

BASIC TRAIN- ING FOR CHRIS- TIAN

David F. May Jr.

Psalm 135

5 You have hedged me behind and before,
And fast Your hand upon me.
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
8 You send into heaven, You are above;
You are my bed in hell, behold, You are here.

9 If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall" on me,
Even the night shall be light about me;

12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You.
But the night shines as the day;
The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

13 For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.

14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

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God's Omnipresence

16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written.
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.

17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
When I awake, I am still with You.

19 Oh, that You would "slay the wicked, O God!"
"Depart from me, therefore, You bloodthirsty men."

20 For they "speak against You wickedly;
Your enemies take Your name in vain."

21 "Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?"

22 I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them my enemies.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;

24 And see if there is any wicked way in me.
And lead me in the way everlasting.

Ps. 5:8; 143:10

138-11 Vulgate and Symmachus read cover.
138-14 Following Masoretic Text and Targum:
Septuagint, Syriac, and Vulgate read You are fearfully wonderful. 139-20 Septuagint and Vulgate read They take your cities in vain.

Power for Preservation

PSALM 140

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

DELIVER me, O LORD, from evil men;
Preserve me from violent men,
Who plan evil things in their hearts;

They continually gather together for war.
They sharpen their tongues like a serpent.
The poison of asps is under their lips.

Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;
Preserve me from violent men,
Who have purposed to make my steps stumble.

The proud have hidden a snare for me, and cords;
They have spread a net by the wayside;
They have set traps for me.

I said to the LORD: "You are my God;
Hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD."

O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation,
You have covered my head in the day of battle.

Do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;
Do not further his wicked scheme,
Lest they be exalted.

As for the head of those who surround me,
Let the evil of their lips cover them;

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Psalm 141:5

Let burning coals fall upon them;
Let them be cast into the fire,
Into deep pits, that they rise not up again.

Let not a slanderer be established in the earth;
Let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow him.

I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted,
And justice for the poor.

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name,
The upright shall dwell in Your presence.

PSALM 141

A Psalm of David.

LORD, I cry out to You;
Make haste to me!
Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You.

Let my prayer be set before You as incense,
The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Do not incline my heart to any evil thing,
To practice wicked works
With men who work iniquity;
And do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Let the righteous strike me;
It shall be a kindness.
And let him rebuke me;

Prov. 23:6

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Part I

CHRISTIANITY

Chapter 1

Introduction

This book is written to help brand-new baby Christians. The goal of this book is to teach you what it means to be a Christian and to share some insights in living the Christian life. For example, there is some confusion about what it means to be a Christian. Did you know, for example, that the Bible only uses the word “Christian” three times? The word “Christian” means, literally, “little Christ”. It was a mocking term, used to belittle people who worked hard to live like Jesus. The term “believer” is used twice to refer to those who follow Jesus. However, the word “disciple” is used over 200 times to refer to followers of Jesus.

Now, we should strive to be “little Christs”, so Christian is a fine term. Also, we should believe in Jesus, so believer is a fine term. However, we should not allow traditional terms to keep us from understanding what it means to be a Christian. The Bible is clear. Disciples give, serve and love people. Disciples do God’s will and testify of Jesus. Disciples are blessed, called, taught of Jesus, and tested. Disciples bear fruit, confess Him before men, face persecution with joy, fast, and find rest in Jesus. Disciples follow Jesus as bond-servants. They lose their lives for Jesus, obey the Lord, provide for others, run to win, value people, and step out in faith. Most importantly, though, disciples make other disciples.

In this short work, I am going to help you learn what it means to be a servant of Jesus. When the Bible talks about being a Christian or a believer, it is talking about being a disciple. From the perspective of the Bible, you can’t be a Christian or a believer without being a disciple. There are not multiple standards about what a Christian is, but Biblically, there is only one standard. My hope is to raise that standard in this work so you can follow Jesus with all your heart.

Chapter 2

Who is God

The God revealed by the the Holy Bible, the God of Christianity, is three persons in one God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are co-equal, each fully God, and in relationship with each other. Normally, when the Bible talks about God (Theos in the New Testament), it means the Father.

Everything you need to understand about who God is and what He wants for you can be found in Jesus. He is the image of the invisible God, and He is the one who brings us into the Kingdom of the Father.

2.1 Who is Jesus

The following are truths about who Jesus is as presented in the Bible. It's okay if you don't understand everything in this section. You will as you study the Bible and become a disciple of Jesus.

Jesus is God

- Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit
The Holy Spirit came on Jesus and helped Him fulfill His earthly ministry.
- Jesus is the Creator
All things were created by Jesus and for Jesus. He existed before Abraham did. He is life and He is light.
- Jesus is the Son of God
Jesus is the Father's beloved Son, and all things were delivered to Him by the Father. He is the radiance of the Father's glory, the image of His substance.
- Jesus is fully man as well as fully God
Jesus was born the descendant of David, the promised Messiah.
- Jesus is King of the Jews
Wise men sought Him as the one born King of the Jews.
- Jesus will return Jesus was taken up into heaven
As King, He will return in the same way He was taken, and He will rule over everything.

Jesus is Lord

- Jesus is our High Priest
Through His own blood, Jesus obtained eternal redemption for us. He dedicated a New Covenant with His own blood.

- Jesus is the good Shepherd

Jesus lays down His life for His sheep (you and I). His sheep know His voice and they follow Him. Jesus gives His sheep (you and I) eternal life; no one will snatch them out of His hand.

Christianity is an eternal relationship with Jesus. You will become His disciple, His friend, and for eternity, part of His bride. We, as believers in Christ, will live forever in His presence.

2.2 *Start your Relationship with God*

God reveals Himself to people

God wants a relationship with you. He reveals Himself to you so that you can know who He is and you can come into that relationship. Jesus is always seeking out people to come into relationship with Him.

Revelation 3:20 (WEB)

20. Behold, **I stand at the door and knock**. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me.

Acts 17:22-23 (WEB)

22. Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, “You men of Athens, I perceive that you are very religious in all things.
23. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription: ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ **What therefore you worship in ignorance, I announce to you.**

God reveals Himself through nature

Romans 1:20 (WEB)

20. For the **invisible things of him** since the creation of the world **are clearly seen**, being **perceived through the things that are made**, even his everlasting power and divinity, that they may be without excuse.

Psalms 8:3-4 (WEB)

3. **When I consider your heavens**, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained;
4. what is man, that you think of him? What is the son of man, that you care for him?

Job 26:8-9 (WEB)

8. He binds up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not burst under them.
9. He encloses the face of his throne, and spreads his cloud on it.

Job 26:14 (WEB)

14. Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways. **How small a whisper do we hear of him!** But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

God reveals Himself through your conscience

Your conscience is the part of your soul which tells you what is right and what is wrong. God uses your conscience to show Himself to you.

Romans 2:14 (WEB)

14. (for when Gentiles who don't have the law **do by nature the things of the law, these, not having the law**, are a law to themselves,

Romans 2:15 (WEB)

15. in that they show the work of **the law written in their hearts, their conscience testifying with them**, and their thoughts among themselves accusing or else excusing them)

God reveals Himself through Jesus

Mostly, though, God revealed Himself in Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (WEB)

1. **God**, having in the past spoken to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,
2. **has at the end of these days spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds.

Matthew 11:27 (WEB)

27. All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows the Son, except the Father; **neither does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and he to whom the Son desires to reveal him**

John 14:6 (WEB)

6. Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father, except through me**

God reveals Himself through the Scriptures

The Scriptures, the Holy Bible, are the revelation of God to man. God used men to write the various portions of the Bible, but they were inspired by Him.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (WEB)

3. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures**
4. that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day **according to the Scriptures**

God Loves people

This may be hard to believe as you look around you and see such evil and pain in the world. But God the Father loves you. He will never stop loving you. He expressed His love to you in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

John 3:16 (WEB)

16. For **God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Chapter 3

The Gospel

God uses the gospel to reach out to people. The gospel is the message of Jesus: how He came to earth; how He lived a godly life, healing and restoring many; how He died on the cross to redeem us; and how we should respond to those actions of His.

3.1 *How God reaches out to people*

1 Corinthians 15:3 (WEB)

3. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures,

4. that **he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,

5. and that **he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve**

Matthew 28:18-20 (WEB)

18. Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to me** in heaven and on earth.

19. **Go** and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20. **teaching them** to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

In simplified form, the Gospel is as follows:

- Christ died for our sins
- He was buried
- He was raised on the third day
- He appeared to His disciples
- He gave them the Great Commission (Mt 28)

Man has a sin problem

Jesus had to die because of the sins of all man. Sin basically means to fall short, to miss the mark, to fall short of what God expects of you. Man is steeped in sin, having a nature which is rebellious and doesn't want to do the right things.

Romans Road - path to salvation

Romans 3:23 (WEB)

23. for **all have sinned**, and fall short of the glory of God;

Romans 6:23 (WEB)

23. For **the wages of sin is death**, but **the free gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 (WEB)

8. But God commends his own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**

Romans 10:9-10 (WEB)

9. that if you will **confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord**, and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved.

10. For **with the heart, one believes resulting in righteousness**; and **with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation**.

Romans 10:13 (WEB)

13. For, "Whoever will **call on the name of the Lord will be saved**"

Romans 5:1 (WEB)

1. **Being** therefore **justified by faith we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ;

Romans 8:1 (WEB)

1. There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit**.

Jesus bore our Sin on the cross

To "sin" means to fall short or miss the mark. Sin has serious consequences. Because of our sins, Jesus died on the cross.

1 Peter 2:24 (WEB)

24. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree**, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness. You were healed by his wounds.

He wants you to believe

Acts 16:31 (WEB)

31. They said, “**Believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ, and **you will be saved**, you and your household.”

He wants you to receive His gift

Ephesians 2:8-9 (WEB)

8. for **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**

9. not of works, that no one would boast.

If you receive Him...

Revelation 3:20 (WEB)

20. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone **hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me**

Pray the Sinner's prayer to receive Jesus

Lord Jesus, I realize I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I confess with my mouth that You, Jesus, are Lord, the Ruler over all. I believe in my heart that You came to earth as a man and died for my sin. I believe God the Father raised You from the dead and You are alive forevermore, seated on Your throne in heaven next to the Father. I believe Your blood that was shed on the cross washes away all my sin. I ask you to forgive my sins and give me the gift of eternal life. I ask you to send the Holy Spirit to live in me. My life is yours, from this day forth and forever.

Chapter 4

The Bible

The Holy Bible is how God reveals Himself to man. In the Bible, the Lord has provided His words to us, works which teach us how to live and how to serve Him and others. We need to hear His words and do them.

Matthew 7:24-27 (WEB)

24. “Everyone therefore who **hears these words of mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on a rock.
25. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it didn’t fall, for it was founded on the rock.
26. Everyone who **hears these words of mine, and doesn’t do them** will be like a foolish man, who built his house on the sand.
27. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it fell and great was its fall.”

4.1 God’s word

Our spiritual food

As a creature, you have to eat to survive. As a Christian, you have to eat, as well. But our food is the Lord’s word.

Matthew 4:4 (WEB)

4. But he answered, “It is written, ‘**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**’

We need to hide His word in our hearts

Psalms 119:11 (WEB)

11. I have **hidden your word in my heart**, that I might not sin against you.

The Bible is inspired

When I say the Bible is inspired, I mean the Bible is directly brought to us by revelation. God spoke through men to us.

2 Timothy 3:16 (WEB)

16. Every **Scripture is God-breathed** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness,

2 Peter 1:20-21 (WEB)

20. knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation.

21. For **no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit,**

We are commanded to live by the word

God commands us to live by the Bible.

James 1:22 (WEB)

22. But **be doers of the word, and not only hearers**, deluding your own selves.

Matthew 28:18-20 (WEB)

18. Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

19. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20. **teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Chapter 5

Love God, love people

The Bible teaches that we need to Love God and we need to love people. However, when the Bible says love, it doesn't mean the 60s version of love (as in "free love") which is almost always selfish and sensual, and usually sexual. The love God speaks of is selfless, life-giving love that gives to others without expectation of a return. This is the kind of love we were all made to accept from the Father. This is the kind of Love God wants us to give to others.

Matthew 22:36-40 (WEB)

36. "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"

37. Jesus said to him, "'You shall **love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

38. This is the first and great commandment.

39. A **second** likewise is this, 'You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.'

40. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

5.1 Relationship with God

God wants us to have a deep, lasting relationship with Him. To have that relationship, we have to understand who He is and what He has done for us to pave the way.

Our father

God the Father is the Father of Jesus. He wants to be our Father, as well.

Romans 8:15 (WEB)

15. For you didn't receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but **you received the Spirit of adoption**, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

John 15:15 (WEB)

15. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant doesn't know what his lord does. But I have called you friends, for **everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you**

Pray to Him

God wants us to pray to Him. Prayer at its basic level is talking to God. We may ask for things. We may just desire to speak to Him or hear from Him. Or, we may seek His will for others, so we can be part of seeing His will done in the lives of others.

Matthew 6:5-6 (WEB)

5. **“When you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites**, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Most certainly, I tell you, they have received their reward.
6. But you, **when you pray, enter into your inner room, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret**, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (WEB)

17. **Pray without ceasing.**

Give Thanks

As disciples of Jesus, we need to constantly give thanks to God. We think Him for what He has given to us, we thank Him for the people in our lives. If you think hard, I am sure you will realize that we have much to be thankful for. We are alive, we have food and clothing, we have relationships with others.

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 (WEB)

10. Therefore **David blessed Yahweh** before all the assembly; and David said, “You are blessed, Yahweh, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.
11. Yours, Yahweh, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty! For all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, Yahweh, and you are exalted as head above all.
12. Both **riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all!** In your hand is power and might! It is in your hand to make great, and to give strength to all!
13. Now therefore, **our God, we thank you**, and praise your glorious name.

Confess sins to Jesus

The Bible teaches that we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Jesus died to take care of the consequences of that sin. But God wants us to learn to **not** sin. We are all learners, walking with others, seeking to do the will of God for our lives. Though God wants us to learn to not sin by the power of the Holy Spirit, He has provided a mechanism by which we can be free of sin’s power, even when we sin.

1 John 1:9 (WEB)

9. If we **confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins**, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Proverbs 28:13 (WEB)

13. He who **conceals his sins doesn't prosper**, but whoever **confesses and renounces them finds mercy**.

Psalms 51:4 (WEB)

4. **Against you, and you only, I have sinned**, and done that which is evil in your sight; that you may be proved right when you speak, and justified when you judge.

To confess sin is to admit to God that the sin is wrong, and to ask Him to forgive you. If you confess your sin to God and don't try to hide or make excuses for it, He will forgive you and cleanse you from the sin.

Repentance (which we will talk about later) combined with confession is how God has provided for Christians to deal with sin as we learn to sin no more.

Approach him with Confidence

Christianity is a relationship. Jesus wants to meet all your needs, physical, emotional and spiritual. He wants to be the lover of your soul, your Lord and husband. Like a good husband, He will do whatever He has to in order to meet your needs and show you His love.

You have complete access to Him

Jesus is holding nothing back from you. Though there are rebellious behaviors that He wants you to abandon and live in no longer, He knows you have needs. You need food, clothing, shelter. You need relationships with people, love and acceptance from others. He wants to provide these needs for you completely.

1 John 5:14-15 (WEB)

14. This is the **boldness which we have toward him**, that if we **ask anything according to his will, he listens to us**.
15. And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.

Matthew 6:8 (WEB)

8. Therefore don't be like them, for **your Father knows what things you need, before you ask him**

5.2 Relationship with Christians

As followers of Jesus, we are not called to be alone. We are called to be with other people. When Jesus sent His disciples out to do work, He always sent them out in twos. The principle He taught was this: We are not called to do this alone. We need each other.

Spend time together

We grow in relationship as we spend time together. This is what the Lord wants of us.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (WEB)

24. Let's consider how to **provoke one another to love and good works,**
25. **not forsaking our own assembling together,** as the custom of some is, but **exhorting one another,** and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 2:42,46 (WEB)

42. They **continued steadfastly** in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, **in the breaking of bread,** and prayer.
46. Day by day, **continuing steadfastly with one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread at home, they took their food with gladness and singleness of heart,

Speak what is helpful

God wants us to speak into each other's life. But we should speak those things which are helpful, which edify the other. The Bible teaches we are to speak the truth in love. Often we have more "speak" than "love"; God wants that reversed, but He does want us speaking the truth to one another.

Acts 20:20 (WEB)

20. how **I didn't shrink from declaring** to you anything that was **profitable,** teaching you publicly and from house to house,

Submit to leaders

We are to submit to leaders. Their job is to help us grow up into the disciples God wants us to be, and our job is to submit to them so that their job is a joy, and not a burden.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (WEB)

11. He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, shepherds and teachers;

for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ,

Hebrews 13:17 (WEB)

17. **Obeys your leaders and submit to them,** for they watch on behalf of your souls, as those who will give account, that they may do this with joy, and not with groaning, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Living in victory

The Scripture speaks of us overcoming and living in victory. God's will for our lives is that we overcome our own, the lies of the devil and the lures of the self-centered world.

Romans 8:17 (WEB)

17. and if children, then heirs: **heirs of God** and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him.

Our inheritance

Our inheritance in the Lord is rich. We are co-heirs with Jesus, who has inherited everything. The following scripture talks of our inheritance.

Ephesians 1:3 (WEB)

3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ,
4. even as he **chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we would **be holy and without defect** before him in love,
5. having **predestined us for adoption** as children through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his desire,
6. to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he **freely gave us favor** in the Beloved,
7. in whom **we have our redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
8. which he made to abound toward us in **all wisdom and prudence**
9. making **known to us the mystery of his will**, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him
11. We were also **assigned an inheritance in him, having been foreordained** according to the purpose of him who does all things after the counsel of his will,
12. to the end that we should be **to the praise of his glory**, we who had before hoped in Christ.
13. In him you also, having heard the word of the truth, the Good News of your salvation in whom, having also believed, you were **sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**

Here are the things we are blessed with from the Lord.

- Every Spiritual blessing - Eph 1:3
- Chose to be holy - Eph 1:4
- Predestined for Adoption - Eph 1:5
- Freely gave us favor - Eph 1:6
- Redeemed through His blood - Eph 1:7
- All Wisdom and prudence - Eph 1:8
- Knowledge of the mystery of His will - Eph 1:9

- Predestined us - Eph 1:11
- Made the praise of His glory - Eph 1:12
- Sealed with the Holy Spirit - Eph 1:13

Chapter 6

What God says about you

God has a lot to say about you. As a good Father, He is proud of His children.

6.1 *Child of God*

John 1:12 (WEB)

12. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become **God's children**, to those who believe in his name:

6.2 *God on your side*

God is for you. He is on your side. This Christian walk is not something we do on our own or in our own power. He provides us with the power and the ability to live the way He wants us to live.

Romans 8:31-32 (WEB)

31. What then shall we say about these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**
32. He who didn't spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also with him freely give us all things?

6.3 *New person in Christ*

You are a new person. When you give your heart to Jesus, as in when you pray the Sinner's Prayer (you did pray it, right?), He makes you new inside.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (WEB)

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

6.4 *Can do all things*

God sees you as someone who can do all things through Christ. He sees you that way because He made you to do all things through Christ. You can do anything God wants you to as you rely on His power and enabling. You got this.

Philippians 4:13 (WEB)

13. I can do **all things** through Christ, **who strengthens me**.

6.5 Free from sin

When Jesus saved you, He didn't just save you from eternal damnation and destruction. He also saved you from sin. He makes you free indeed from sin.

Romans 6:18 (WEB)

18. Being **made free from sin**, you became bondservants of righteousness.

John 8:34,36 (WEB)

34. Jesus answered them, "Most certainly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is the bondservant of sin.

36. **If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**

6.6 Created to do good works

You have a purpose in God, a purpose prepared before. You are destined to do good works. You don't do the good works to gain His acceptance, but you do the good works because you are accepted and you know He wants you to do them.

Ephesians 2:10 (WEB)

10. For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which **God prepared before** that we would walk in them.

6.7 God's power in you can do much

As Christians, we can do great things in God because of the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives in us.

Ephesians 3:20 (WEB)

20. Now to **him who is able to do** exceedingly abundantly **above all that we ask or think**, according to the **power that works in us**,

6.8 Temple of Holy Spirit

God uses various titles to describe His people. Titles like "saints" or "bride of Christ" indicate our true position of worth in His eyes. We are truly the Lord's treasure. Other titles, like "house of God", "field of God", and "temple of the Holy Spirit" are analogous, but they are powerful and show how important we are to God.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (WEB)

19. Or 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,

6.9 Friends of Jesus

As we grow in our relationship with Him, He calls us His friends. He is still our Lord, our Teacher, and our God. But our relationship with Him expands, and we become His friends and His confidants.

John 15:15 (WEB)

15. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant doesn't know what his lord does. But **I have called you friends**, for **everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you**.

6.10 Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not a suggestion or a recommendation from the Lord. It is a command. You are commanded to forgive others.

You know you have forgiven another person when in your heart you have released them of any debt, and you realize they don't owe you anything. They don't have to change, they don't have to be something different than they are because of what they did to you. They don't owe you an explanation, they don't owe you an apology. You have totally released them and they owe you nothing.

Matthew 18:21-22 (WEB)

21. Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, how often shall my brother **sin against me, and I forgive him**? Until seven times?"
22. Jesus said to him, "I don't tell you until seven times, but, until **seventy times seven**

Ephesians 4:32 (WEB)

32. And be kind to one another, tender hearted, **forgiving** each other, **just as God** also in Christ **forgave you**

Chapter 7

Three enemies for the Christian

Like every group, Christians have enemies. But we do not wrestle with flesh and blood. Our enemies are not people nor are they the institutions created by people.

7.1 *Satan and demons*

There are fallen angels who hate God and hate His people. Satan, or Lucifer, the devil, is the leader of this well-organized and despicable lot. They are our worst enemies.

1 John 4:4 (WEB)

4. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he who is in you than **he who is in the world**

Ephesians 6:12 (WEB)

12. For **our wrestling is not against flesh and blood but, against** the principalities, against the powers, against **the world's rulers of the darkness** of this age, and **against the spiritual forces of wickedness** in the heavenly places.

John 10:10 (WEB)

10. The **thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy** I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.

James 4:7 (WEB)

7. Be subject therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you.

Colossians 2:15 (WEB)

15. Having stripped **the principalities and the powers**, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Mark 5:15 (WEB)

15. They came to Jesus, and saw **him who had been possessed by demons sitting, clothed, and in his right mind**, even him who had the legion; and they were afraid.

7.2 *The world system opposed to God*

The world has been under the control of demonic forces for a long time, and there are places where the evil one makes his presence felt in wicked political and religious groups. The Bible calls the parts of the world that are under the devil the world system.

1 John 5:19 (WEB)

19. We know that we are of God, and **the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**

Matthew 4:8-9 (WEB)

8. Again, the devil took him to an exceedingly high mountain, and showed him **all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory.**

9. He said to him, “**I will give you all of these things**, if you will fall down and worship me.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 (WEB)

13. No temptation has taken you except what is common to man. **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able, but will with the temptation also make the way of escape**, that you may be able to endure it.

John 16:33 (WEB)

33. I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. **In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world”**

1 Corinthians 15:57 (WEB)

57. **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

7.3 *Evil desires of our sin nature*

When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3), a nature bent toward sin was shaped in him, his wife, and everyone who came after. This nature is called the sin nature or the flesh. It is bent on sin, and it is why we are unable to be right with God by keeping the law.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (WEB)

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

Galatians 5:16-17 (WEB)

16. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17. For **the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another**, that you may not do the things that you desire.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (WEB)

5. Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and **don't lean on your own understanding**
6. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Galatians 5:24-26 (WEB)

24. Those who belong to Christ have **crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts**.
25. If we live by the Spirit, let's also **walk by the Spirit**.
26. Let's not become conceited, provoking one another, and envying one another.

Romans 7:19-25 (WEB)

19. For the **good which I desire, I don't do**; but **the evil which I don't desire, that I practice**.
20. But if what I don't desire, that I do, it is no more I that do it, but **sin which dwells in me**.
21. I find then the law that, to me, **while I desire to do good, evil is present**.
22. For I delight in God's law after the inward man,
23. but I see a different law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity under the law of **sin which is in my members**.
24. What a wretched man I am! **Who will deliver me out of the body of this death?**
25. I thank God through **Jesus Christ, our Lord!** So then with the mind, I myself serve God's law, but with the flesh, sin's law.

Chapter 8

Important Truths

The following are truths that are important to your faith as a Christian.

8.1 Lordship of Jesus

As a Christian, Jesus should be Lord of your life. What does that mean? It means He is in charge. It means he has control of your life and your death. He dictates when you live, and He dictates when you die. You don't control your own life anymore; He does. You obey Him, you live for Him, and you seek to serve and please Him.

Men and women in the early church died because Jesus was their Lord. They were required to take a pinch of incense, toss it into a brazier burning before a statue of Cesar, and say "Cesar is Lord". But to true Christians, Jesus is a higher authority than the secular state, and many refused to do this. Those Christians who refused were killed by the Romans, some in hideous and brutal ways.

When we say "Jesus is Lord", we are saying that He is the most important thing in our lives. Nothing is more important. And this attitude is what Jesus wants. If anything is more important in your heart than Jesus, He is not your Lord, and you are not truly serving Him. This is the biblical standard for serving Christ, and our lives as Christians is dependent on us living this way.

Romans 10:9 (WEB)

9. that if you will confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Colossians 1:16-18 (WEB)

16. For **by him all things were created** in the heavens and on the earth, visible things and invisible things, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things have been created through him and for him.
17. He is **before all things**, and in him **all things are held together**
18. **He is the head** of the body, the assembly, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things he might have the preeminence**

1 Corinthians 6:20 (WEB)

20. for you were bought with a price. Therefore **glorify God in your body** and in your spirit, which are God's.

Romans 14:11-12 (WEB)

11. For it is written, “As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘**to me every knee will bow** Every tongue will confess to God.”

12. So then **each one of us will give account of himself to God.**

Luke 6:46 (WEB)

46. “Why do you call me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ and **don’t do the things which I say?**

Matthew 10:37 (WEB)

37. **He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me isn’t worthy of me.**

8.2 *Giving is important*

God wants his people to be generous. There is much need in the world around us. Some are impoverished and do not have basic needs met. God wants us, His Church, to meet those needs. It is not the responsibility of Government to meet the needs of people in our communities; it is the responsibility of God’s people. God wants us to love people and serve them, and this means providing financially for them sometimes.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (WEB)

6. Remember this: he who **sows sparingly will also reap sparingly** He who **sows bountifully will also reap bountifully**

7. Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver**

8.3 *The Lord’s supper*

The night Jesus was betrayed, He drank wine and ate bread, and told His disciples to do the same in memory of Him. This came to be known as the Lord’s supper, although some call it communion. It is important for us as Christians to receive this with other believers.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (WEB)

23. For I received from the Lord that which also I delivered to you, that the Lord **Jesus** on the night in which he was betrayed **took bread.**

24. When he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “**Take, eat. This is my body,** which is broken for you. **Do this in memory of me.**”

25. In the same way he also **took the cup**, after supper, saying, “**This cup** is the new covenant in **my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in memory of me.**”

Luke 22:17-20 (WEB)

17. **He received a cup**, and when he had given thanks, he said, “Take this, and **share it among yourselves**.
18. for I tell you, I will not drink at all again from the fruit of the vine, until God’s Kingdom comes.”
19. He **took bread**, and when he had given thanks, he broke, and gave it to them, saying, “**This is my body** which is given for you. **Do this in memory of me**”
20. Likewise, he took the **cup after supper**, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in my blood**, which is poured out for you.
- 1 Corinthians 11:26-29 (WEB)
26. For **as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes**.
27. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks the Lord’s cup in a way unworthy of the Lord will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.
28. But **let a man examine himself**, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup.
29. For **he who eats and drinks in an unworthy way eats and drinks judgment** to himself if he doesn’t discern the Lord’s body.

Chapter 9

Grow in your Relationship with God

Christianity is a relationship with Jesus. In the heart of a true disciple, there is more important than Jesus. This relationship should grow over time. As a believer, you should be more in love with Jesus now than you were when you first gave your life to Him. Knowing the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is life. We cannot live without a regular divine touch, and that touch comes from our relationship with Jesus.

9.1 Seek Him daily

Every day you should lift your heart to Him. He is worthy to have your total devotion and love. If we seek Him and pursue Him, we will find Him.

Philippians 3:10-11 (WEB)

10. **that I may know him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed to his death,
11. if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

John 17:3 (WEB)

3. This is eternal life, that they should **know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ**

Psalms 5:3 (WEB)

3. Yahweh, **in the morning** you shall hear my voice. In the morning I will lay my requests before you, and will watch expectantly.

Matthew 6:33 (WEB)

33. But **seek first God's Kingdom**, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well.

Jeremiah 29:13-14 (WEB)

13. **You shall seek me, and find me, when you search for me with all your heart**
14. **I will be found by you**" says Yahweh, "and I will turn again your captivity, and I

will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places where I have driven you, says Yahweh. I will bring you again to the place from where I caused you to be carried away captive.”

John 15:5 (WEB)

5. I am the vine. You are the branches. **He who remains in me** and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

9.2 *He is our reward*

As Christians, our eternal destiny is not necessarily a place. The Bible talks about heaven, or paradise, as a place. It talks of the New Jerusalem with streets of gold. It talks of the throne of God atop the glass sea where praise is lifted to Him forever. But our reward is not a place, it is a person. Our reward is Jesus. Christianity is a relationship with a living God. After we have lived this life for His pleasure, we will be allowed to live in His presence forever.

Genesis 15:1 (WEB)

1. After these things Yahweh’s word came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Don’t be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward**”

9.3 *Seek to do His will*

Our job, our primary purpose as Christians, is to please Jesus. One of the key components to pleasing Jesus is to do the will of the Father. You can determine what the will of the Father is as you seek it in the Scriptures. It is those who do the will of the Father who enter into Christ’s eternal Kingdom.

Matthew 7:21 (WEB)

21. Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but **he who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven.

9.4 *Be filled with the Spirit*

The Father has a promise that He made in Joel, a promise to pour out His Spirit on all flesh. This promise began to be fulfilled soon after Jesus rose from the dead. You can read about it in Acts 2. There, the Father poured out His spirit on a group of people who were in one accord on the day of Pentecost. This experience is called the baptism¹ in the Holy Spirit, having the Spirit be poured on you, or having the Spirit fall on you. All of these refer to the same experience, an experience promised to you and me as Christians.

John the Baptist baptized in water - he dunked people completely into the water. He said that Jesus, in the same way, would baptize people in the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The disciples in Jerusalem were filled more than once. In the same way, the Father wants us to be continually filled with the Spirit.

There are some who believe that the baptism in the Holy Spirit passed away when the apostles passed away. But this is not what the Bible says. In fact, in Joel the Bible says that God will pour His Spirit out on “all flesh”. This is the promise of God, and there is nothing in the Bible which says the promise of God has been taken away. And indeed, the promise has not been taken away. You

¹ Baptism means to immerse completely. During the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we are completely immersed in the Spirit.

can be baptized in the Holy Spirit. All you need to do is ask the Father and believe, and Jesus will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:11 (WEB)

11. I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.**

Mark 1:8 (WEB)

8. I baptized you in water, but **he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.**"

Luke 3:16 (WEB)

16. John answered them all, "I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to loosen. **He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire,**

John 7:37-39 (WEB)

37. Now on the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink!
38. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from within him will flow **rivers of living water**"
39. But **he said this about the Spirit**, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus wasn't yet glorified.

Ephesians 5:18 (WEB)

18. Don't be drunken with wine, in which is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit**,

Acts 2:38-39 (WEB)

38. Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**
39. For **the promise** is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself."

Acts 1:4,8 (WEB)

4. Being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Don't depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father**, which you heard from me.

8. But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-4 (WEB)

1. Now when the **day of Pentecost** had come, they were all with one accord in one place.
2. Suddenly there **came from the sky a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind**, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
3. **Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them**, and one sat on each of them.
4. **They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.**

Luke 11:13 (WEB)

13. If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?**”

Chapter 10

Responsibilities of a Christian

As disciples of Jesus, we have responsibilities before the Lord. We are called and set apart for Him, and this means we have certain duties He expects us to perform. We don't do these things to be right with God, we do them because we are right with God. But we do them, none the less.

10.1 *Live like a disciple*

Deal with sin

We cannot allow sin to live in us. Our duty as Christians under the lordship of Jesus is to deal with sin in our lives. This is the process to deal with sin:

Let God deal with sin

God is committed to dealing with sin in your life. He will not stop until you are blameless and without blemish. As disciples, we need to have the same perspective on sin.

Psalms 139:23-24 (WEB)

23. Search me, God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my thoughts.

24. See if there is **any wicked way in me**, and lead me in the everlasting way.

1 John 1:8-10 (WEB)

8. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9. If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10. If we **say that we haven't sinned, we make him a liar**, and his word is not in us.

Hebrews 4:12 (WEB)

12. For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to **discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart**.

Confess your sin

We are responsible to confess our sin, to the Lord certainly, and sometimes to our brothers and sisters.

Repent of your sin

Then, we are to turn from the sin, and turn to God, from whom we get strength and enabling to live above sin.

Mortify the sin nature

Then we are to put off, mortify or kill the sin nature which took us down the path of sin in the first place.

For the rest of your life

If we continue to live like this, we will overcome sin and the sin nature in us will be replaced with the nature of God. We will be putting off the old man, being renewed in the spirit of your mind, and putting on the new man. This lifestyle is critical for disciples. It is a life-long process, something we should pursue with all our hearts as long as we live, in the same way we pursue Jesus.

Don't believe false teachers who tell you that you can't really overcome sin. They couch this false teaching in subtle truths which sound Scriptural. "We are all sinners. All have all fallen short of the grace of God. But for God's grace, there go I." These are all true, but if they are used as an excuse to not deal with sin, they are wrong attitudes. Deal with your sin. When the Holy Spirit has shown you that you have sin in your life, deal with it right away. Don't let a day pass without dealing with your sin.

Psalms 66:18 (WEB)

18. If I **cherished sin** in my heart, the **Lord wouldn't have listened**

Ask for the Spirit

We need the Holy Spirit. He is the Comforter, the Helper. He is the one who will lead us into all truth. Without Him, we cannot live a life that is pleasing to the Father. Without the Holy Spirit, we shrivel up and die, spiritually. It is not enough to have the trickle of the Holy Spirit which most people experience who deny that the baptism in the Spirit is for Christians today. We need to be filled with the Spirit, and continually filled, again and again. The only way that will happen is if you continue to ask the Father for the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 7:7 (WEB)

"Ask, and it will be given you. **Seek**, and you will find. **Knock**, and it will be opened for you.

Luke 11:13 (WEB)

13. If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?**"

Ephesians 5:18 (WEB)

18. Don't be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit.**

Pray

Prayer is communication with God. When we pray, we talk to God, we long for Him, we delight ourselves in Him, and we pursue Him. Like any healthy relationship, you must pursue the other

person to keep the spark of love and acceptance alive. Prayer is one of the ways we do this with God.

Matthew 6:5-6 (WEB)

5. “**When you pray**, you shall not be as the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Most certainly, I tell you, they have received their reward.
6. But you, **when you pray**, enter into your inner room, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (WEB)

17. **Pray without ceasing**

Matthew 6:10-11 (WEB)

10. Let your Kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
11. Give us today our daily bread.

Luke 5:15-16 (WEB)

15. But the report concerning him spread much more, and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.
16. But **he withdrew** himself into the desert, **and prayed**

Mark 1:35 (WEB)

35. **Early in the morning**, while it was still dark, **he rose up** and went out, and departed into a deserted place, **and prayed** there.

Luke 6:12-13 (WEB)

12. In these days, he went out to the mountain to pray, and he **continued all night in prayer** to God.
13. When it was day, **he called his disciples, and from them he chose twelve**, whom he also named apostles:

Colossians 4:2 (WEB)

2. **Continue steadfastly in prayer**, watching in it with thanksgiving,

Pray in the Spirit

As Christians who are filled the the Holy Spirit, we can pray in the Spirit. This means we can yield to the Holy Spirit, allow Him to control our tongues, and pray as the Lord gives us utterance. Like most things spiritual, it is an easy thing to do but is fraught with spiritual baggage in most people's lives. You may have heard that it is wrong to pray in tongues. Not true. The Bible says we should. You may have been taught that praying in tongues is of the devil. Again, not true.

If you haven't been able to pray in the Spirit because of bad teaching or fear in your heart, get with a mature brother or sister and get them to help you. Most importantly, keep asking, seeking and knocking.

Romans 8:26-28 (WEB)

26. In the same way, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, for we don't know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us **with groanings which can't be uttered**.
27. He who searches the hearts knows what is on the Spirit's mind, because he makes intercession for the saints according to God.
28. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Believe that God answers prayer

God answers prayer. We see examples of Him doing just that throughout the Bible. God wants us to believe that He answers prayer. Imagine that you have a child, and you tell them you are going to do something nice for them, and they don't believe it. As a parent, how does that make you feel? God feels the same way when we don't believe that He answers our prayers. Sometimes we have to persist in our prayers, and refuse to stop believing, but we can do this in hope that God will answer our prayers.

Colossians 4:12 (WEB)

12. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, salutes you, **always striving for you in his prayers**, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Ephesians 3:20 (WEB)

20. Now to him who is **able to do** exceedingly abundantly **above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us,

John 14:13-14 (WEB)

13. **Whatever you will ask in my name, I will do it**, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14. **If you will ask anything in my name, I will do it.**

John 15:7 (WEB)

7. If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you will **ask whatever you desire, and it will be done for you.**

John 16:23-24 (WEB)

23. “In that day you will ask me no questions. Most certainly I tell you, **whatever you may ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.**

24. Until now, you have asked nothing in my name. **Ask, and you will receive,** that your joy may be made full.

Matthew 7:11 (WEB)

11. If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father** who is in heaven **give good things to those who ask him.**

1 John 5:14-15 (WEB)

14. This is the boldness which we have toward him, that if we **ask anything according to his will, he listens** to us.

15. And if we know that he listens to us, **whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.**

Pray for others

We are called as Christians to pray for others. The list of who we are to pray for is long, but at the top of the list is our brothers and sisters in Christ. When someone is in need, pray for them. When someone is hurting, fearful, or grieving, pray for them.

Job 42:10 (WEB)

10. Yahweh turned the captivity of Job, when **he prayed for his friends** Yahweh gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Genesis 18:16-33 (WEB)

16. The men rose up from there, and looked toward Sodom. Abraham went with them to see them on their way.

17. Yahweh said, “**Will I hide from Abraham what I do,**

18. since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed in him?

19. For I have known him, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of Yahweh, to do righteousness and justice; to the end that Yahweh may bring on Abraham that which he has spoken of him.”

20. Yahweh said, **“Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous,**
21. **I will go down now, and see whether their deeds are as bad as the reports which have come to me.** If not, I will know.”
22. The men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, but Abraham stood yet before Yahweh.
23. **Abraham came near, and said, “Will you consume the righteous with the wicked?**
24. What if there are fifty righteous within the city? Will you consume and not spare the place for the fifty righteous who are in it?
25. May it be far from you to do things like that, to kill the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be like the wicked. May that be far from you. Shouldn't the Judge of all the earth do right?”
26. Yahweh said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place for their sake.”
27. Abraham answered, “See now, I have taken it on myself to speak to the Lord, although I am dust and ashes.
28. What if there will lack five of the fifty righteous? Will you destroy all the city for lack of five?” He said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”
29. He spoke to him yet again, and said, “What if there are forty found there?” He said, “I will not do it for the forty's sake.”
30. He said, “Oh don't let the Lord be angry, and I will speak. What if there are thirty found there?” He said, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”
31. He said, “See now, I have taken it on myself to speak to the Lord. What if there are twenty found there?” He said, “I will not destroy it for the twenty's sake.”
32. He said, “Oh don't let the Lord be angry, and I will speak just once more. What if ten are found there?” He said, **“I will not destroy it for the ten's sake.”**
33. Yahweh went his way, as soon as he had finished communing with Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Exodus 32:9-14 (WEB)

9. Yahweh said to Moses, “I have seen these people, and behold, they are a stiff-necked people.
10. Now therefore leave me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them, and that

I may consume them; and I will make of you a great nation.”

11. **Moses begged Yahweh his God**, and said, “Yahweh, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, that you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?
12. Why should the Egyptians talk, saying, ‘He brought them out for evil, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the surface of the earth?’ Turn from your fierce wrath, and turn away from this evil against your people.
13. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of the sky, and all this land that I have spoken of I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.”
14. **So Yahweh turned away from the evil which he said he would do to his people.**

1 Samuel 12:23 (WEB)

23. Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should **sin against Yahweh in ceasing to pray for you**: but I will instruct you in the good and the right way.

John 17:11 (WEB)

11. I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, **keep them through your name** which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are.

Fast

Simply put, to fast is to not eat food for a period. Most fasts are no longer than 24 hours, and involve not eating after dinner one night to dinner the next night. Or, you might have dinner one night and then not eat again until breakfast two days later, which would be a 36 hour fast. While you fast, you continue to drink water and other clear liquids. This is the easiest and safest fast. There are other types of fasts outlined in the Bible, but I strongly recommend that you do not fast for more than three days without consulting with your doctor. Also, do not fast without consuming plenty of liquids.

Reasons to fast

There are good health reasons to fast. It is good for your body to not eat on occasion. It is also good for your soul to deprive your flesh for a season. The Bible talks about various reasons to fast.

To receive God’s illumination and wisdom Daniel the prophet read in the book of Jeremiah that the captivity of Israel was only to last for 70 years. As he ran through the calculations in his head, he realized that it had been about 70 years. He decided to seek the Lord about that, and he added fasting to the mix. He also used “sackcloth and ashes”, which is common for people of his time to use when mourning. Here Daniel fasted 21 days, which is not something I would recommend without direction.

In the New Testament, there were prophets and teachers in the book of Acts, and they fasted to gain insight from the Lord. The result of that fast was that Paul and Barnabas were set apart to do missionary work. During that missionary work, Paul and Barnabas prayed and fasted when they set elders into the Churches.

Daniel 9:2-3,21-22 (WEB)

2. in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years about which Yahweh's word came to Jeremiah the prophet, for the accomplishing of the desolations of Jerusalem, even seventy years.
3. **I set my face to the Lord God, to seek by prayer and petitions, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.**
21. yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening offering.
22. He instructed me and talked with me, and said, Daniel, **"I have now come to give you wisdom and understanding.**

Daniel 10:1-14 (WEB)

1. In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, even a great warfare. He understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.
2. In those days **I, Daniel, was mourning** three whole weeks.
3. **I ate no** pleasant bread. No meat or wine came into my mouth. I didn't anoint myself at all, **until three whole weeks were fulfilled.**
4. In the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel,
5. I lifted up my eyes, and looked, and behold, there was a man clothed in linen, whose thighs were adorned with pure gold of Uphaz.
6. His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as flaming torches. His arms and his feet were like burnished bronze. The voice of his words was like the voice of a multitude.
7. I, Daniel, alone saw the vision; for the men who were with me didn't see the vision; but a great quaking fell on them, and they fled to hide themselves.
8. So I was left alone, and saw this great vision. No strength remained in me; for my face grew deathly pale, and I retained no strength.
9. Yet I heard the voice of his words. When I heard the voice of his words, then I fell

into a deep sleep on my face, with my face toward the ground.

10. Behold, a hand touched me, which set me on my knees and on the palms of my hands.
11. He said to me, “Daniel, you greatly beloved man, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright; for I have been sent to you, now.” When he had spoken this word to me, I stood trembling.
12. Then he said to me, **“Don’t be afraid, Daniel; for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard. I have come for your words’ sake.**
13. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but, behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me because I remained there with the kings of Persia.
14. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days; for the vision is yet for many days.”

Acts 13:1-2 (WEB)

1. Now in the assembly that was at Antioch there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
2. **As they served the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said,** “Separate Barnabas and Saul for me, for the work to which I have called them.”

Acts 14:23 (WEB)

23. When they had appointed elders for them in every assembly, and had **prayed with fasting**, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they had believed.

To overcome sin God talks of a fast which He has chosen, a fast designed to release wickedness from someone so they can be free. This is a good reason to fast.

Isaiah 58:6 (WEB)

6. **“Isn’t this the fast that I have chosen: to release the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke**

To declare that God is the priority of our lives Jesus was led of the Spirit to fast for 40 days and nights. After that, the devil tempted him to turn rocks into bread if he really was the Son of God. However, Jesus made it clear in His answer that his fast was to show that the Father was the priority of His life.

Matthew 4:4 (WEB)

4. But he answered, “It is written, ‘**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**’”

To increase personal holiness Sometimes it takes fasting to chasten our sin nature. This is a healthy thing.

Psalms 69:10 (UKJV)

10. When I wept, and **chastened my soul with fasting**, that was to my reproach.

To have victory over Satan Often, the victory over Satan and over the enemies of God’s people require fasting.

Mark 9:29 (WEB)

29. He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing, except **by prayer and fasting.**”

Esther 4:16 (WEB)

16. “Go, gather together all the Jews who are present in Susa, and **fast for me**, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I and my maidens will also fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.”

Types of fast

There are different types of fast. I want to stress, though, that I recommend that you drink water and clear liquids when you fast (coffee, too, if you drink it regularly) and that you keep your fast below three days.

Complete (no food or drink)

Deuteronomy 9:9 (WEB)

9. When I had gone up onto the mountain to receive the stone tablets, even the tablets of the covenant which Yahweh made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. **I neither ate bread nor drank water**

Exodus 34:28 (WEB)

28. He was there with Yahweh forty days and forty nights; he **neither ate bread, nor drank water** He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Acts 9:9 (WEB)

9. He was without sight for three days, and neither ate nor drank.

Normal fast (just drink water)

Matthew 4:1-4 (WEB)

1. Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
2. When **he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry** afterward.
3. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”
4. But he answered, “It is written, ‘**Man shall not live by bread alone**, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

Partial Fast (restricted diet) Daniel fasted, but he didn’t stop eating completely. He ate only vegetables. This kind of fast is often called a Daniel Fast as a result.

Daniel 9:3 (WEB)

3. I set my face to the Lord God, to seek by prayer and petitions, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Daniel 10:3 (WEB)

3. I ate **no pleasant bread. No meat or wine** came into my mouth. I didn’t anoint myself at all, until three whole weeks were fulfilled.

Group fast

Joel 1:14 (WEB)

14. Sanctify a **fast** Call a **solemn assembly** Gather the elders, and all the inhabitants of the land, to the house of Yahweh, your God, and cry to Yahweh.

Joel 2:15 (WEB)

15. **Blow the trumpet** in Zion! **Sanctify a fast.** Call a solemn assembly.

Don’t look sad

In the days of Jesus, there were religious leaders who were all about the show. They would show themselves righteous by deeds designed to make a good presentation. The problem was, they weren’t righteous in their hearts. Jesus told His disciples that their righteousness needed to exceed that of the Pharisees or they wouldn’t enter the Kingdom of Heaven. He also taught in the Sermon on the Mount about personal righteousness.

One of the areas these hypocritical religious leaders did works to show off their spirituality was in fasting. Jesus told His disciples to be careful not to do that.

Matthew 6:16-18 (WEB)

16. “Moreover **when you fast, don’t be like the hypocrites, with sad faces** For they disfigure their faces, that they may be seen by men to be fasting. Most certainly I tell you, they have received their reward.
17. But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face;
18. so that you are not seen by men to be fasting, but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.

Express love to Him

Christianity is a relationship with a living God. You are a Christian because you chose to follow Jesus, and you are striving to be more like Him in your daily walk. He is your Lord, your Master, your Teacher, and the Lover of your soul. As a natural result of following Jesus, you grow to love Him. As with any relationship, you need to regularly show your love to Jesus. After all, if you don’t regularly show love to your spouse, he or she will begin to wonder if you love them, and the relationship is harmed. It is important to love God and show love to Him.

Romans 8:28-39 (WEB)

28. We know that all things work together for good **for those who love God**, for those who are called according to his purpose.
29. For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
30. Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified.
31. What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
32. He who didn’t spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also with him freely give us all things?
33. Who could bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who justifies.
34. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
36. Even as it is written, “For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”
37. No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
38. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39. nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from God's love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Postures to express love

In a marriage, there are non-verbal ways of interacting with your life-mate which show your love. These are important to the relationship. The Bible talks of various ways to show your love to God. There are various postures people use in the Bible to show their love to God. These are non-verbal ways of communicating to Him.

Kneeling

Ezra 9:5 (WEB)

5. At the evening offering I arose up from my humiliation, even with my garment and my robe torn; and **I fell on my knees**, and spread out my hands to Yahweh my God;

Bowing the head

Exodus 4:31 (WEB)

31. The people believed, and when they heard that Yahweh had visited the children of Israel, and that he had seen their affliction, then they **bowed their heads** and worshiped.

Isaiah 58:5 (WEB)

5. Is this the fast that I have chosen? A day for a man to humble his soul? Is it to **bow down his head** like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under himself? Will you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to Yahweh?

Standing before the Lord

Nehemiah 9:2 (WEB)

2. The offspring of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners and **stood and confessed** their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

Throwing oneself down

Deuteronomy 9:18 (WEB)

18. **I fell down before Yahweh**, as at the first, forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you sinned, in doing that which was evil in Yahweh's sight, to provoke him to anger.

Lifting up hands

Psalms 63:4 (WEB)

4. So I will bless you while I live. I will **lift up my hands** in your name.

Faith

¹Tim 2:8 (WEB)

8. I desire therefore that the men in every place pray, **lifting holy hands** without anger and doubting.

Study Scripture

As a disciple of Jesus, you have a relationship with Him. You follow Him everywhere He goes. You do what He says, and live for Him. One component of being a disciple is to study Scripture.

The Holy Bible is several things all at once. It is the history of humanity and our rocky relationship with God. It is the owner's manual on how to live a life which pleases God. And it is the love-letter from a living God to the people He loves desperately and wants to woo to Himself. We need to approach the Bible as all of these things and more if we are to understand it correctly.

We must approach God's word with the understanding that it is inspired by God. He made sure it came to earth, and He provided it to us for our use. As disciples, we should be diligent to study.

Psalms 119:11 (WEB)

11. I have **hidden your word in my heart**, that I might not sin against you.

² Timothy 3:16 (WEB)

16. Every **Scripture is God-breathed** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness,

Joshua 1:8 (WEB)

8. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate on it day and night**, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.

Use it to resist temptation

The Bible teaches that Scripture is not just words to those who need to hear. The Scripture is living and active, a two-edged sword. It is a weapon of spiritual warfare, and as a disciple, you are to use Scripture to gain the victory in your battles with evil.

Matthew 4:1-11 (WEB)

1. Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
2. When he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry afterward.

3. The **tempter came** and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”
4. But he answered, “**It is written**, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”
5. Then the devil took him into the holy city. He set him on the pinnacle of the temple,
6. and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you.’ and, ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you don’t dash your foot against a stone.’”
7. Jesus said to him, “Again, it is written, ‘You shall not test the Lord, your God.’”
8. Again, the devil took him to an exceedingly high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory.
9. He said to him, “I will give you all of these things, if you will fall down and worship me.”
10. Then Jesus said to him, “Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve him only.’”
11. Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and served him.

Psalms 119:98-100 (WEB)

98. Your commandments make me **wiser than my enemies**, for your commandments are always with me.
99. I have **more understanding than all my teachers**, for your testimonies are my meditation.
100. I understand more than the aged, because I have kept your precepts.

1 Samuel 3:3-4 (WEB)

3. and God’s lamp hadn’t yet gone out, and Samuel had laid down in Yahweh’s temple, where God’s ark was;
4. **Yahweh called Samuel**; and he said, “Here I am.”

His sheep know his voice

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He guides His disciples as a shepherd guides his sheep. As sheep in His fold, we listen to the Shepherd.

John 10:3-4 (WEB)

3. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the **sheep listen to his voice. He calls**

his own sheep by name, and leads them out.

4. Whenever he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for **they know his voice**.

His sheep will not listen to the devil's voice

It is important for disciples to discern the difference between the voice of the Shepherd and the voice of the thief. The thief came to kill, steal and destroy. We must resist him. Notice that when the devil tempted Jesus, he used Scripture, but he twisted it to mean something it did not. That is typical of the deceiver. He knows you are committed to obeying the Lord, and if he can convince you the Scriptures say something they do not (i.e., "God helps those who help themselves."), he can keep you unfruitful in God's Kingdom.

We know the voice of the Shepherd. We need to follow Him and resist the devil. We must study Scripture so we can fight that fight.

John 10:5 (WEB)

5. They will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him; for **they don't know the voice** of strangers."

John 10:10 (WEB)

10. The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.

Enter God's presence (worship Him)

Unlike our earthly relationships, we worship the living God. This is the component of our relationship with Jesus which is distinct from all others. He deserves our worship. He is worthy to be praised by us. When we die, we will live with Him forever, and heaven is noisy, full of worship of God. And this worship is not contrived or staged, it is natural and dynamic. We as mere humans realize how great and wonderful He is, and we express His greatness in our worship.

1 Chronicles 17:10-11,16-17 (WEB)

10. and from the day that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover I tell you that Yahweh will build you a house.
11. It will happen, when your days are fulfilled that you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your offspring after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.
16. Then **David the king went in, and sat before Yahweh**; and he said, "Who am I, Yahweh God, and what is my house, that you have brought me this far?
17. This was a small thing in your eyes, God; but you have spoken of your servant's house for a great while to come, and have respected me according to the standard of a man of high degree, Yahweh God.

Revelation 4:8-11 (WEB)

8. The four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within. They have no rest day and night, saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come!”
9. When **the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne, to him who lives forever and ever**
10. the **twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever**, and throw their crowns before the throne, saying,
11. “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, the Holy One, to receive the glory, the honor, and the power, for you created all things, and because of your desire they existed, and were created!”

Psalms 95:6 (WEB)

6. Oh come, let’s worship and bow down. Let’s kneel before Yahweh, our Maker,

Take a Sabbath

The Bible teaches that there is a sabbath rest for the people of God. It is a mode of operation in which we relax, trust Him, and allow Him to be in charge of our lives. There are various components of that. We should not be anxious over our basic needs being met (food, clothing, shelter). God is aware of what we need, and He will provide. We should not fret over circumstances we cannot control. God is a big God, and He can take care of these. One component of living in the rest of God is to keep a day in which we focus on Him.

Hebrews 4:9 (WEB)

9. There remains therefore a **Sabbath rest** for the people of God.

Leviticus 23:32 (WEB)

32. It shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall deny yourselves. In the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall **keep your Sabbath.**”

Matthew 11:28-30 (WEB)

28. “Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.
29. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls.
30. For **my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**”

Take up the mission of Jesus

The mission of Jesus is to make disciples. We have talked about disciples to some extent in this work. Disciples follow Jesus, listen to His voice, do what He says, obey Him, seek Him, serve Him,

love Him, and refuse to deny Him. Disciples are diligent to study, faithful to give and serve, and love others with a passion. Disciples suffer persecution and work to the point of exhaustion for other people. Disciples refuse to stop serving Jesus, even if they lose their lives for doing so. The Scriptures are clear that you can't be a real Christian without being a disciple of Jesus.

Our job as disciples is to make disciples. What does that mean? It means we reproduce. We love people who don't know Jesus until they become Christians. Then, we baptize them, teach them to observe what Jesus commanded, and help them grow up to the point in their spiritual lives where they can make disciples themselves.

Making disciples is difficult work. It is easier to take up causes, like wells in Africa and feeding the poor. It is easier to fight injustices, like abortion and the oppression of the weak. It is easier to sit in comfortable pews, listen to comfortable sermons, and give money occasionally. And while these things might have value, they cannot take the place in the life of the Christian of making disciples.

We are called to make disciples.

Making disciples is built into our DNA. Parents are called to make children who grow up to be parents. There is no plan B in building God's kingdom. Making disciples is the work we are called to do. No one can do it for us. It should be the core mission of the Church. It should be our battle cry and our worldly pursuit. If we succeed at everything else, and we do not make disciples, we will have failed at life.

Here are the steps as outlined in Scripture:

- Pursue Jesus as a disciple and grow up in Him.
- Pursue others, loving and serving them until they become disciples.
- Help them grow up to full adulthood in the spirit (mothers and fathers in the Lord) so they can reproduce in the lives of others.
 - As unbelievers, love them, answer their questions, listen to them, and spend time with them. Guide them to having a life-giving relationship with Jesus. Help them become disciples, committed to living the lifestyle of New Testament Christianity.
 - As babies, teach them to crave the pure milk of the word so that by it they may grow. Even at this stage, their growth will be stunted unless they are disciples, fully committed to following Jesus regardless of the cost.
 - As children, teach them how to train their senses to righteousness, knowing good from evil. This is the process of overcoming sin: Confess, seek God for grace, repent, and mortify the carnal nature.¹
 - As young adults, teach them to overcome the devil and live in victory. Here we put in them a purpose, a calling to serve something bigger than themselves, a willingness to fight for others and to follow the Holy Spirit until He leads them to change the world around them.
 - As parents, teach them to reproduce and help others grow to full maturity.

Notice we are not making disciples of us; we are making disciples of Jesus. Always point the people you serve to Jesus, teaching them to rely on Him and not be dependent on you.

¹ Most modern Christians do not live this way and, hence, never get beyond this level of maturity.

Matthew 28:18-20 (WEB)

18. Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.
19. Go and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20. **teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you.** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Part II

COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS

This list is not exhaustive. Also, what the apostles (Paul, Peter, John, James, Jude, etc) taught were part of the Commands of Jesus. Paul called these "the traditions", a body of teaching used by the apostles to instruct the new churches in how to live for Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:2 (WEB)

2. Now I praise you, brothers, that you remember me in all things, and **hold firm the traditions, even as I delivered them to you.**

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (WEB)

15. So then, brothers, **stand firm and hold the traditions which you were taught by us**, whether by word or by letter.

However, this list is comprehensive and valuable for the new believer to learn the commands of Jesus.

10.2 *Live as a Christian*

Repent

This is a basic requirement of living for God. We don't repent just once, but every time the Holy Spirit shows us sin in our lives, we repent, which means turn from the sin and turn to God. Implicit in repentance is the need to confess. The process is simple. We confess our sins to the Lord, which means agree with Him that we sinned and the sin is wrong. Then, we turn from the sin and turn to the Lord. That is repentance.

Matthew 4:17 (WEB)

17. From that time, Jesus began to preach, and to say, "**Repent!** For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

Revelation 2:5 (WEB)

5. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and **repent and do the first works**; or else I am coming to you swiftly, and will move your lamp stand out of its place, unless you repent.

Come to Jesus

After you confess from sin and repent, you come to Jesus to get the help you need to live a life pleasing to Him. The Bible teaches that we need grace. Grace is favor and acceptance from the Lord, even though we don't deserve it. However, grace is also enabling. By grace, the Lord enables us to walk free of sin.

Matthew 11:28 (WEB)

28. "**Come to me**, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.

Seek God's Kingdom first

This is a basic attitude of the disciple: What God wants comes first in your life.

Matthew 6:33 (WEB)

33. But **seek first God's Kingdom**, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well.

Deny yourself

This is part of being a disciple. The coin has one side, which is seek His kingdom, or put what He wants first. The other side of that coin is to deny yourself. This doesn't mean you deny yourself of food or clothing, things you really need. It means you deny yourself of things which are wrong — like sex outside of marriage — so you can pursue those things that are right.

Matthew 16:24 (WEB)

24. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Forgive

Mark 11:25 (WEB)

25. Whenever you stand **praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone so that your Father**, who is in heaven, **may also forgive you** your transgressions.

Ask...seek...knock

In the words of Winston Churchill, "Never give up." Keep asking, seeking and knocking for the things you need.

Matthew 7:7 (WEB)

7. "**Ask**, and it will be given you. **Seek**, and you will find. **Knock**, and it will be opened for you.

Strive to enter by the narrow door

Christianity is not the narrow door. It is not the easy way. It is not easy being a Christian. You have to give some things up to serve Jesus. However, like anything worth doing, like marrying someone or having children, it is worth the effort and everything you give up to attain it.

Luke 13:24 (WEB)

24. "Strive to enter in by **the narrow door**, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter in and will not be able.

10.3 Belief

Believe the Gospel

Mark 1:15 (WEB)

15. and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and God's Kingdom is at hand! **Repent, and believe in the Good News**"

Believe in God, believe also in Me

John 14:1 (WEB)

1. “Don’t let your heart be troubled. **Believe in God. Believe also in me.**

Believe in Him whom He (God) has sent

John 6:28-29 (WEB)

28. They said therefore to him, “What must we do, that we may work the works of God?”
29. Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you **believe in him whom he has sent**”

Believe Me that I am in the Father, He in Me

John 14:11 (WEB)

11. **Believe me that I am in the Father**, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works’ sake.

Believe the works I do

John 10:37-38 (WEB)

37. If I don’t do the works of my Father, don’t believe me.
38. But if I do them, though you don’t believe me, **believe the works**, that you may know and believe that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

While you have light, believe in the light

John 12:36 (WEB)

36. While you have the light, **believe in the light**, that you may become children of light.” Jesus said these things, and he departed and hid himself from them.

Believe that you receive

Mark 11:24 (WEB)

24. Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, **believe that you have received** them, and you shall have them.

10.4 The New Birth

There is no life without birth. Being fundamentally flawed because of what Adam did, we need to be born again. This is a process of regeneration by the Holy Spirit, where the Spirit cleanses us, changes us and puts us in the Body of Christ as He wills.

You must be born again

John 3:7 (UKJV)

7. Marvel not that I said unto you, All of you **must be born again**

First clean the inside

Matthew 23:26 (WEB)

26. You blind Pharisee, **first clean the inside** of the cup and of the platter, that its outside may become clean also.

Make the tree good, and its fruit good

Matthew 12:33 (WEB)

33. “Either make the tree good, and its fruit good, or make the tree corrupt, and its fruit corrupt; for the **tree is known by its fruit**

Remain in Me, and I in you

John 15:4 (WEB)

4. Remain in me, and I in you. As the **branch can't bear fruit by itself** unless it remains in the vine, **so neither can you, unless you remain in me**

Have salt in yourselves

Mark 9:50 (WEB)

50. **Salt is good**, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Work for the food which remains

John 6:27 (WEB)

27. Don't work for the food which perishes, but for the **food which remains to eternal life**, which the Son of Man will give to you. For God the Father has sealed him.”

Rejoice, your names are in heaven

Luke 10:20 (WEB)

20. Nevertheless, don't rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

The Holy Spirit

Many people in reading the Bible assume that it is optional whether we will receive the Holy Spirit. This is a great deception. It is not optional. We are commanded to receive the Holy Spirit. We are further commanded to do things (overcome sin, live in victory over spiritual forces, testify of Jesus and reproduce ourselves) which we cannot do without receiving the Holy Spirit. It is not optional to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. God requires it for His disciples.

Receive the Holy Spirit

John 20:22 (WEB)

22. When he had said this, **he breathed on them**, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit!

John 7:39 (WEB)

39. But he said this about the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive. For **the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus wasn’t yet glorified**

Let the children be filled first

Mark 7:27 (WEB)

27. But Jesus said to her, “Let the **children be filled first**, for it is not appropriate to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”

If any man thirst, let him come to me

John 7:37-39 (WEB)

37. Now on the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him **come to me and drink**.

38. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from **within him will flow rivers of living water**.”

39. But **he said this about the Spirit**, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus wasn’t yet glorified.

Keep My commandments; another comforter

John 14:15-17 (WEB)

15. If you love me, **keep my commandments**.

16. I will pray to the Father, and he will **give you another Counselor**, that he may be with you forever:

17. **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world can’t receive; for it doesn’t see him and doesn’t know him. **You know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you**.

Ask with persistence

John 16:24 (WEB)

24. Until now, you have asked nothing in my name. **Ask, and you will receive**, that your joy may be made full.

Luke 11:5-13 (WEB)

5. He said to them, “Which of you, if you go to a friend at midnight, and tell him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,

6. for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him,'
7. and he from within will answer and say, 'Don't bother me. The door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give it to you'?
8. I tell you, **although he will not rise and give it to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence, he will get up and give him as many as he needs.**
9. "I tell you, **keep asking**, and it will be given you. **Keep seeking**, and you will find. **Keep knocking**, and it will be opened to you.
10. For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To him who knocks it will be opened.
11. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he won't give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?
12. Or if he asks for an egg, he won't give him a scorpion, will he?
13. If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Clothed with power

Luke 24:49 (WEB)

49. Behold, I send out the promise of my Father on you. But **wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high**"

You and the comforter will testify of me

John 15:26-27 (WEB)

26. "When the Counselor has come, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **he will testify about me.**
27. **You will also testify**, because you have been with me from the beginning.

10.5 Following Jesus

Following Jesus does not mean you walk behind Him, doing some of what He does but not all. Following means you walk behind Him, listen to Him, do what He says, watch Him and do what He does. Following Jesus is part of being a disciple. You can't serve Him unless you follow Him.

Follow Me

John 12:26 (WEB)

26. If anyone serves me, let him **follow me** Where I am, there my servant will also be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

Be baptized

Matthew 3:13-15 (WEB)

13. Then **Jesus came** from Galilee to the Jordan **to John, to be baptized by him**
14. But John would have hindered him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?”
15. But Jesus, answering, said to him, “Allow it now, for this is the fitting way for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him.

Matthew 28:19 (WEB)

19. Go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Do this in remembrance of Me

Luke 22:17-19 (WEB)

17. He received a cup, and when he had given thanks, he said, “Take this, and share it among yourselves,
18. for I tell you, I will not drink at all again from the fruit of the vine, until God’s Kingdom comes.”
19. He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. **Do this in memory of me.**”

Wash one another’s feet

John 13:14-15 (WEB)

14. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another’s feet.**
15. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

Deny yourself, and take up your cross

Luke 9:23 (WEB)

23. He said to all, “If anyone desires to come after me, **let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.**

Learn from Me

Matthew 11:29 (WEB)

29. Take my yoke upon you, and **learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls.

Remain in His love

John 15:9 (WEB)

9. Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. **Remain in my love.**

10.6 Prayer

Prayer is not a passive exercise for the Christian. We need to pray like we eat. Regularly, consistency and with some relish and delight.

Be watchful always and pray

Luke 21:36 (WEB)

36. Therefore **be watchful all the time, praying** that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Pray that you don't enter into temptation

Luke 22:40-46 (WEB)

40. When he was at the place, he said to them, “**Pray that you don't enter into temptation.**”

41. He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and prayed,

42. saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

43. An angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him.

44. Being in agony he prayed more earnestly. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

45. When he rose up from his prayer, he came to the disciples, and found them sleeping because of grief,

46. and said to them, “Why do you sleep? **Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.**”

Pray to the Lord of the harvest

Luke 10:2 (WEB)

2. Then he said to them, “The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. **Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest**, that he may send out laborers into his harvest.

Pray for those who curse you and mistreat you

Luke 6:28 (WEB)

28. **bless those who curse you**, and pray for those who mistreat you.

Pray to your Father...in My name

Matthew 6:6 (WEB)

6. But you, when you pray, enter into your inner room, and having shut your door, **pray to your Father** who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

John 16:24-26 (WEB)

24. Until now, you have asked nothing in my name. **Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full**
25. I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. But the time is coming when I will no more speak to you in figures of speech, but will tell you plainly about the Father.
26. In that day you will **ask in my name**; and I don't say to you that I will pray to the Father for you,

Pray like this

Matthew 6:9-13 (WEB)

9. **Pray like this:** 'Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.
10. Let your Kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
11. Give us today our daily bread.
12. Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors.
13. Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.'

In praying, don't use vain repetitions

Matthew 6:7-8 (WEB)

7. In praying, **don't use vain repetitions**, as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their much speaking.
8. Therefore don't be like them, for your Father knows what things you need, before you ask him.

Faith

Have faith in God

Mark 11:22 (WEB)

22. Jesus answered them, "**Have faith in God.**

Don't be unbelieving

John 20:27 (WEB)

27. Then he said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see my hands. Reach here your hand, and put it into my side. **Don't be unbelieving, but believing.**"

Don't be anxious...

Luke 12:29 (WEB)

29. **Don't** seek what you will eat or what you will drink; neither **be anxious**.

...but seek the kingdom first

Matthew 6:25-34 (WEB)

25. Therefore I tell you, **don't be anxious** for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing?
26. See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they?
27. "Which of you, by **being anxious**, can add one moment to his lifespan?
28. Why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin,
29. yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these.
30. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, won't he much more clothe you, you of little faith?
31. "Therefore **don't be anxious**, saying, 'What will we eat?', 'What will we drink?' or, 'With what will we be clothed?'
32. For the Gentiles seek after all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
33. But **seek first God's Kingdom**, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well.
34. Therefore **don't be anxious** for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day's own evil is sufficient.

Don't let your heart be troubled

John 14:1-27 (WEB)

1. "Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me.

2. In my Father's house are many homes. If it weren't so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.
3. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will receive you to myself; that where I am, you may be there also.
4. You know where I go, and you know the way."
5. Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?"
6. Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.
7. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on, you know him, and have seen him."
8. Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."
9. Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you such a long time, and do you not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father. How do you say, 'Show us the Father?'
10. Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I tell you, I speak not from myself; but the Father who lives in me does his works.
11. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works' sake.
12. Most certainly I tell you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and he will do greater works than these, because I am going to my Father.
13. Whatever you will ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14. If you will ask anything in my name, I will do it.
15. If you love me, keep my commandments.
16. I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, that he may be with you forever:
17. the Spirit of truth, whom the world can't receive; for it doesn't see him and doesn't know him. You know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you.
18. I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you.
19. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more; but you will see me. Because I live, you will live also.

20. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
21. One who has my commandments and keeps them, that person is one who loves me. One who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will reveal myself to him.”
22. Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, what has happened that you are about to reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?”
23. Jesus answered him, “If a man loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our home with him.
24. He who doesn’t love me doesn’t keep my words. The word which you hear isn’t mine, but the Father’s who sent me.
25. I have said these things to you while still living with you.
26. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you.
27. Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, I give to you.
Don’t let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.

Cheer up

Matthew 14:27 (WEB)

27. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Cheer up! It is I! **Don’t be afraid**”

Don’t be afraid

Mark 5:36 (WEB)

36. But Jesus, when he heard the message spoken, immediately said to the ruler of the synagogue, “**Don’t be afraid**, only believe.”

Don’t fear man; fear God

Luke 12:4-7 (WEB)

4. “I tell you, my friends, **don’t be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.**
5. But I will warn you whom you should fear. **Fear him who after he has killed, has power to cast into Gehenna** Yes, I tell you, fear him.
6. “Aren’t five sparrows sold for two assaria coins? Not one of them is forgotten by God.
7. But the very hairs of your head are all counted. Therefore **don’t be afraid**. You are of more value than many sparrows.

Faithful unto death

Be faithful to death

Revelation 2:10 (WEB)

10. Don't be afraid of the things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have oppression for ten days. **Be faithful to death**, and I will give you the crown of life.

Hold firmly that which you have

Revelation 3:11 (WEB)

11. I am coming quickly! **Hold firmly that which you have**, so that no one takes your crown.

Be glad when men persecute you

Matthew 5:11-12 (WEB)

11. “**Blessed are you** when people **reproach** you, **persecute** you, and **say all kinds of evil against you** falsely, for my sake.
12. **Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad**, for great is your reward in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 6:23 (WEB)

23. **Rejoice** in that day, and **leap for joy**, for behold, your reward is great in heaven, for their fathers did the same thing to the prophets.

When they persecute you in this city, flee to the next

Matthew 10:23 (WEB)

23. But **when they persecute you in this city, flee into the next**, for most certainly I tell you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man has come.

Don't be anxious how or what to say

Matthew 10:19 (WEB)

19. But when they deliver you up, **don't be anxious how or what you will say**, for it will be given you in that hour what you will say.

Don't murmur among yourselves

John 6:41-43 (WEB)

41. The Jews therefore murmured concerning him, because he said, “I am the bread which came down out of heaven.”

42. They said, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he say, ‘I have come down out of heaven?’”

43. Therefore Jesus answered them, “**Don’t murmur among yourselves.**

Look up, and lift up your heads

Luke 21:28 (WEB)

28. But when these things begin to happen, **look up and lift up your heads**, because your redemption is near.”

Preaching the Gospel

Preach the Good News to all creation

Matthew 10:7 (WEB)

7. **As you go, preach**, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!’

Mark 16:15 (WEB)

15. He said to them, “ into all the world, **and preach** the Good News to the whole creation.

Repentance and remission preached in His name

Luke 24:46-47 (WEB)

46. He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

47. and that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name** to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Baptize in the name of the Trinity

Matthew 28:19 (WEB)

19. Go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name** of the **Father** and of the and of the **Holy Spirit**

Teach them...all I have commanded you

Matthew 28:20 (WEB)

20. **teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

What I tell you... speak

Matthew 10:27 (WEB)

27. **What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light**; and what you hear whispered in the ear, proclaim on the housetops.

Mark 4:22 (WEB)

22. For **there is nothing** hidden, except that it should be made known; **neither was anything made secret**, but that it should come to light.

Feed My sheep

John 21:15-17 (WEB)

15. So when they had eaten their breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you.” He said to him, “**Feed my lambs.**”
16. He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you.” He said to him, “**Tend my sheep.**”
17. He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you have affection for me?” Peter was grieved because he asked him the third time, “Do you have affection for me?” He said to him, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I have affection for you.” Jesus said to him, “**Feed my sheep.**”

Heal the sick

Matthew 10:8 (WEB)

8. **Heal the sick**, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you received, so freely give.

Covetousness

Keep yourself from covetousness

Luke 12:15 (WEB)

15. He said to them, “Beware! **Keep yourselves from covetousness**, for a man’s life doesn’t consist of the abundance of the things which he possesses.”

Lay up treasure in heaven, not on earth

Matthew 6:19-20 (WEB)

19. “Don’t lay up treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal;
20. but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves don’t break through and steal;

Give to him who asks you

Matthew 5:42 (WEB)

42. Give to him who asks you, and don’t turn away him who desires to borrow from you.

Give to the needy

Luke 11:41 (WEB)

41. But **give** for gifts **to the needy** those things which are within, and behold, all things will be clean to you.

Make a dinner and call the poor

Luke 14:12-13 (WEB)

12. He also said to the one who had invited him, “**When you make a dinner** or a supper, don’t call your friends, nor your brothers, nor your kinsmen, nor rich neighbors, or perhaps they might also return the favor, and pay you back.
13. But when you make a feast, **ask the poor**, the **maimed**, the **lame**, or the **blind**

Hypocrisy

Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees

Luke 12:1 (WEB)

1. Meanwhile, when a multitude of many thousands had gathered together, so much so that they trampled on each other, he began to tell his disciples first of all, “**Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.**”

Beware of scribes

Luke 20:46-47 (WEB)

46. “**Beware of** those **scribes** who like to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts;
47. who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers: **these will receive greater condemnation.**”

Don’t do their works

Matthew 23:2-3 (WEB)

2. saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees sat on Moses’ seat.
3. All things therefore whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, but **don’t do their works**; for **they say, and don’t do**

Do not make My Father’s house a marketplace

John 2:16 (WEB)

16. To those who sold the doves, he said, “Take these things out of here! **Don’t make my Father’s house a marketplace**”

Don’t do charitable giving before men

Matthew 6:1-4 (WEB)

1. “Be careful that you **don’t do your charitable giving before men**, to be seen by them, or else you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.
2. Therefore when you do merciful deeds, don’t sound a trumpet before yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, **that they may get glory from men** Most certainly I tell you, **they have received their reward**
3. But when you do merciful deeds, **don’t let your left hand know what your right hand does**
4. so that your merciful deeds may be in secret, then **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly**

Enter your inner room, pray in secret

Matthew 6:5-6 (WEB)

5. “When you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen by men** Most certainly, I tell you, **they have received their reward**
6. But you, when you pray, **enter into your inner room**, and having **shut your door**, **pray** to your Father who is **in secret**, and **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly**

Don’t be seen by men to fast

Matthew 6:16-18 (WEB)

16. “Moreover when you fast, don’t be like the hypocrites, with sad faces. For they disfigure their faces, **that they may be seen by men to be fasting** Most certainly I tell you, **they have received their reward.**
17. But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face;
18. **so that you are not seen by men to be fasting**, but by your Father who is in secret, and **your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.**

Meekness

Take My yoke upon you

Matthew 11:29 (WEB)

29. **Take my yoke upon you**, and **learn from me**, for **I am gentle** and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls.

Do not exercise authority as the nations do

Matthew 20:25-26 (WEB)

25. But Jesus summoned them, and said, “You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

26. It shall not be so among you, but **whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.**

The great shall be bondservant of all

Mark 10:43-44 (WEB)

43. But it shall not be so among you, but whoever wants to become **great among you** shall be your **servant**

44. Whoever of you wants to become **first among you**, shall be **bondservant of all**

Don't be called Rabbi

Matthew 23:8 (WEB)

8. But **don't you be called 'Rabbi,'** for one is your teacher, the Christ, and all of you are brothers.

Don't sit in the best seat

Luke 14:8-11 (WEB)

8. "When you are invited by anyone to a marriage feast, **don't sit in the best seat**, since perhaps someone more honorable than you might be invited by him,

9. and he who invited both of you would come and tell you, 'Make room for this person.' Then you would begin, with shame, to take the lowest place.

10. But when you are invited, go and **sit in the lowest place**, so that when he who invited you comes, he may tell you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

11. For everyone who **exalts himself will be humbled**, and whoever **humbles himself will be exalted**"

Rejoice that your name is written in heaven

Luke 10:20 (WEB)

20. Nevertheless, don't rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rejoice that your names are written in heaven."**

"We are unworthy servants"

Luke 17:10 (WEB)

10. Even so you also, when you have done all the things that are commanded you, say, **'We are unworthy servants. We have done our duty.'**

Love the brethren

Love one another as I have loved you

John 15:12 (WEB)

12. "This is my commandment, that you **love one another**, even as **I have loved you**

Don't despise these little ones

Matthew 18:10-14 (WEB)

10. See that you **don't 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.
11. For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost.
- “What do you think? If a man has one hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, doesn't he leave the ninety-nine, go to the mountains, and seek that which has gone astray?”
13. If he finds it, most certainly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray.
14. Even so **it is not the will of your Father** who is in heaven **that one of these little ones should perish**

Have peace with another, be reconciled

Matthew 5:23-24 (WEB)

23. “If therefore you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you,
24. **leave your gift** there before the altar, and go your way. **First be reconciled to your brother**, and then come and offer your gift.

Mark 9:50 (WEB)

50. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, with what will you season it? **Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.**”

Resolve offenses with your brother

Matthew 18:15-17 (WEB)

15. “If your brother sins against you, go, **show him his fault between you and him alone**. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother.
16. But if he doesn't listen, **take one or two more with you**, that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.
17. If he refuses to listen to them, **tell it to the assembly** If he refuses to hear the assembly also, **let him be to you as a Gentile or a tax collector**

Forgive your brother seven times a day

Matthew 18:21-22 (WEB)

21. Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven **times?**”

22. Jesus said to him, “I don’t tell you until seven times, but, until **seventy times seven**

Luke 17:3-4 (WEB)

3. Be careful. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him.
4. If he sins against you **seven times in the day**, and **seven times returns**, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall **forgive him**”

Don’t judge according to appearance

Matthew 7:1-5 (WEB)

1. “Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged.
2. For with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you.
3. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but don’t consider the beam that is in your own eye?
4. Or how will you tell your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye;’ and behold, the beam is in your own eye?
5. You hypocrite! **First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother’s eye.**

John 7:24 (WEB)

24. **Don’t judge according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”**

Do not condemn

Luke 6:37 (WEB)

37. **Don’t judge**, and you won’t be judged.**Don’t condemn**, and you won’t be condemned.**Set free**, and you will be set free.

Perfect love

Be perfect

Matthew 5:48 (WEB)

48. Therefore you shall **be perfect (teleios - perfect, mature, finished)**, just as **your Father** in heaven is perfect.

Sell what you have and give to the poor

Matthew 19:21 (WEB)

21. Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, **sell what you have, and give to the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

Luke 12:32-33 (WEB)

32. Don't be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.

33. **Sell that which you have, and give gifts to the needy** Make for yourselves purses which don't grow old, a treasure in the heavens that doesn't fail, where no thief approaches, neither moth destroys.

Love your enemies

Matthew 5:44 (WEB)

44. But I tell you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you,

Matthew 26:52 (WEB)

52. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for **all those who take the sword will die by the sword.**

Do good to those who hate you

Luke 6:27-28 (WEB)

27. "But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, **do good to those who hate you,**

28. bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.

Lend, expecting nothing back

Luke 6:35 (WEB)

35. But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing back**; and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil.

Resist not evil

Matthew 5:39-41 (WEB)

39. But I tell you, **don't resist him who is evil**; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.

40. If anyone sues you to take away your coat, let him have your cloak also.

41. Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

By your patience win your lives

Luke 21:19 (WEB)

19. "By your endurance you will win your lives.

Supreme love to God

Love God with all

Mark 12:30 (WEB)

30. you shall love the Lord your God with **all your heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**.' This is the first commandment.

Serve Him only

Matthew 4:10 (WEB)

10. Then Jesus said to him, "Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall **serve him only**.'"

Worship the Father in spirit and truth

John 4:23-24 (WEB)

23. But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshipers will **worship the Father in spirit and truth**, for the Father seeks such to be his worshipers.
24. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Call no man on earth your father

Matthew 23:9 (WEB)

9. **Call no man on the earth your father**, for one is your Father, he who is in heaven.

Do not test the Lord

Matthew 4:7 (WEB)

7. Jesus said to him, "Again, it is written, '**You shall not test the Lord, your God**.'"

Fear God

Luke 12:5 (WEB)

5. But I will warn you whom you should fear. Fear him who after he has killed, has power to cast into Gehenna. Yes, I tell you, **fear him**.

All men should honor the Son

John 5:22-23 (WEB)

22. For the Father judges no one, but he has given all judgment to the Son,
23. that **all may honor the Son**, even as they honor the Father. He who doesn't honor the Son doesn't honor the Father who sent him.

Our duty to God and man

Render to Caesar

Mark 12:17 (WEB)

17. Jesus answered them, “**Render to Caesar** the things that are Caesar’s, **and to God** the things that are God’s.” They marveled greatly at him.

Don’t swear at all

Matthew 5:34-37 (WEB)

34. but I tell you, **don’t swear at all**: neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God;
35. nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.
36. Neither shall you swear by your head, for you can’t make one hair white or black.
37. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ Whatever is more than these is of the evil one.

What God has joined, don’t let man tear apart

Matthew 19:5-6 (WEB)

5. and said, ‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?’
6. So that they are no more two, but one flesh.**What therefore God has joined together, don’t let man tear apart”**

Agree with your adversary quickly

Matthew 5:25 (WEB)

25. **Agree with your adversary quickly**, while you are with him on the way; lest perhaps the prosecutor deliver you to the judge, and the judge deliver you to the officer, and you be cast into prison.

Don’t forbid others casting out devils

Mark 9:39-40 (WEB)

39. But Jesus said, “Don’t forbid him, for there is no one who will do a mighty work in my name, and be able quickly to speak evil of me.
40. For **whoever is not against us is on our side**

Eat what is set before you

Luke 10:8 (WEB)

8. Into whatever city you enter, and they receive you, **eat the things that are set before you**

Gather up the broken pieces that nothing be lost

John 6:12 (WEB)

12. When they were filled, he said to his disciples, “**Gather up the broken pieces** which are left over, that nothing be lost.”

Our duty to our neighbor

Love your neighbor as thyself

Matthew 19:17-22 (WEB)

17. He said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”
18. He said to him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder.’ ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ‘You shall not steal.’ ‘You shall not offer false testimony.’
19. ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ And, ‘You shall **love your neighbor as yourself**’”
20. The young man said to him, “All these things I have observed from my youth. What do I still lack?”
21. Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”
22. But when the young man heard the saying, he went away sad, for he was one who had great possessions.

No murder, adultery, theft or false witness, and honor parents

Matthew 19:18 (WEB)

18. He said to him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder.’ ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ‘You shall not steal.’ ‘You shall not offer false testimony.’

Matthew 19:19 (WEB)

19. ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ And, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Do to others

Luke 6:31 (WEB)

31. “As you would like people to do to you, do exactly so to them.

Wisdom

Be wise as serpents, harmless as doves

Matthew 10:16 (WEB)

16. “Behold, I send you out as sheep among wolves. Therefore be **wise as serpents,** and **harmless as doves.**

Beware of men

Matthew 10:17 (WEB)

17. But **beware of men**: for they will deliver you up to councils, and in their synagogues they will scourge you.

Leave the blind guides of the blind alone

Matthew 15:12-14 (WEB)

12. Then the disciples came, and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”
13. But he answered, “Every plant which my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be uprooted.
14. **Leave them** alone. **They are blind guides of the blind.** If the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

Don’t give the holy to dogs or pigs

Matthew 7:6 (WEB)

6. “**Don’t give** that which is **holy to the dogs**, **neither throw your pearls before the pigs**, lest perhaps they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Whoever has a purse, let him take it

Luke 22:35-36 (WEB)

35. He said to them, “When I sent you out without purse, wallet, and shoes, did you lack anything?” They said, “Nothing.”
36. Then he said to them, “But now, **whoever has a purse, let him take it, and likewise a wallet** Whoever has none, let him sell his cloak, and buy a sword.

Inquire who is worthy and there abide

Matthew 10:11-13 (WEB)

11. Into whatever city or village you enter, **find out who in it is worthy; and stay there until you go on**
12. As you enter into the household, greet it.
13. If the household is worthy, let your peace come on it, but if it isn’t worthy, let your peace return to you.

Luke 10:5-7 (WEB)

5. Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house.’

6. If a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.

7. **Remain in that same house, eating and drinking the things they give**, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Don't go from house to house.

Shake off the dust from your feet

Luke 9:5 (WEB)

5. As many as don't receive you, when you depart from that city, **shake off even the dust from your feet** for a testimony against them."

Luke 10:10-11 (WEB)

10. But into whatever city you enter, and they don't receive you, go out into its streets and say,

11. **'Even the dust from your city that clings to us, we wipe off against you.** Nevertheless know this, that God's Kingdom has come near to you.'

Search the Scripture

Search the Scriptures

John 5:39 (WEB)

39. **"You search the Scriptures**, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and these are they which testify about me.

Remember the word that I said

John 15:20 (WEB)

20. **Remember the word that I said to you:** 'A servant is not greater than his lord.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

Let these words sink into your ears

Luke 9:44 (WEB)

44. **"Let these words sink into your ears**, for the Son of Man will be delivered up into the hands of men."

Be careful how you hear

Luke 8:18 (WEB)

18. **Be careful therefore how you hear** For whoever has, to him will be given; and whoever doesn't have, from him will be taken away even that which he thinks he has."

Take heed what you hear

Mark 4:24 (WEB)

24. He said to them, “**Take heed what you hear** With whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you, and more will be given to you who hear.

Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees

Matthew 16:6-12 (WEB)

6. Jesus said to them, “Take heed and **beware of the yeast of the Pharisees** and Sadducees.”
7. They reasoned among themselves, saying, “We brought no bread.”
8. Jesus, perceiving it, said, “Why do you reason among yourselves, you of little faith, ‘because you have brought no bread?’
9. Don’t you yet perceive, neither remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you took up?
10. Nor the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up?
11. How is it that you don’t perceive that I didn’t speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”
12. Then they understood that he didn’t tell them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Beware of false prophets

Matthew 7:15-17 (WEB)

15. “**Beware of false prophets**, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.
16. By their fruits you will know them. Do you gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?
17. Even so, every good tree produces good fruit; but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit.

Let your light shine

Let your light shine

Matthew 5:16 (WEB)

16. Even so, **let your light shine** before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Make sure the light in you is not darkness

Luke 11:35 (WEB)

35. Therefore see whether the light that is in you isn’t darkness.

Go and bear fruit

John 15:16 (WEB)

16. You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should **go and bear fruit**, and that **your fruit should remain**; that whatever you will ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Be merciful

Luke 6:36 (WEB)

36. "Therefore be merciful, even as your Father is also merciful.

Tell the great things the Lord has done for you

Mark 5:19 (WEB)

19. He didn't allow him, but said to him, "Go to your house, to your friends, and **tell them what great things the Lord has done for you**, and how he had mercy on you."

Lift up your eyes, look at the fields

John 4:35 (WEB)

35. Don't you say, "There are yet four months until the harvest?" Behold, I tell you, **lift up your eyes and look at the fields**, that they are white for harvest already.

Walk while you have the light

John 12:35 (WEB)

35. Jesus therefore said to them, "Yet a little while the light is with you. **Walk while you have the light**, that darkness doesn't overtake you. He who walks in the darkness doesn't know where he is going.

The second coming of Christ

Hold what you have firmly until I come

Revelation 2:25 (WEB)

25. Nevertheless, **hold that which you have firmly until I come**.

Revelation 3:2-3 (WEB)

2. Wake up, and **keep the things that remain**, which you were about to throw away, for I have found no works of yours perfected before my God.
3. Remember therefore how you have received and heard. Keep it and repent. If therefore you won't watch, I will come as a thief, and you won't know what hour I will come upon you.

Be ready, the Son of man is coming

Luke 12:40 (WEB)

40. Therefore **be ready** also, for **the Son of Man is coming** in an hour that you don't expect him."

Let your waist be dressed and your lamps burning

Luke 12:35-36 (WEB)

35. "**Let your waist be dressed and your lamps burning**

36. Be like men watching for their lord, when he returns from the marriage feast; that when he comes and knocks, they may immediately open to him.

Don't be distracted

Luke 21:34 (WEB)

34. "**be careful**, or **your hearts will be loaded down** with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day will come on you suddenly.

Remember Lot's wife

Luke 17:31-32 (WEB)

31. In that day, he who will be on the housetop and his goods in the house, let him not go down to take them away. Let him who is in the field likewise not turn back.

Remember Lot's wife

Don't get led astray

Mark 13:5-6 (WEB)

5. Jesus, answering, began to tell them, "**Be careful that no one leads you astray.**

6. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and will lead many astray.

Luke 21:8 (WEB)

8. He said, "Watch out that you **don't get led astray**, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is at hand.' Therefore don't follow them.

Watch

Mark 13:34-37 (WEB)

34. "It is like a man, traveling to another country, having left his house, and given authority to his servants, and to each one his work, and also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch.

35. Watch therefore, for you don't know when the lord of the house is coming, whether at evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning;

36. lest coming suddenly he might find you sleeping.

37. **What I tell you, I tell all: Watch”**

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