else. You cannot extract thoughts that displease God from your mind. Like [the solution to the riddle], you need to be filled up with thoughts—indeed with an entire mindset—that is oriented toward the things of the Spirit (e.g. Gal. 5:22–23).

3. Put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit (Rom. 8:13)

The person who has been regenerated by the Spirit is not stuck in sin. By the Spirit, the pull of the flesh can be

resisted. To "put to death the deeds of the body" is pretty much the same thing as "saying no to sin," but unlike the anti-drug campaign among youth many years ago, just saying no by itself will never be successful. Just saying no will never allow you to consistently overcome sin. Then what must you do? You must say no by the Spirit.

4. Be led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14)

The Holy Spirit leads us broadly (always) and more specifically (sometimes). He always leads us through his written Word, which was revealed to the prophets by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20–21). We are to prayerfully, carefully, and humbly apply broad biblical wisdom to the situations we face in our lives.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit leads us directly. The Holy Spirit can choose to act in any way and according to any timetable that he wishes; we do not dictate to him how or when he will move. Since the Bible gives many examples of him acting more specifically, we should anticipate that he will sometimes choose to lead us directly if we are open and available to his guidance.

5. Know the Fatherhood of God by the Spirit (Rom. 8:15–17)

Without the Holy Spirit, we would never know our freedom and identity as God's adoptive children. Thankfully, God has freely given us his Holy Spirit, and these verses from Romans 8 display three amazing things the Spirit does:

He acts as the go-between who takes us out of a place of slavery and fear and brings us into a place of adoption and acceptance.

He helps us to cry out to God as Father.

He testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

6. Hope in the Spirit (Rom 8:22-25)

The biblical concept represented by the English word hope is so strong that it is almost a synonym for "eager expectation." The focus of the expectation isn't that life will get better here; it is absorbed with the glorious life to come.

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in all this? **Rom 8:23** says: "We, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our body." Paul claims that it is because we have the Spirit, not despite it that we groan. In this passage, it is precisely the presence of the Spirit within

you that causes you to feel this particular kind of suffering—the longing for final redemption amid a fallen world. In this way, the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives reminds us of the stark contrast between the wonderful things God has prepared for us who believe and this fallen world that is so full of sin, suffering, and futility.

7. Pray in the Spirit (Rom. 8:26–28)

These two verses (**Rom 8:26–27**) are so rich and helpful in our lives in the Spirit.

We learn that we are weak when we come to prayer. We often don't know what to pray for in any given situation. The concern is not about the manner of prayer (the "how"), but rather the content of our prayers—what do we actually pray about?

We learn that the Spirit joins to help us when we are struggling to know how to pray by interceding for us with wordless groaning. It is not, as some propose, that we should just pray whatever we want since we don't have any idea how to pray, and that the Spirit fixes them up and prays on our behalf to the Father. Rather, the verb often translated as "helps" has a preposition attached to

the front of it, which suggests that it really means "joins to help."

The Spirit is searching our hearts and knows that we have a mindset that is focused on him, even if we do not know exactly what we are supposed to pray.

The result is that our prayers are prayed "according to the will of God" because the Holy Spirit is moving us thus to pray and is presenting the prayers that he is guiding us to pray to the Father. Jesus and the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit was intimately connected with Jesus throughout his entire life.

Before Jesus' virginal conception, an angel said to Mary, **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you"** (Luke 1:35; cf. Matt. 1:18, 20).

When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, the Father anointed him with the Spirit **(Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22)**.

Then Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness by the Spirit for a season of testing **(Matt. 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1)**.

Luke says that Jesus was "full of the Spirit" when this happened; he afterward returned to Galilee in "the power of the Spirit" (**Luke 4:14**).

In Jesus' first sermon, he claimed to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy of a Spirit-anointed ministry of redemption and restoration to Israel (**Luke 4:16–21**).

Peter's summary of Christ's ministry describes "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.

He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (**Acts 10:38**).

When skeptical religious leaders accused him of casting out demons by satanic power, Jesus said, "If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" (**Matt. 12:28**).

In his death, Jesus offered himself as an atoning sacrifice through the Holy Spirit (**Heb. 9:14**).

Paul tells us that Jesus was "declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead" (**Rom. 1:4**).

After Jesus' resurrection, he breathed on his disciples, saying "Receive the Holy Spirit" (**John 20:22**).

Then followed Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on the church, as the Spirit of Christ.

CHAPTER EIGHT

HOW TO LEAD A CHRIST-LIKE LIFE

Jesus was sent on earth to become the atoning sacrifice for our sins and he led the perfect and it is only through him do we have access to God.

John 15:4 ERV

Stay joined to me and I will stay joined to you. No branch can produce fruit alone. It must stay connected to the vine. It is the same with you. You cannot produce fruit alone. You must stay joined to me.

John 15:4 NLT

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

John 14:26 ESV

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

How should we live our daily lives?

If Jesus paid the price for our sins, why do we still suffer the consequences of our sins?

ANSWER

The Bible gives the good news that Jesus paid the price for our sins (**Ephesians 1:7**), yet in many ways, we still suffer the consequences of our sins. For example, a drug dealer may become a Christian in prison, but that doesn't mean he will be released from prison the next day—he will still experience the consequences of his past sin. A born-again Christian who falls into adultery may lose his family, his career, etc.—even after he confesses and forsakes his sin, the consequences of his sin remain. Coming to Christ does not erase the temporal effects of sin; rather, our salvation guarantees that we will not face the eternal consequences of sin.

The consequence of sin is death (**Romans 6:23a**). As sinners, we deserve to be eternally separated from God and His holiness. On the cross, Christ paid the penalty for our sins with His own blood. He who knew no sin was made to be sin on our behalf (2 Corinthians 5:21). based on Christ's perfect sacrifice, those who believe are no longer under God's condemnation (**Romans 8:1**).

It's important to understand that when the believer in Christ experiences consequences for sin, it is not because he is under God's condemnation (**Romans 8:1**), His wrath (**1 Thessalonians 5:9**), or His retribution (**2 Thessalonians 1:8**). Believers are under God's grace (**Romans 6:15**). Jesus took the wrath of God upon Himself (**Isaiah 53:10**). Sin's consequences still experienced by believers could be classified in one of these ways:

Universal consequences. Some of sin's consequences are experienced perpetually by every human being on earth because we are all children of Adam. We all have weeds growing in our gardens, we all face natural disasters, we all get sick and grow old, and we all eventually die physically (**Romans 5:12**). As sinners living in a sinful world, there's no avoiding these consequences of original sin.

Natural consequences. We live in a world of cause and effect, where the law of sowing and reaping is in full effect. Some of sin's consequences are built-in and practically guaranteed, no matter if the sinner is saved or unsaved. The Bible warns that sexual immorality is a sin committed against one's own body (**1 Corinthians 6:18**). "Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?" (**Proverbs 6:27**). If you steal something,

you should expect to get caught and face the natural consequences that follow the sin of theft. If you resist arrest when you get caught, you pile on more consequences. Sowing and reaping.

Instructional consequences. Very likely, God allows some of sin's consequences to remain in our lives to teach us the heinous nature of sin and to remind us to depend upon God's grace. Sin is a serious enough problem for God to have sent His Son into the world to die. We dare not take sin lightly. In the face of sin's consequences, we humble ourselves and seek God's kingdom and righteousness all the more (see Matthew 6:33). When Ananias and Sapphira were disciplined for their sin, it was instructive for the church: "Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events" (Acts 5:11). See also 1 Corinthians 5:5 and 1 Timothy 1:20.

Disciplinary consequences. Some of sin's consequences are the result of God's treating us as a father should his children. There's a difference between a penalty for sin and discipline for sin. As God's children, we experience discipline designed to guide us back to the right path. "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he

accepts as his son" (Hebrews 12:5–6; cf. Proverbs 3:11–12). Note how many of God's children undergo discipline: "everyone" (Hebrews 12:8). We are all wayward at times. God's purpose in allowing us to experience disciplinary consequences of sin, true to His nature, is perfect: "God disciplines us for our good, so that we may share in his holiness" (Hebrews 12:10).

The church of Corinth provides an example of Christians facing the disciplinary consequences of their sin: in partaking of the Lord's Table in an unworthy manner, they brought God's displeasure: "That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 11:30). We see similar disciplinary action taken in 2 Samuel 12. Even after David confessed his sin and was forgiven, God allowed certain consequences to befall David and his household (verses 11–14).

God allows us to experience some of the temporal consequences of sin to show His love for us. If God never disciplined His straying children, He would not be a good Father. If we were never disciplined or never suffered the consequences for our wrong actions, we would never learn right from wrong. We tend to learn from our mistakes more readily than we learn from our successes.

Praise the Lord for His goodness. He allows us to experience the temporal consequences of sin (for our own good). But He has saved us from the eternal consequences of sin. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins so we will never experience the second death, which is the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14). Believers in Christ are promised that the curse and consequences of sin will be completely removed one day, and "nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isaiah 11:9, NLT).

10 Ways to Worship the Lord

I love to worship the Lord with other believers in the church. I love the singing, the prayer time, and worshipping the Lord for the truth of His Word as it is taught. It feels very much like a foretaste of heaven where we will worship the Lord for all eternity.

But I am so grateful that my worship is not limited to just when I can meet with other believers! I can, should, and do also worship the Lord at home.

I worship Him through music – both listening to it and singing along. Even raising my hands at times!

I worship Him through praise and thanksgiving – and not just during my devotional time, but throughout the day as I recognize His blessings.

I worship Him by praying His Word back to Him and expecting great answers.

I worship Him by spending time in His presence, listening to the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit.

I worship Him by enjoying the world He created and glorifying Him for it.

Perhaps you also worship the Lord in these ways. Or maybe, your personal worship feels a bit stale. Wherever you find yourself as you read these words, I pray you will find encouragement to spend time in the presence of God today, simply worshiping Him.

From the list below, you may find new ideas to try in your personal worship time. Or you may find that some of these suggestions don't resonate with you. Or you may find an item that gives you a completely new and different idea.

Bottom of Form

Think about how creative our God is – just look at the variety in nature! – and allow your worship time to be creative as well. What matters most is not what you do, but your heart attitude. So be adventurous and stretch yourself to worship in a new way. You may find a renewed awareness of God's presence as you worship in unfamiliar ways.

And remember, this list is not exhaustive. Our God is creative and He loves for us to use the creativity He has gifted us with to worship Him.

What matters most is not how you worship the Lord but your heart's attitude toward Him.

Worship the Lord with Music

So often we equate worship with music. But it isn't the same thing – you can worship without music. However, music is an avenue of worship that can direct your heart to the Lord.

I believe the Lord created music just for this purpose. Job 38:7 says that the "morning stars [the angelic host] sang together" at the creation. Before God created the Earth and all that is in it, including humanity, he created the angels to worship with song. The Psalms include more

than 100 references to singing and music. Obviously, music is important to the Lord.

Sing a new song to the Lord; let the whole earth sing to the Lord. Psalm 96:1

Worship through Prayer

You can worship the Lord in prayer no matter where you are. God delights to hear our prayers (Psalm 66:19-20; Revelation 8:3, 4). He delights in answering them. He delights in blessing His children. Even when, or maybe especially when, it is hard to pray – pray. When praying is a sacrifice, it is both worship and prayer.

While God delights to hear your prayers no matter what words you use, there is something special about praying Scripture. Praying the Scriptures back to the Author is a powerful way to worship. If you don't know how to start praying Scripture, turn to the book of Psalms. The Psalms were the worship book and prayer book for Israel, so it's a perfect place to start.

Choose your favorite psalm, and simply personalize it back to the Lord. Here's an example I have used frequently:

Psalm 37:1 says, "Do not get upset because of evildoers, Do not be envious of wrongdoers." I would pray that verse back to God like this:

"Lord, help me to not be upset because of _____ [fill in the blank with the person and/or situation you're facing]. Help me to trust in You instead of envying what _____ seems to have or enjoy [name that item if it helps]."

Continuing with Psalm 37 (a favorite of mine), verses 7-8 say, "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him;

Do not get upset because of one who is successful in his way, Because of the person who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and abandon wrath; Do not get upset; it leads only to evildoing."

Here's how I have prayed those verses: Lord, help me to rest in You and wait for You. It is so hard when I see _____ being successful and I'm suffering with _____. I know You are the Righteous One who makes everything beautiful in time. Help me to lay aside my anger at _____ and trust in You.

Worship through Praise and Thanksgiving

There are more than 250 verses in Scripture that speak of praise – almost 150 in Psalms alone! To give you just a

taste, check out Psalms 146 – 150. Praise means simply telling God how great He is – praise Him for His love, His forgiveness, His patience, His creation, His gifts, for anything and everything.

Thanksgiving is similar. Instead of praising Him for who He is, you express your gratitude for what He has done for you personally. Got two eyes to see? Thank Him. A roof over your head? Thank Him. Food on the table? Thank Him. Thank Him in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Hallelujah!

My soul, praise the Lord.

I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing to my God as long as I live.

Psalm 146:1-2

Worship through Confession of Sin

Sin breaks the heart of our Father. He weeps to see His children making wrong choices, just as any loving parent would. But He has made a way of redemption.

If you are a child of God, all you need to do is admit your sins to Him, ask for His cleansing, and commit to not

sinning again. It doesn't mean you won't sin again – but that you are seriously committed to trying in the power of the Holy Spirit to not sin again. Need inspiration? Go to Psalm 51.

In [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace that He richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. Ephesians 1:7-8

Worship through the Word

Spending time in the Word every day is another way to worship the Lord. God has given you the Bible and wants you to read it, study it, live by it, and love it (Psalm 119:97, 113, 163). Psalm 119 is a beautiful tribute to the Word. If you want to fall in love with the Word, spend a few days there. You could even spend an entire month – taking one 8-verse section per day and praying and praising through it.

If you want more guidance on reading or studying the Bible, check out these posts:

A Bible Study Method for Growth and Should You Read Through the Bible in a Year?

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;

The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

They are more desirable than gold, yea than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Psalm 19:7, 10

Worship the Lord in Silence

Music, prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and confession are ways you can speak to God. But God doesn't just listen to you and me. He also speaks.

The two most common ways for the Lord to speak are through His Word and in silence. The importance of the Word was mentioned above – and it is so very important.

But being silent before the Lord is also important. Silence is almost a lost art in our culture. Even while going for a walk, many people have earbuds in and listen to a podcast or music. I'm guilty of this as well. But the truth is, God speaks in the still, quiet parts of your day and life.

Learning to "be still" (Psalm 46:10) takes effort and intention. But the rewards are worth it. Offer 10 minutes

of silence to the Lord as a moment of worship. And then listen for what He wants you to know. Just a word of warning, though – what God says to you in silence will never contradict what He has already said in His Word.

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. John 16:3

Worship through Giving

When you worship the Lord through giving, you are saying to God, "All I have is Yours." God does not need your money, but He wants your heart. He does not need your time or talent, but He invites you to partner with Him in sharing the gospel.

Giving is worship because it is a privilege and an act born out of love, not from a command. The Lord does not need anything from His creation – but He blesses us with the opportunity to participate in the Kingdom of God by giving back a portion of what He has first given. One important reason believers should worship through giving is because of the example of Jesus: He gave "His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you in return. Luke 6:38.

God does not need your money, He wants your heart.

Worship through Serving

Serve others, serve at the church, serve your family. Serve because Jesus came as a Servant (Matthew 20:28; John 12:26).

One way to serve others is to ask them a simple question: "How may I help you?" This question first entered my life through The Prayer of Jabez, by Bruce Wilkinson. It was explained more fully in You Were Born For This, also by Bruce Wilkinson. Another way to serve others is to read what the Bible says in all the "one another" passages and live them out (John 13:34; Romans 14:19; Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:16 – and more).

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

Worship through Nature

Worship the Father through spending time in His creation. Nature testifies to the spectacular, amazing creative powers of the Lord and His greatness and glory (Psalm 19:1-6).

As you walk through a park, praise God for the cardinals and bluebirds, for the turning of the seasons, for the oxygen you breathe, and for the sun that shines in a blue sky. Let nature do its job in helping you turn your eyes to the Lord.

The heavens declare the glory of God and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1

Worship in the Daily-ness of Life

God does not despise the small offerings we give Him (Mark 8:7; 12:42). So, in the daily ness of life, worship the Lord by being faithful in the small jobs He has given you.

The daily-ness of life is different for everyone. It may include laundry, dishes, working at a job you just barely tolerate or one you love, raising children, and paying bills. Faithfulness in small things results in larger opportunities to be faithful (Luke 16:10; 1 Corinthians 4:2).

What does worshiping in the daily-ness of life look like? Here are just a few examples: Praise God for children who

make dirty clothes while doing the laundry. Thank God for a healthy family while fixing meals. Listen to God speak to you in the quiet of your commute as you turn off all outside noises. Sing worship songs to Him in your car. Spend time in prayer for those less fortunate than you after you finish paying bills or giving a tithe to your church. Ask Him to show you creative ways to worship Him throughout the day and He will.

Because of the Lord's faithful love, we do not perish, for His mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness! Lamentations 3:22-23

Worship should be a specific time in our day and our week that we set aside to spend with the Lord. But it should also be a lifestyle. A heart that turns to God throughout the day, in praise, in prayer, in service, is a heart that is daily worshipping the God who deserves all praise.

CHAPTER NINE

HOW DOES ONE HEAR FROM GOD?

People say things like, "God spoke to me" or "The Lord told me." What does that mean? Did they hear an audible voice like Samuel? How can I hear from God?

We primarily hear from God by regularly spending time reading the Bible and obeying what it says. The Bible is God's message to humankind. Everything we need to know to live the Christian life is already in the Bible. As we spend time meditating on His Word, God reveals his truth to us.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF SIX WAYS THAT GOD SPEAKS TO US:

1. GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH SCRIPTURE

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

2. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH GIFTED TEACHERS WHOSE SOURCE IS THE BIBLE

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy by your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully" (Romans 12:6-8).

3. GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH DIFFICULTIES

"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees" (Psalm 119:67-68).

4. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26).

5. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS CREATION

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth

speech; night after night they reveal knowledge" (Psalm 19:1-2).

6. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH WHATEVER OR WHOMEVER HE CHOOSES, BUT NEVER IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE BIBLE

"For God does speak — now one way, now another — though no one perceives it" (Job 33:14).

CAN ANYTHING KEEP US FROM HEARING GOD?

Wrong attitudes, resentment, or unconfessed sins can create distance in our relationship with God. When this happens, confession and repentance will bring us back into a close relationship where we can hear from God again. Spiritual breathing is an excellent practice that will help keep the lines of communication open

The Old Testament records God speaking through a burning bush (Exodus 3), a thick cloud (Exodus 19:9) and in a gentle whisper (1 Kings 19:12). The Holy Spirit also communicates with people through dreams, visions, words of knowledge and prophecies (Joel 2:28; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11).

CHAPTER TEN

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Great Commission refers to the assignment Jesus gave His disciples shortly before returning to heaven following His resurrection. The commission is found in Matthew 28:18-20.

“Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

Jesus commanded the eleven disciples to make disciples of all the nations, a command that applies to all of us. A disciple is someone who follows Jesus by becoming like Him. The Great Commission commanded the eleven to go out into the world and find men and women who would follow Jesus just like they had followed Him. This commission includes all of us, including the apostle Paul,

who was one of the foremost in making disciples throughout the known world of the first century.

The last recorded words of Jesus to His disciples were: "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." This means that the Great Commission is for us, not just the first eleven disciples. Jesus intended that "making disciples" would continue in ever-widening circles until it reached "the end of the earth." Early Christians carried the gospel to most of the then-known world, but it takes all of us, including Jesus' followers, to continue making disciples in every spot on the globe.

Becoming Jesus' disciples involves learning about Him and His teachings, helping others learn about Jesus and how He wants us to live. The Holy Spirit will help us study the Bible with a sincere desire to follow Jesus in all His teachings. Baptism symbolizes that a person has been resurrected from their old life of sin to walk in newness of life.

Jesus assured the eleven and us that He is always with us, even to the end of the age. Jesus wants to return and put an end to this world of sin, but that cannot happen until the gospel goes to all the world.

The Sermon on the Mount; The Beatitudes

⁵ When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and when He was seated, His ^[a]disciples came to Him. ² Then He *began* to teach them, saying,

³ “Blessed [spiritually prosperous, happy, to be admired] are the poor in spirit [those devoid of spiritual arrogance, those who regard themselves as insignificant], for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [both now and forever].

⁴ “Blessed [forgiven, refreshed by God’s grace] are those who mourn [over their sins and repent], for they will be comforted [when the burden of sin is lifted].

⁵ “Blessed [inwardly peaceful, spiritually secure, worthy of respect] are the ^[b]gentle [the kind-hearted, the sweet-spirited, the self-controlled], for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed [joyful, nourished by God’s goodness] are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness [those who actively seek right standing with God], for they will be [completely] satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed [content, sheltered by God’s promises] are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed [anticipating God’s presence, spiritually mature] are the pure in heart [those with integrity, moral courage, and godly character], for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed [spiritually calm with life-joy in God’s favor] are the makers *and* maintainers of peace, for they will [express His character and] be called the sons of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed [comforted by inner peace and God’s love] are those who are persecuted for ^[c]doing that which is morally right, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [both now and forever].

¹¹ “Blessed [morally courageous and spiritually alive with life-joy in God’s goodness] are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil things against you because of [your association with] Me. ¹² Be glad and exceedingly

What are the commands of Christ?

The heart of the Great Commission

We believe that Jesus’ words are not optional. They are essential! Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my

commandments" (John 14:15 ESV). The Commands of Christ are not just a to-do list; they are an invitation to a relationship with God Himself. What are these commandments, and what does it mean to "keep" them? We cannot keep—observe, remember, and apply—them without first knowing what they are. Fifty general commands Jesus gave us during His earthly ministry are listed below. After reading through these commands, you may wonder, How can I possibly follow all of them? The answer is, you can't! Only by believing in Jesus Christ as Savior and allowing Him to live His life through you can you truly love and follow God. As you read through the commands Jesus gave, ask God to help you observe these words, apply them, and faithfully follow them through the power of His Holy Spirit.

Abide in Me "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:4–5 ESV)

Repent "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."" (Matthew 4:17 ESV)

Follow Me “And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”” (Matthew 4:19 ESV)

Rejoice ““Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”” (Matthew 5:11–12 ESV)

Let Your Light Shine “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16 ESV)

Honor God’s Law ““Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”” (Matthew 5:17 ESV)

Be Reconciled “So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23–24 ESV)

Do Not Lust “But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear

it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.” (Matthew 5:28–30 ESV)

Keep Your Word “Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.” (Matthew 5:37 ESV)

Go the Second Mile “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:38–42 ESV)

Love Your Enemies “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what

reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" (Matthew 5:44–46 ESV)

Be Perfect "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48 ESV)

Practice Secret Disciplines ""Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. . . . But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . . But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."" (Matthew 6:1–18 ESV)

Lay Up Treasures ""Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."" (Matthew 6:19–21 ESV)

Seek God's Kingdom “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33 ESV)

Judge Not ““Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”” (Matthew 7:1–3 ESV)

Do Not Cast Pearls ““Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”” (Matthew 7:6 ESV)

Ask, Seek, Knock ““Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”” (Matthew 7:7–8 ESV)

Do Unto Others ““So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”” (Matthew 7:12 ESV)

Choose the Narrow Way ““Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to

destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads

Beware of False Prophets

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?” (Matthew 7:15–16, ESV).

Pray for Laborers

“Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" (Matthew 9:37–38, ESV).

Be Wise as Serpents

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16, ESV).

Fear Not

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28, ESV).

Hear God’s Voice

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Matthew 11:15, ESV).

Take My Yoke

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28–30, ESV).

Honor Your Parents

“‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’” (Matthew 15:4, ESV).

Beware of Leaven

“Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” (Matthew 16:6, ESV).

Deny Yourself

“And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?'” (Luke 9:23–25, ESV).

Despise Not Little Ones

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:10, ESV).

Go to Offenders

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” (Matthew 18:15–17, ESV).

Beware of Covetousness

“And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'” (Luke 12:15, ESV).

Honor Marriage

“He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.'” (Matthew 19:4–6, ESV).

Forgive Offenders

“Then Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.'” (Matthew 18:21–22, ESV).

Be a Servant

“but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served

but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:26–28, ESV).

Be a House of Prayer

“He said to them, 'It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.’” (Matthew 21:13, ESV).

Ask in Faith

“And Jesus answered them, 'Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.’” (Matthew 21:21–22, ESV).

Bring In the Poor

“He said also to the man who had invited him, 'When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.’” (Luke 14:12–14, ESV).

Render to Caesar

“Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'" (Matthew 22:19–21, ESV).

Love the Lord

“And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" (Matthew 22:37–38, ESV).

Love Your Neighbour

“And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:39–40, ESV).

Await My Return

“Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also

must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matthew 24:42–44, ESV).

Take, Eat, and Drink

“Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins

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