

The Commandments of Jesus



“If you love Me, keep My commandments” John 14:15

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The Commands of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. Revelation 22:14

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

1. Salvation



Salvation by Jesus Alone

- **Come to God the Father only through Me, for I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.** Jesus is the world's only Saviour. Only through Him can humanity escape the wrath of God due to their many sins. People cannot have God without Jesus – since Jesus is the only way to the Father. (John 14:6)
- **I am the Door of the sheep – enter in through Me and you will be saved.** Salvation is only found through Jesus Christ, who alone paid the debt of sin that humans owed a Holy God. Therefore, He is the door of the sheep, and by Him alone one may be saved. (John 10:9)
- **Enter eternal life through the Narrow gate (Me and My teachings alone).** For wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many go in by it. Narrow is the gate, and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few that find it. (Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 13:23-24)
- **Do not take the Broad (wide) gate.** The broad path is the path of most of the world, which is in rebellion against God, following the will of Lucifer or Satan, who has blinded people into making themselves gods, following their dreams and plans, rather than obedience to God's commands. This path is the broad path which leads ultimately to destruction. We must avoid this path and choose the narrow path of making Jesus Christ Saviour and Lord of our lives. (Matthew 7:13-14)
- **Be My sheep (for I will be Your Shepherd) and follow only Me, no one else.** The true sheep of Jesus know His voice and they follow Him and will run away from a stranger since they do not recognize a stranger's voice. (John 10:1-5)
- **Come to Me that you may have life.** Jesus called people to come to Him so that they might have everlasting life. The Jews who rejected Him refused to believe His words and come to Him so that they might live. (John 5:40)
- **Ask Me, and I will give you living water that will well up to eternal life.** Jesus is calling people to ask Him and He will give us the living water (representing the indwelling Holy Spirit). Those who have the Holy Spirit belong to Christ, and are thus saved, as the Holy Spirit is a Deposit guaranteeing our salvation. (John 4:13-14)

□ **Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** Jesus called those from the religious system, who tried to earn salvation from works, and called sinners, who thought that they were outside of God's grace. He called them both to Himself and came to bring eternal rest to the souls of all who come to Him in faith. (Matthew 11:28)

□ **Come to Me for I am the Bread of Life, and if you come to Me you will never hunger again, and if you drink from Me, you will never thirst.** Jesus really satisfies completely; so that the person who eats and drinks spiritually from Him are completely satisfied and will never hunger or thirst spiritually again. (John 6:35)

□ **If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.** Jesus called the spiritually thirsty to come to Him and drink from Him, receiving the Holy Spirit. Out of their hearts would then flow living water – the Holy Spirit, whom they were later to receive after Jesus was glorified. (John 7:37-39)

□ **Trust in Me to save you, for I give you eternal life, you will never perish, and no one can snatch you out of My hand.** What a beautiful promise from the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who come to Him in faith and repentance, receiving Him as the Sacrifice for their sins, will be saved and will never perish. No one can snatch a true believer out of our Lord Jesus' hands. Praise God! The other side of this teaching is that those who endure to the end will be saved, and those are the ones who were kept by Jesus' power. The truth is that humans are utterly sinful and capable of heinous sins without the grace of God, but God the Father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world – that we would be adopted as His sons (both men and women fall in this category). Those whom God adopts, He never disowns, but keeps them by His grace, in the palm of Jesus' hands, and no power in the Universe can snatch them out of His hands. Praise God! (John 10:28)

Riches and Salvation

□ **Don't trust your riches, neglecting the poor, for after your death, you will be in torment.** The rich man trusted in his riches and neglected Lazarus who sat at his gate. When they both died, the tables completely turned, and the rich man was in torment, while Lazarus was comforted in the embrace (bosom) of Abraham. (Luke 16:19-31)

□ **Don't let riches keep you from the Kingdom of God.** Riches can be a snare to people, when they trust in them, for it gives them the false sense that they are god-like, elevated humans, who have very few needs, especially little need to obey God. They are preoccupied with things of this world and find it hard to leave their goods and cares to fully follow Jesus. Jesus said: "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the Kingdom of God." Unfortunately North Americans are the richest people in the world. (Mark 10:23-25)

What to do

□ **Come into the Kingdom of God without delay.** The invitation went out for all to come to the marriage banquet, but each person started making excuses and were not willing to come. People made light of the invitation, going back to their own business and some

even killed God's servants. Today people invent clever excuses about why they cannot follow Jesus. They reject the invitation from God to come into His Kingdom. However, people need to take the invitation seriously and repent and believe in the Lord Jesus, obey His commands and enter His kingdom now while there is still time. (Matthew 22:1-6; Luke 14:15-20)

□ **Keep the commandments in order to enter eternal life!** The Rich Young Ruler came to Jesus, wanting to know what good thing he could do to have eternal life. Jesus told him that he had to keep the commandments such as: You shall not murder, commit adultery, steal, lie, you shall honour your father and mother and love your neighbour as yourself. The young ruler said that he was keeping all of them, but then Jesus pointed to the most important command to have no other gods before me. Jesus told him to sell everything, give to the poor and to come follow him. However, the young man went away sad because he had great possessions. (Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-27)

□ **Be born again, of water and the Holy Spirit,** because that is the only way you can see the Kingdom of God. A person must be born again, where a spiritually dead person is made alive by the Holy Spirit. Unless a person has experienced this "new birth", they cannot enter the Kingdom of God. (John 3:3-5)

□ **Lose your life for My sake and you will find it.** Those who lose their lives, in that they no longer live for themselves, but for the One who purchased their salvation, Jesus Christ, will end up finding their lives for eternity. (Matthew 10:39)

□ **Give up everything you have in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.** Like the man who sold everything in order to buy the field which contains the treasure he seeks, we as believers must give up everything we have to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (Parable of the treasure in the field) It is also like the merchant, who upon finding the Pearl of Great Price, went and sold everything he had to buy it. (Parable of the Pearl of Great Price) (Matthew 13:44-46)

□ **Put on my righteousness in order to enter the Kingdom of God.** The man was at the wedding banquet, but was not wearing a wedding garment, and was thus cast out of the wedding feast into outer darkness. In the same way, we need to wear proper wedding clothes, the imputed righteousness of Christ by faith in His work at Calvary, in order to get to Heaven. Merely sitting in the pew is not enough. You must have the "wedding clothes", the righteousness of Christ. (Matthew 22:11-14)

□ **Eat My flesh and drink My blood and you will abide in Me and will have eternal life.** Jesus is the Bread of Life and whoever eats His flesh and drinks His blood spiritually will have eternal life, for Jesus is the Passover Lamb, and those who eat of Him have taken part in His sacrifice. The Jews had to eat the Passover lamb every year and were familiar with this idea. The Passover Lamb was foreshadowing the coming ultimate Passover Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, who would give His life for the sins of the whole earth. Those who receive Him as the Sacrifice for their sins and eat this Passover will have eternal life. (John 6:53-54; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

□ **Be deeply rooted in Me, that when times of tribulation or persecution arise, you will endure.** In the Parable of the Sower, the seed that fell on rocky places sprang up

quickly, but because it had no depth of earth, it withered in the sunlight. There are many in the church who may have expressed faith as a child. They joyfully accepted the word in their lives, yet who later fall away from the faith. These were never rooted and grounded in Him, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Parable of the Sower) (Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-18)

□ **Listen to My words and commands and understand it, receiving it with a noble, good and obedient heart, putting it into practice**, then My word will produce fruit: 30, 60 and 100 times what was originally sown. This was the seed sown on good ground in the Parable of the Sower. They bear fruit with patience, meaning that the fruit may take a while to show itself, but those on good ground continue steadfastly in obedience. (Parable of the Sower) (Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-18)

What not to do

□ **Don't reject Me or My words, but rather hear My words, repent and believe in Me.** The builders rejected the Stone, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He became the Chief Capstone. Likewise, the Pharisees rejected Jesus, and yet He was the Messiah, and His Kingdom is above all, and will overtake all other kingdoms, for He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Therefore, we are not to reject the Lord Jesus Christ, but rather accept Him and fall under His lordship. (Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-11; Luke 20:9-19)

□ **Don't make excuses about why you can't come into God's Kingdom.** People often fill their minds with worthless excuses about why they can't follow Jesus. No excuse is valid. We must not let anything keep us from entering the kingdom for our very eternal soul is at stake. (Matthew 22:1-6; Luke 14:15-20)

□ **Don't justify yourself before men, for God knows your heart.** The Pharisees always did things so that people would see them and think well of them. They justified themselves by saying: "Well, at least I'm not like that tax collector there..." However, this was just pride, as they refused to see their own sin before God and repent from their hearts and God would save them. We must make every effort to put things right with God first and repent, then we will be justified before God, and our lives will bring forth good fruit. (Luke 16:14-15)

□ **Don't try to be saved with someone else's righteousness, you need your own from Me.** The 5 foolish virgins asked the 5 wise virgins for their oil, but the 5 wise virgins refused to give it to them. You need the righteousness of Jesus applied to you personally to be saved. (Matthew 25:1-13)

□ **Don't let Satan steal My words from your heart, but remember them, putting them into practice.** In the Parable of the Sower, Satan came and like a bird, ate the seed that was sown. This was the seed sown along the path. We must treasure God's Word in our hearts and protect it, putting it into practice. (Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-18)

□ **Don't let the cares of this world; the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things choke My word in your life, making it unfruitful.** Jesus wants us to follow Him alone, and forsake riches and pleasures of this life, for these things will distract us from our most important calling of serving Him. This was the seed sown among the

weeds. Many in the church start well, but get sidetracked by Satan with riches or pleasures in this life and get choked out by these weeds and fall away. (Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-18)

The Sinner's Prayer of Salvation

□ **Repent in prayer, not even looking up to Heaven, but beating your breast in sorrow, saying: “God be merciful to me a sinner”.** The Tax Collector shows us an example of repentance. He was “cut to the heart”. The hardened ground of his will was ploughed up through repentance and the seed of the Word could be planted in good soil. Repentance and true conversion is an absolute miracle. He went home justified before God rather than the Pharisee. (The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector) (Luke 18:9-14)

Practical Ideas

1. **Evangelize (share the message of the gospel) your friends, neighbours, coworkers and family members by sharing the message of repentance and the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
2. **Don't push someone to get saved too prematurely – if they are hungry, they will go to Jesus and eat the Bread of Life.**
3. **Allow the Holy Spirit to do His work on that person after you have shared the gospel with them.**
4. **Take communion regularly as it symbolizes your union with the Lord Jesus Christ, reminds you of the covenant which you have with Him and causes you to remember His death until he comes again.**

2. Repentance toward God



All Must Repent

- **Repent and believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ** and you will enter the Kingdom of God. The tax collectors and prostitutes were entering the Kingdom of God ahead of the scribes and Pharisees because they heard the message of John and repented of their sins, being baptized, and now followed Jesus. The Pharisees, however, refused to listen to John the Baptist and repent, and therefore were hardened towards the Lord Jesus Christ and His words since they were unrepentant and unbelieving. To repent (Greek: *metanoeo*) means to “change one’s mind”. (Matthew 4:17; Matthew 21:28-32; Mark 1:14)
- **Repent or else you too will perish.** There were a couple of incidents where people suffered terrible deaths, and people often thought that it was due to their sin, but the fact is that suffering and death come to all people. Look at our Lord Jesus and the apostles, how they suffered terrible deaths, and yet how much the Father was pleased with them. The truth is that everyone must repent, or else they will perish eternally. (Luke 13:1-5)
- **Come to your senses and repent, realizing that you have sinned greatly against Heaven and others, and turn back to My Father,** and you will be received by God. The Prodigal Son truly showed repentance by first coming to his senses, then saying to himself that he would go back to his father’s house, then by actually going back to his father’s house. His repentance involved a change of mind, heart and action. This is true repentance. (Luke 15:11-32)
- **Do not trust in your own righteousness and despise others, but repent and get right with God.** In the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, we have the Pharisee praying with himself, thanking God that he was not like other sinners. The truth was that he was worse than them all, since his pride in his own righteousness was his greatest sin. (The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector) (Luke 18:9-14)
- **Once you start following Me, do not look back to go back to your old life, or else you are not fit for the Kingdom of God.** Jesus gave a stern warning to those who told Him that they wanted to follow Him, but first they had a lot of things they wanted to do. Following Jesus is the utmost priority in life and supersedes everything else. Once you have put your hand to the plough, do not even look back. (Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-62)
- **Repent at hearing God’s Word, for if you don’t repent after hearing God’s Word, then neither will you repent even if you witness someone rising from the dead.** We often believe that if someone sees the miraculous, they will follow Jesus, but this is not necessarily true. If people don’t repent when they hear God’s Word, then neither will they repent even if someone rises from the dead. (Luke 16:19-31)

□ **First clean the inside of your heart in repentance and faith, then you can clean the outside of your life as well.** Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. Often we want to clean up the outside of a man (by being a non-smoker or a non-drinker), yet do very little to help clean up the inside of a man (repenting from the heart). We need to get right with God first, then we can clean up the outside of our lives. The Christian faith is a faith of the heart that shows itself to the world. (Matthew 23:26)

□ **Repent in prayer, not even looking up to Heaven, but beating your breast in sorrow, saying: “God be merciful to me a sinner”.** The Tax Collector shows us an example of repentance. He was “cut to the heart”. The hardened ground of his will was ploughed up through repentance and the seed of the Word could be planted in good soil. Repentance and true conversion is an absolute miracle. He went home justified before God rather than the Pharisee. (Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector) (Luke 18:9-14)

Repentance Brings Childlikeness

□ **Be completely changed (converted) and become like a little child (pure, humble, repentant and meek), or else you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.** The disciples had argued among themselves about who was the greatest. However, Jesus had a completely different idea about greatness – the greatest was the one who was most childlike and the one who was servant of all, the very opposite of the world’s system. (Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-37; Mark 10:15; Luke 9:46-48; Luke 22:24-27)

□ **Receive the Kingdom of God like a little child or else you will never enter it.** We must be child-like in order to enter the Kingdom of God. A child is trusting, kind, humble, pure, teachable and gentle. These qualities accompany true saving faith and make a person child-like, since they have been born again. (Luke 18:17)

Repentance Brings Joy

□ **Rejoice when even one sinner repents more than ninety-nine just people who need no repentance.** We need to be like the angels who rejoice when just one person truly repents and is saved. We need to throw a party when people truly come to know the Lord Jesus! We must remember the party thrown by the Father when the Prodigal Son returned! (Luke 15:4-7)

Repentance is Needed in the Church

□ **Repent as a church of disobedience and lack of love for Me.** Five out of seven churches in the Book of Revelation had allowed sin into their congregation. To these churches, Jesus commanded them to repent of the following: leaving their first love, following the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (a Gnostic sect allowing its adherents to believe yet live wickedly), tolerating Jezebel, a false prophetess, being spiritually dead and becoming lukewarm in their faith. If Jesus were to speak to today’s churches, I believe that He would be commanding many to repent. (Revelation 2-3)

Practical Ideas

1. **Meditate on the depths of your great sin against a Holy God who loved you. Cry with tears before God asking for Him to forgive you. Live your life knowing God’s great forgiveness for your sins.**
2. **Whenever a sin is brought to your attention by the Holy Spirit, confess that sin, asking God for forgiveness right away and repent, turning away from it.**

3. *Faith in Jesus Christ*



Put Your Faith in Jesus

□ **Do the work of God, which is to believe in the One whom He has sent:** The work of God is not a difficult convoluted set of activities, but rather is very simple: to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. This true saving faith, however, will manifest itself by good works. (John 6:28-29)

Believe that Jesus is the Son of God

□ **Believe that I am the Christ, the Son of the Living God.** The truth about Jesus' identity was revealed by the Father to Peter, and he declared it before his fellow disciples. We too, must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the one and only begotten Son of the Living God and declare this truth to the world. (Matthew 16:13-17; Mark 8:27-29; Luke 9:18-20; John 10:36)

□ **Believe in Me, the Son of God.** Jesus asked the former blind man if he believed in the Son of God. The blind man eagerly replied: "Who is He Lord, that I may believe in Him?" Then Jesus declared His identity to him, and he said: "Lord, I believe" and worshipped Him. We all must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, trusting in Him alone to save us. (John 9:35-38)

□ **Believe that I am the Son of God.** Jesus declared to the Sanhedrin who tried Him that He was the Son of God by saying: "You say that I am". In other words, he was affirming this truth. Jesus is the Son of God, and we must believe in this fact. (Luke 22:70-71; John 10:36; John 19:7)

□ **Believe in Me, for I am the Resurrection and the Life, and though you may die physically, you will live spiritually.** Jesus promises to raise his followers from the dead and bring us into eternal life with Himself. We are guaranteed eternal life through salvation in Him, even though we may die physically. (John 11:25)

Believe that Jesus is God (Yahweh), One with the Father

□ **Believe that I AM and that I existed before Abraham was born.** This is the most remarkable statement of Jesus concerning Himself. I AM refers to the name of YHWH, the Lord God. We need to believe that Jesus is YHWH and the Lord God. (John 8:58)

□ **Believe that I AM or else you will die in your sins.** Jesus was speaking to the Jews that they needed to believe that He was the "I AM" (Jehovah, God) or else they would all die in their sins. Modern translations adds "I am *he*", but the word "he" is not found in the

original Greek text. Therefore, taken literally, Jesus is declaring that unless people believe that He is God, they will die in their sins. (John 8:24)

□ **Believe that I and the Father are One.** What an amazing statement attesting to the Deity of Jesus Christ. Jesus outwardly told the Jews that His Father was who they say is their God (John 8:54). Now He declares that God the Father and Him are One. Every Jew would know that Jesus was alluding to the *Shema*: “Hear O Israel, the Lord thy God, the Lord is One.” (Deuteronomy 6:4). Now Jesus is saying that He and God the Father are one. Wow! For this the Jews picked up stones to stone Jesus for blasphemy, because they thought that He, being a Man, made Himself God. (John 10:33) However, deity was Jesus’ claim. The truth is that the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are One, and although being different Persons of the Godhead, are still One God. (John 10:30-33)

□ **Believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me:** Jesus calls us to believe that He is one with the Father, and that the Father is in Jesus, and that Jesus is in the Father. There is complete oneness in the Triune God. We as believers have been brought into this oneness through the blood of Jesus Christ. Wow! (John 14:11)

Believe the Old Testament Scriptures who testify of Jesus

□ **Believe in all that the prophets and all the Scriptures have spoken; that the Christ must suffer and then enter into His glory!** Jesus is commanding us to believe in all that the prophets have written about Him, the Messiah, and not to be foolish and slow to put our faith in God and His word. (Luke 24:25-27)

The Results of Faith in Jesus

□ **Believe in Me and you will not perish, nor be condemned, but have everlasting life.** For God so loved the world that He gave Jesus to it, the Only Begotten Son of God, that whoever believes in Him would be saved. However, if people do not believe in Jesus, they are already condemned, because they have not believed in the Name of the only Begotten Son of God. (John 3:16-18; John 5:24)

□ **Believe in Me (the Light of the World) and you will become sons of light.** Jesus is the light of the world, and gives light to all who believe in Him and are saved, and they become sons of light. (John 12:36)

□ **Continue in faith and obedience (endure) to the end and you will be saved.** The last days will be terrible days for everyone on the earth, but those believers who persevere to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22)

Practical Ideas

1. **Confess with your friends, neighbours, coworkers and family members that you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and even God Himself who has come in the flesh. They may argue that He is only a prophet and refuse to believe that He is the Son of God, but rest assured that you have confessed Jesus Christ before men, and that He will confess you before the Father.**
2. **Study and become acquainted with the prophecies concerning Jesus the Messiah in the Old Testament and see how Jesus has fulfilled all of them. Share these with a friend.**
3. **Refuse to deny the Lord Jesus Christ at any cost, even if you are persecuted or even tortured. Remain faithful until the end of your life and you will receive a reward in Heaven.**

4. Loving God



The Greatest Object of our love

- **Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.** Jesus taught us that this is the first and the greatest commandment in all of scripture. We must put God first and love Him more than anything else. If we do this commandment and the commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves, we will live eternally. (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-30; Luke 10:25-28)
- **Love Me, for my Father is God, and I have proceeded forth and came from God.** Jesus is God the Son, and has come from the Father down to earth to be our Saviour. Therefore, we should love Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (John 8:42)
- **Love Me supremely above all.** Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter loved Him. Did Peter love Him more than the disciples or more than his job as a fisherman? The answer was “Yes” and was proven by Peter’s whole lifetime of service for Jesus Christ. We also must love Jesus more than anything in the whole world, giving up our lives, our pleasures and desires in order to follow Him supremely. We must love Jesus more than even our own lives – this is the only way that we will obey Him, follow Him and truly be His disciples. (John 21:15-19)

How to Increase Your Love for God

- **Realize how much I have forgiven you of your sins and you will love me to that extent.** The sinful woman anointed Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair, knowing that she had been forgiven of her great sins against God. She loved God much since she knew how much she had been forgiven. At the same time, Simon, who was a Pharisee had lived a pretty upstanding life, and didn’t really see his sin in truth, and therefore didn’t see God’s forgiveness as very much, and therefore loved God little. We as Christians must realize the depths of our sins against God before our conversion and throughout our lives and love the God who forgave us all those sins with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (Luke 7:36-50)
- **Keep My commandments, for this shows that you truly love Me.** Jesus is calling for obedient disciples to follow Him to the ends of the earth, making other disciples of the nations. Who will take the challenge and obey? The ones who obey truly love the Lord Jesus. It is not just the ones who sing about Him on Sunday, but the ones who put His

word into practice all week long who truly love Him. Let us keep His commandments. (John 14:15; John 14:23; John 15:10)

□ **Again, keep my commandments and you will abide in My love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commandments and abide in His love.** Obedience in the life of a believer is so critical. We must keep the commandments of Jesus faithfully. If we do, then we will be abiding (remaining) in His love. Our love for Him will be shown to be true. This is what Jesus did – He completely obeyed the Father and remained (abided) in the Father's love. (John 15:10)

□ **Abide in Me, staying in close relationship with Me, for this is the only way you can bear fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.** Jesus is calling for believers to stay in close relationship with Him, listening to Him intently as Mary of Bethany did, and then putting His words into practice. Those who obey the Lord Jesus Christ truly love Him and abide in Him. (John 15:4-5)

□ **Abide in My love, for as the Father loved me, I also have loved you.** We need to continue loving the Lord Jesus, and continue loving others, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. The wonderful truth is that as the Father loved Jesus, Jesus has also loved us. Wow! What love exists in the Triune Godhead, yet that very love is available to us through Christ. We need to remain, stay and continue in this love, living in it and in relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ for the rest of our lives. (John 15:9)

□ **Sit at my feet in prayer, listening to My Word, for this one thing is needed.** Like Mary of Bethany, who chose the good part that would not be taken away from her. This was her relationship with God. We as believers must spend daily time with Jesus in prayer and Bible reading. This time with the Lord Jesus will be the best part of our day. (Luke 10:38-42)

Practical Ideas

- 1. Meditate on the love of God and His forgiveness towards you – that He forgave you to your thousands of wicked sins against Him personally. Meditate on His great forgiveness of you and this will strengthen your sense of love for Him.**
- 2. Take time to be with God alone – walk to a park, go to a quiet area, read the Word of God and pray to strengthen your connection with Jesus Christ.**
- 3. Seek to not only go to church, but to put into practice specific commandments of Jesus regularly. This obedience will demonstrate your love for God.**

5. *Discipleship*



The True Meaning of Discipleship

Discipleship Means Following Jesus

- **Follow Me.** Jesus called Matthew, or Levi, a tax collector, to follow Him. Immediately Matthew obeyed. He also called Philip saying the same thing. We, too, are called by Jesus to follow Him. (Matthew 9:9; Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27-28; John 1:43)
- **Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.** He said this to Peter and his brother Andrew. When they followed Jesus, they would become soul-winners. This happened in a big way on the Day of Pentecost. (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17; John 21:19)
- **Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.** This man wanted to wait until his father died before he followed Jesus. However, when we follow Jesus, we must put Him ahead of even our own family. We have such a high calling in following Jesus, that it supersedes anything else. (Matthew 8:18-22)
- **Follow Me, and you shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.** Those who follow Jesus are set free from walking (living) in the darkness and have the light of life, by the shed blood of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit within them. (John 8:12)

Discipleship means to Listen to and Obey Jesus' Voice

- **He who has ears to hear, let him hear. Listen carefully to My words so that you will understand them.** Jesus said: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear". Jesus' generation, like our own today, was very stubborn and stiff-necked. Jesus spoke to them, but so many did not pay attention or care. However, the wise would hear, understand, and put into practice Jesus' words. (Matthew 11:15)
- **Sit at my feet in prayer, listening to My Word, for this one thing is needed.** Like Mary of Bethany, who chose the good part that would not be taken away from her. This was her relationship with God. We as believers must spend daily time with Jesus in prayer and Bible reading. This time with the Lord Jesus will be the best part of our day. (Luke 10:38-42)

□ **Listen and be attentive to My voice and obey Me so that you will be able to follow Me alone and never follow a stranger.** The true sheep of Jesus know His voice and they follow Him and will run away from a stranger (Lucifer and his agents) since they do not recognize a stranger's voice. (John 10:1-5)

□ **Hear My teachings and practice them,** for if you do, you will be like a wise man who built his house (life) on the rock, for when the storm came by and the winds blew against that house, it did not fall. However, those who merely hear and do not practice the teachings of Jesus are like foolish people who build on sand, where the storms and winds come and it destroys their house. (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49)

Discipleship means to be yoked to Jesus and His teachings

□ **Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for My yoke is easy and my burden is light.** When we become Jesus' disciples, it is like being yoked, because like an ox that ploughs the earth, we as believers are serving the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot do our own thing. We are learning from the Lord Jesus, our Master. However, in this submission to His will, there is amazing rest, because we find that his yoke is in fact easy, and his burden is light. What joy belongs to believers who trust and obey Jesus Christ! (Matthew 11:29-30)

The Requirements of Discipleship

□ **Be Baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** (Matthew 28:19)

□ **Observe all things that I have commanded you.** (Matthew 28:19-20)

□ **Read and obey My Word.** Don't live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:3)

Discipleship requires sacrifice so you must first count the cost

□ **Count the cost, realizing the sacrifices you must make, before you become my disciple.** Following Jesus is not easy. It demands time, energy, sacrifice, persecution, and conforming of our will to the will of Jesus Christ. Jesus is calling us to consider carefully this cost before following Him. However, the benefits far outweigh the costs even if it involves our death, since we are inheriting the Kingdom of God for eternity. (Luke 14:28-33)

Discipleship requires loving Jesus above all else

□ **You must Love Me above anyone or anything else.** The one who loves others (father, mother, son, daughter) more than Jesus are not worthy of Him. He who does not take his cross and follow after Jesus is not worthy of him. (Matthew 10:37-38)

□ **Hate your father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters and your own life also or else you cannot be My disciple.** He is not advocating that we actually hate those most dear to us, for Jesus Christ loved His own mother, Mary, dearly, and even on the cross,

made sure that she was cared for. Jesus is saying that in comparison to our love for Him, all of our other loves would be considered as hatred. We must be completely devoted to Jesus Christ and obedience to His word above all else. (Luke 14:25-26)

Discipleship requires forsaking everything else, even your own life for Jesus

□ **Forsake all that you have, or else you cannot be my disciple.** Like the Parable of the Pearl of Great price, where a man found a beautiful pearl in a field, and went and sold all he had to buy the field and get the pearl. In the same way, we are called to forsake everything that we have, good and bad, material possessions, human relationships, wrong spiritual ties, everything, to cling to Jesus Christ, follow His word, and to be his disciple. It is not a half-hearted commitment, but a wholehearted devoting of everything we are and have to Jesus Christ. (Luke 14:33; Luke 18:29-30)

□ **Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me, losing your earthly life and gaining eternal life, or else you cannot be My disciple,** for whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Just as in the military, when a soldier enlists in the army, he denies his desires and pleasures to be with his family and friends, and follows his commanding officer and goes to war. In the same way, our Commander, Jesus Christ, has called us to follow Him. Therefore, we enlist and deny ourselves our rights and pleasures in complete obedient service to Him alone. We must take up our own cross, just as Jesus did, and follow Him, giving up everything and dying to ourselves. (Matthew 16:24-25; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-25; Luke 14:27)

□ **Leave houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife, children and lands for My Name's sake,** and you will receive one hundredfold and inherit eternal life. The disciples had left their wives and children in order to follow Jesus for 3 years. They prioritized the Kingdom of God over all of their relationships and they would receive great rewards. Married men and women have a responsibility to care for and provide for their spouse and children, however, when children have grown up, married couples can devote themselves entirely to service in the Kingdom of God. After the resurrection, the disciples went to the ends of the earth with the gospel along with their wives. However, for those 3 years with Jesus, they left everyone to follow Jesus, and would receive great rewards on earth and in Heaven. (Matthew 19:29; Mark 10:28-31; Luke 18:29-30; 1 Corinthians 9:5)

□ **Hate your life in this world, give up your life to serve Me, and you will keep it for eternal life.** Jesus taught that if a grain of wheat remains unsown, it remains alone, but if it gives its life, falls into the ground and dies, it will produce much grain. This is the life of a disciple – they hate their lives in this world and completely dedicate it to obedience to Jesus Christ. In essence, they lose their lives for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, and end up gaining eternal life. However, if they decide to play it safe and not give their lives in obedience to Jesus, then they will end up losing their lives on Judgement Day. (John 12:24-25)

□ **Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me, or else you are not worthy of Me.** Jesus is calling for us to take up our cross on a daily basis, like a condemned man going to his death, losing our lives in this world, in order to follow the Lord Jesus. For the first 300 years of Christianity, the church was severely persecuted and there were many thousands of martyrs for the Lord Jesus. This was the cost of following Jesus, but it was worth it, for

they gained everlasting life. (Matthew 10:38; Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Mark 10:20; Luke 9:23; Luke 14:27)

Discipleship Requires Diligent Obedience

- **Take the talents (both natural and spiritual) that I have given you and invest them, with diligence, into my kingdom**, so that when I return there will be a 100% increase. Jesus gave 5, 2 and 1 talent, to the 3 servants, each according to their ability, and went away. Jesus expected them to put the money to good use so that when He returned He could receive a harvest from His investment. In another similar parable, a nobleman went to receive a kingdom, giving one mina to each of his ten servants. The first servant earned 10 more, a 1000% increase. The second servant earned 5 more, but the third servant hid his Master's mina in a handkerchief. (Matthew 25:14-23; Luke 19:11-27)
- **Be diligent: Do not bury the talent (either natural or spiritual) that I have given you, but put it to good use in My kingdom.** The wicked servant was afraid of the Master, seeing Jesus as a "hard man" and buried his one talent, not investing it nor using it for the king. This servant was cast out into hell. (Matthew 25:24-30; Luke 19:11-27)

Discipleship Requires Humble Obedience

- **When you have done everything I have commanded you, do not boast about your obedience, but simply say: "We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do."** We are to see Jesus as He is, in power and glory, and to revere Him as our Master, Saviour and God. When He asks something of us, it is our duty to fulfill His request, not an option. However, when we have obeyed, we are not to become proud about our obedience, but rather to humbly say to the Lord, "We have only done our duty. What can we give back to someone who has given us everything good for eternity?" (Luke 17:7-10)

Discipleship Requires Faithfulness to Jesus' Commands

- **Be faithful over a few things and I will commend you saying "well done, good and faithful servant" and make you ruler over many things.** We are called to be obedient and productive servants who obey the Lord Jesus Christ even in the small tasks He gives to us. If we are faithful with what He has given us to do, then when He returns, He will give greater responsibility under our care. (Matthew 25:23; Luke 19:17)

Ministers should choose disciples carefully and prayerfully

- **When you make disciples, ask the Father whom He would have you choose.** Jesus spent the night in prayer to God before He chose His disciples. In the same way, we need to make it a matter of serious prayer before we choose those whom God would have us mentor and disciple. They must be true converts or else precious time will be wasted ministering to the wrong people. (Luke 6:12-16)

6. Obedience



We Must Hear and Obey Jesus' Commands

- **Hear My teachings and practice them**, for if you do, you will be like a wise man who built his house (life) on the rock, for when the storm came by and the winds blew against that house, it did not fall. However, those who merely hear and do not practice the teachings of Jesus are like foolish people who build on sand, where the storms and winds come and it destroys their house. (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49)
- **Hear My Word and Practice It.** Jesus commands us not only to become hearers, but consistent doers of His word. If we just hear the word, we are just deceiving ourselves; we must put it into practice regularly. (Luke 11:27-28)
- **Don't just call me "Lord, Lord". Do what I say and obey Me.** There are so many in the church, who call Jesus Lord in song at church, yet live their lives in complete disobedience. We need to let our words line up with our lives and start obeying our Lord Jesus Christ. (Luke 6:46)
- **Do the will of My Father in Heaven and you will become part of My family.** Those who obey God and do His will become adopted by Him into His family, and Jesus becomes part of their family. (Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21)
- **Put my words into practice, and you will become like Me, your Teacher.** Our goal is to become more and more like Jesus in thought, word and deed, and to be fully disciplined by our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. Then we will be like Him; not only justified and saved, but also sanctified by the Holy Spirit, living the life He taught us to live. (Luke 6:40)
- **As My disciple, you must obey all things that I have commanded you.** (Matthew 28:20)

Love for Jesus and Obedience to His Commands go Hand in Hand

- **Keep my commandments, for this shows that you truly love Me.** Jesus is calling for obedient disciples to follow Him to the ends of the earth, making other disciples of the nations. Who will take the challenge and obey? The ones who obey truly love the Lord Jesus. It is not just the ones who sing about Him on Sunday, but the ones who put His

word into practice all week long who truly love Him. Let us keep His commandments. (John 14:15; John 14:23)

□ **Keep my commandments and you will abide in My love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commandments and abide in His love.** Obedience in the life of a believer is so critical. We must keep the commandments of Jesus faithfully. If we do, then we will be abiding (remaining) in His love. Our love for Him will be shown to be true. This is what Jesus did – He completely obeyed the Father and remained (abided) in the Father's love. (John 15:10)

Obedience is the Key to being Jesus' Disciple and to truly be free spiritually

□ **Obey Me and abide in My word and you will truly be My disciples – and then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.** Jesus commands us to take His commands seriously and to put them into practice. If we do, then we will truly be His disciples, and then we will know the truth and the truth will set us free. What a powerful statement made by Jesus. As we obey Jesus as His disciples, what freedom is awaiting us! (John 8:31-32)

Obedience (doing the will of our Father) is our Spiritual Food

□ **Do the will of the Father and finish the work He gave you to do, for that is your spiritual food.** Jesus' spiritual food was doing the will of His Father. In the same way, a believer's spiritual food is obeying the will of the Father in our lives and finishing the work He gave us to do. (John 4:34)

7. Prayer and Fasting



Where to Pray – You can pray anywhere

- **Pray in your home, behind closed doors**, to your Father, who is in the secret place, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you openly. (Matthew 6:6)
- **Make church a House of Prayer for all nations.** Pray with your other brothers and sisters in Christ. Christians are to be characterized by prayer and the church is to be a place where prayer is foremost. The church is to be known as a praying people. (Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:17)
- **Pray alone by yourself as I did in a solitary place on a mountain, wilderness, garden or even on a housetop (like Peter did).** (Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Mark 6:45; Luke 5:16; Luke 6:12; Luke 9:28; Acts 10:9)

When to Pray – You can pray any time

- **Pray Early in the Morning.** Jesus rose up early in the morning, while it was still dark, to pray to His Heavenly Father. We too, must rise up early and pray and seek God. (Mark 1:35)
- **Cry out day and night to God in Prayer.** In the Parable of the Persistent Widow, Jesus is saying that the Father will hear the elect (chosen and true believers) who cry out day and night to Him. (The Parable of the Persistent Widow) (Luke 18:1-8)

How to Pray

- **Pray to your Father in Heaven in this manner:**
 - First, Hallow (set apart as holy) His Name, declaring that His kingdom is come and His will is done on earth as it is in Heaven.
 - Ask for your daily bread (daily provisions for needs).
 - Ask for His forgiveness for your sins as you as well forgive those who sin against you.
 - Ask the Father to keep you from temptation, and to deliver you from the evil one.
 - Declare that to the Father belongs the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4)

- **Pray, as I did, to the Father, saying: “Not My will, but Yours be done”.** Jesus submitted His will to the Father completely and showed us how to live the Christian life. We need to be completely living for His glory, not our comforts, desiring that His will be accomplished, not ours. This is the heart of the Christian life. (Matthew 26:39; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; John 6:38)
- **Pray that I, the Lord of the harvest, will send out labourers into My harvest,** for the harvest is ripe, but the labourers are few. Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest, and it is He who will swing the sickle over earth for the end-time harvest mentioned in Revelation. We must pray that He will send forth labourers into His harvest field. (Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 10:2)
- **Pray speaking with new tongues in My Name.** The apostles all spoke in tongues in the upper room when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the 120 believers. Speaking with new tongues is good and should be practiced by the believer, for it is a Heavenly language known by God, not to man, whereby believers communicate in their spirits to God. It is also good for building us up in the Lord. (Mark 16:15-18; Acts 2:4; Acts 19:6; 1 Corinthians 14:2-4)
- **Pray for other believers that their faith may not fail.** Jesus prayed for Peter, because Satan wanted to “sift” him, perhaps causing offence so that Peter would turn away from Jesus. However, Jesus prayed for Peter, making intercession on his behalf to the Father, that his faith would not fail. We too, as believers, must pray for each other that our faith in Jesus Christ and our commitment to Him would not fail. (Luke 22:31-32)
- **Pray that you will be endued with Power from on high from My Holy Spirit.** Jesus is calling for His people to pray so that they may be filled (directed and empowered) with the Holy Spirit. We must seek the filling of the Holy Spirit in our Christian life, for we cannot fulfill Christ’s commands without the power of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:49)
- **Listen and be attentive to My voice and obey Me so that you will be able to follow Me alone and never follow a stranger.** The true sheep of Jesus know His voice and they follow Him and will run away from a stranger (Lucifer and his agents) since they do not recognize a stranger’s voice. It is recommended that you get a prayer journal so that you can write down what the Holy Spirit is saying to you as you pray. (John 10:1-5)
- **Ask the Father for anything in My name, and I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.** What do we have need of? What is the request we have? Ask anything, Jesus declares, and He will do it. The important part of this command is the last part: That the Father may be glorified in the Son. Will it bring God glory ultimately? This is the question we must ask before we pray. If not, then the conditions are not met for Jesus to answer our prayer. If so, however, Jesus commands us to ask anything in His Name, and He will do it. (John 14:13-14; John 16:23)

□ **Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ as I prayed for them.** Jesus prayed for his disciples just hours before he suffered and died for our sins. He prayed very specifically for the following requests from the Father: (John 17:9-26)

- That the believers would be kept strong in the Father's Name that they might be one.
- That the Father will keep them from the evil one rather than take them out of the world.
- That the believers would be sanctified by the Father's truth, God's Word.
- That the saints would be one as Jesus is in the Father and as the Father is in Jesus, so that the world would believe that the Father sent the Son. As well, so that the world may know that the Father has loved the believers as the Father loves the Son.
- That the believers would be where Jesus is and see His glory.

□ **Ask My Father for what you need and it will be given to you. Seek out what you have asked Him for and you will find it. Knock (physically go out in obedience to Jesus' commands) and it will be opened to you by My Father.** For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened. If humans, being evil, know how to give good gifts to their children who ask, how much more will your Heavenly Father give good things (and the Holy Spirit) to those who ask Him? (Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13; John 16:24)

□ **In hardships and persecutions don't pray: "Father save me from this hour" but rather pray saying: "Father, glorify Your Name".** Jesus Christ was tempted to give up His mission of redeeming the world through the cross. He could have prayed for the Father to give Him twelve legions of angels to protect him from being arrested (Matthew 26:53). We as Christians are made for God's glory – not for our pleasure, but God's pleasure – therefore our Christian lives must be focused on God's glory, not our comfort. Jesus didn't pray that the Father would make Him comfortable, but that the Father's name would be glorified. We must do this too. (John 12:27-28)

□ **Watch and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape the wrath of God coming on the earth when I return and to stand before the Son of Man.** Jesus tells us that there will be terrible times in the last days, and there will be signs that will take place before He comes to rapture His church. We must pray always that we will be counted worthy to escape God's wrath and to stand in righteousness before Jesus Christ. The only way that we can stand before Him is to receive His righteousness by faith in His finished work of the cross. (Luke 21:36)

How not to Pray

□ **Don't pray in public in order to be seen by men,** because men will reward you, but you will lose your reward in Heaven. (Matthew 6:5)

□ **Don't pray with meaningless repetitions** or mantras like the pagan religions, for they believe that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what things you need even before you ask Him. (Matthew 6:7-8)

□ **Don't make long prayers for show.** The Pharisees prayed for a long time in order to be seen by men as pious, and Jesus forbade this. (Matthew 23:14)

□ **Don't pray and honour God with your lips if your heart is far from Him.** The Pharisees outwardly showed to people that they loved God by praying for everyone to hear, but their hearts were full of wickedness. God rejected their prayers. (Matthew 15:7-9; Mark 7:6-7)

□ **Don't pray while comparing yourself to worse sinners to feel better about yourself.** In the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, we have the Pharisee praying with himself, thanking God that he was not like other sinners. The truth was that he was worse than them all, since his pride in his own righteousness was his greatest sin. (The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector) (Luke 18:9-14)

Prayer with Persistence

□ **Be persistent in prayer, with patience, knowing that your Heavenly Father hears you.** In the parable of the persistent friend, we find that the man continued asking his friend for 3 loaves of bread at night and refused to give up even though the man said: "Don't bother me". How much more will God hear us when we pray? In the same way, we must be persistent with God in prayer, asking Him for what we need, refusing to give up. (Luke 11:5-8)

□ **You must always persistently pray for your needs and not give up or lose heart.** The widow kept going to the unjust judge and asking for justice, to the point of wearying the judge, so that the judge made sure she got justice. How much more will our Heavenly Father give us what we ask Him, although we may have to wait for the answer. (The Parable of the Persistent Widow) (Luke 18:1-8)

Prayer with Faith believing that I will answer you

□ **When you pray, pray in faith and believe that you will receive your request, and you will have it.** This is a great promise from Jesus and inspires us to keep on praying, for we will see the miracle working hand of God answering us when we ask God. (Mark 10:20-24)

□ **Ask what you desire and it shall be done for you if you abide in Me and My words abide in you.** This is a wonderful promise to all true believers, who truly abide in Christ and His words abide in them. We need only ask the Father in prayer what we desire (as well, it must be what brings glory to the Father) and it shall be done for us. Let's take Jesus at His word and ask Him for what we desire! (John 15:7-8)

Pray to Escape Temptation

□ **Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation, for the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.** We are all tempted as Christians, but Jesus is calling us to watch (be on our guard for sin's power) and pray that we may be able to be delivered from the evil one. All of the disciples fled that night when the soldiers came and arrested Jesus. They failed to stay at their Lord's side, being tempted to run. We, therefore, must watch pray when we are being faced with a great temptation that our Father will deliver us from evil. (Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38; Luke 22:40)

Instructions on Fasting

- **When fasting, look joyful and fresh**, washing your face and putting on lotion, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting. Your Heavenly Father, who is in the secret place, will see this and reward you openly. Do not be haggard like the hypocrites who want to appear to men to be pious and receive reward from them. (Matthew 6:16-18)
- **Fast and pray in order to cast out stronger demons such as those involving epilepsy.** Before Jesus faced Satan's temptations in the wilderness he spent extended periods of time in fasting and prayer. Certain demonic strongholds cannot be broken unless the believer spends time in fasting and prayer before God. (Matthew 17:21; Mark 9:29)

8. *The Holy Spirit*



The Holy Spirit gives us life

- **Receive the Holy Spirit.** Now that Jesus had died and rose again, the disciples were now able to have their sins atoned for and could now be indwelt by the Holy Spirit. In the upper room Jesus appeared physically to His disciples and breathed on them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit. In the same way, when people turn from their sins, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and put their faith in His atoning work, they are saved and can now receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20:22)
- **Be born again, of water and the Holy Spirit,** because that is the only way you can see the Kingdom of God. A person must be born again, where a spiritually dead person is made alive by the Holy Spirit. Unless a person has experienced this “new birth”, they cannot enter the Kingdom of God. (John 3:3-5)
- **Ask Me, and I will give you living water that will well up to eternal life.** Jesus is calling people to ask Him and He will give us the living water (representing the indwelling Holy Spirit). Those who have the Holy Spirit belong to Christ, and are thus saved, as the Holy Spirit is The Deposit guaranteeing our salvation. (John 4:13-14)

The Holy Spirit fills and empowers believers

- **Pray that you will be filled with Power from on high by My Holy Spirit.** Jesus is calling for His people to pray so that they may be filled (directed and empowered) with the Holy Spirit. We must seek the filling of the Holy Spirit in our Christian life, for we cannot fulfill Christ’s commands without the power of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:49)
- **Be Baptized by Me with the Holy Spirit, receiving power to be My witnesses to the ends of the earth.** Jesus commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father: The filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit. We as believers must seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the first time being filled) and to be filled with the Holy Spirit on a continual basis. When we are baptized with the Holy Spirit we will be bold witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ everywhere we go. Praise God! (Acts 1:4-8)

The Holy Spirit Speaks through Christians to their Persecutors

□ **Do not worry about what to say to those who interrogate you**, for the Holy Spirit will speak through you, giving you wisdom and words that your persecutors will not be able to contradict or resist. When Jesus' followers were delivered up to councils, they needed only to rely on the Holy Spirit to speak through them. (Mark 13:11; Luke 21:12-15)

Pray in the Holy Spirit

□ **Speak with new tongues.** The apostles all spoke in tongues in the upper room when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the 120 believers. Speaking with new tongues is good and should be practiced by the believer, for it is a Heavenly language known by God, not to man, whereby believers communicate in their spirits to God. It is also good for building us up in the Lord. (Mark 16:15-18; Acts 2:4; Acts 19:6; 1 Corinthians 14:2-4)

Minister to others in the power of the Holy Spirit

□ **Preach the gospel to the poor by the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord.** Jesus specifically targeted the poor and needy, those whom society had rejected, showing them mercy and love. We also need to reach out to the poor and bring the gospel to them, preaching to them by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 4:18)

□ **Heal the broken-hearted by the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord.** (Luke 4:18)

□ **Proclaim liberty to the spiritual captives and recovery of sight to the blind by the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord.** (Luke 4:18)

□ **Set at liberty those who are oppressed and proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord by the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord.** (Luke 4:18-19)

Worship God in the Holy Spirit

□ **Worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth**, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. Those who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit can worship God in their spirits, and they themselves become a temple of the Holy Spirit. When several true believers come together and worship the Father, it is like several temples of the Holy Spirit offering worship to the Father, and it is a glorious experience. Can you imagine how wonderful Heaven will be? (John 4:23-24)

Listen to the Holy Spirit's voice

□ **Listen to the Holy Spirit through My word and in your spirit as He speaks, for He will glorify Me, guiding you into all truth and tell you things that are to come.** As believers, we are to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance in all situations. We are to listen to His still small voice within our hearts, and to read the Bible, by whom every word is inspired. We need the empowering of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life and to please God. As well, we need to listen to the Holy Spirit on a daily basis to find out God's will for the day. Remember, the Holy Spirit always glorifies Jesus, will guide us into all truth and tell us things that are to come. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Revelation 3:22; John 16:12-15)

Cast demons out of people making sure they are then filled with the Holy Spirit

□ **When you deliver someone of evil spirits, make sure that they are then filled with the Holy Spirit,** or else the evil spirits will return with seven other spirits that are more evil than itself. Unfortunately, it would have been better if they had never been delivered in the first place, then to have been delivered, only to have the demon come back with seven others. (Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26)

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is Unpardonable

□ **Do not blaspheme the Holy Spirit by speaking against Him or attributing evil to Him** or else you will never be forgiven for this sin. (Matthew 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-30)

9. *Loving Other Believers*



Love your Brothers and Sisters in Christ as Jesus loved you

□ **Love one another as I have loved you.** Can we begin to fathom the love of God for you? He redeemed you out of your sin, and changed you, His former enemy, into His child. He has loved you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3) Jesus has loved us so much, and now He commands us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ with that same love. What a command! Let us love each other just as Jesus Christ has loved us. This kind of love is a sacrificial love that goes all the way to giving up your life for your brother – this is the kind of love Jesus showed us and that we must follow. (John 13:34-35; John 15:12-13; John 15:17)

Welcome Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ as You Would Welcome Me

□ **Receive and welcome a little child in my name and you receive Me.** (Matthew 18:5; Mark 9:37)

□ **Receive and welcome other believers and you are receiving and welcoming Me.** Jesus commands us to receive other believers, for in so doing, we are receiving Him. We must be welcoming and loving to the disciples, and in so doing, we are welcoming the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 13:20)

□ **Greet other believers with: “Peace to you.”** Jesus gave his disciples this greeting when He appeared to them after his resurrection. He also instructed his disciples to greet households with the same greeting when they ministered in the towns and cities. This should be the practice for all Christians. (Luke 24:36; John 20:19; John 20:26)

Support Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ from other backgrounds

□ **Do not try to stop another believer serving Me just because they belong to a different group or denomination.** The disciples told Jesus that they forbade someone from casting out demons because he did not belong to their group. Jesus rebuked them. We must encourage and support true believers from other groups who are serving Jesus. (Mark 9:38-40; Luke 9:49-50)

Show Hospitality to Your brothers and Sisters in Christ

□ **Show hospitality and even give a drink of cold water to your brother because they are a follower of Jesus, and you will not lose your reward.** (Matthew 10:40-42; Mark 9:41)

Agree with Your Brother and Sister in Christ in Prayer

□ **Join with another believer and agree on earth concerning something, and as you ask, it will be done for you by my Heavenly Father.** For where two or three are gathered together in Jesus' name, there He is right in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:19-20)

Become the Servant of Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ

□ **Do not be like the rulers of the Gentiles who exercise authority over their subjects because they are greater than the rest.** Jesus is warning us against seeking positions of authority in the church so that we can "rule" over our brothers or sisters in Christ. This has nothing to do with the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45)

□ **Become the servant of your brothers in Christ and you will be great in the Kingdom of Heaven. Be a slave to your brothers and sisters in Christ, and you will be first in the Kingdom of Heaven.** We are called to serve wholeheartedly our brothers and sisters in the Kingdom of God and to take the lowest place like a servant. Only then will we be first in the Kingdom of Heaven and will be called great by our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 20:26-28; Luke 22:25-27; John 13:14-15)

□ **Become a servant of God's people and you will be great in the Kingdom of God.** For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (Matthew 23:11-12; John 13:14-15)

□ **Wash each other believer's feet.** Jesus took off his outer garments and dressed like a servant then washed His disciple's feet. He taught us to follow His example and serve other believers by washing their feet. Let us look for opportunities to serve other believers and also to wash their feet following Jesus' command. (John 13:14-15)

□ **Care for those who are least in the church (least of these My brethren), for as you serve them, you are serving Me.** We are called by Jesus to care for those considered least in the church. Perhaps the greatest need is in countries where the church is severely persecuted. We are called by Jesus to do the following: (Matthew 25:31-40)

- **Feed hungry believers.** (Matthew 25:35)
- **Give drink to thirsty believers.** (Matthew 25:35)
- **Take in believers who need a place to stay.** (Matthew 25:35)
- **Give clothes to believers needing clothing.** (Matthew 25:36)
- **Visit and care for sick believers.** (Matthew 25:36)
- **Visit and care for believers in prison.** (Matthew 25:36)

When the world sees the love we have for each other as believers, they will see Someone different within us, and they will become thirsty for Jesus Christ and His righteousness.

Pray for your Brothers and Sisters in Christ

□ **Pray for other believers that their faith may not fail.** Jesus prayed for Peter, because Satan wanted to “sift” him, perhaps causing offence so that Peter would turn away from Jesus. However, Jesus prayed for Peter, making intercession on his behalf to the Father, that his faith would not fail. We too, as believers, must pray for each other that our faith in Jesus Christ and our commitment to Him would not fail. (Luke 22:31-32)

□ **Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ as I prayed for them.** Jesus prayed for his disciples just hours before he suffered and died for our sins. He prayed very specifically for the following requests from the Father: (John 17:9-26)

- That the believers would be kept strong in the Father’s Name that they might be one.
- That the Father will keep them from the evil one rather than take them out of the world.
- That believers would be sanctified by the Father’s truth, God’s Word.
- That the saints would be one as Jesus is in the Father and as the Father is in Jesus, so that the world would believe that the Father sent the Son. As well, so that the world may know that the Father has loved the believers as the Father loves the Son.
- That the believers would be where Jesus is and see His glory.

Do not cause another Brother or Sister in Christ to sin

□ **Do not cause a little one who believes in Me to sin,** or else you will suffer the wrath of a Holy God in hell. It would be much better for that person to be executed by drowning. (Matthew 18:6-7; Mark 9:42)

□ **Beware that you do not cause other Christians, especially new believers, who are called little children, to stumble.** The Lord Jesus is warning us that offences (great sins against others) must come, but woe to that person by whom they come. Hitler was responsible for killing millions of precious Jews, causing great offence to the Jewish faith, now to the point where many Jews are in fact atheists, having rejected the God of Israel. A great offence was committed, leading to the people of Israel turning away from the Living God. The same occurs when Christian leaders are caught in sin, causing great offence to their congregations, turning many in the church from continuing in the faith. We must be incredibly careful not to offend other believers. (Luke 17:1-2; John 13:33)

Do not be soon angry or name call against your Brothers or Sisters in Christ

□ **Do not be angry with your brother without good reason** or you will be in danger of the judgment. (Matthew 5:21)

□ **Do not say “Raca” (You Idiot!) to your brother,** or you will be in danger of the council. (Matthew 5:21-22)

□ **Do not say “You fool!” to your brother,** or else you will be in danger of hellfire. (Matthew 5:21-22)

Do not compare yourself with your brothers and sisters in Christ

□ **Serve Me faithfully without complaining or comparing yourself to your younger brothers or sisters in Christ**, who are blessed with the same blessing, even though they may be less mature than you. In this parable, we see how many served Jesus Christ, but were unhappy that their brothers who had come into the kingdom so late were receiving the same blessings as they who had worked much harder all day. However, it is the Lord's position to bless and give out salvation, not ours, and He can give to whomever He wants. (Matthew 20:1-16)

Do Not Judge Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ

□ **Do not judge your brother, or else you will be judged.** For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. Why do you look at the small sin in your brother's eye, but do not consider the huge sin in your own eye. How can you say to your brother, let me remove that little sin from your life, and all the time there is a huge sin in your own? First remove the plank (the big sin) from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck (the small sin) from your brother's eye. The truth is that all true Brothers and Sisters in Christ have passed through God's judgement and have been declared: "Not Guilty" by God. When believers judge them, we are reversing God's holy judgement of them. We must instead lovingly confront believers who are in sin without judging them. (Matthew 7:1-5; Luke 6:37; Luke 6:41-42)

Lovingly confront Your Brother or Sister in Christ who sins against you

□ **If your brother in Christ sins against you, go and tell him his fault just between the two of you.** If he listens to you and repents, then you have the relationship back. (Matthew 18:15-17)

□ **If your brother will not listen to you and repent, then take one or two more with you and share the fault with them,** that the matter will be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses and they will take the matter more seriously. (Matthew 18:15-17)

□ **If the offender refuses to hear all three of you and repent, then share the matter with the church** so that the person will get right with God. (Matthew 18:15-17)

□ **If the offender refuses to hear the church's correction, then cut off fellowship with them, seeing them as an unbeliever not as a brother.** Whatever church discipline happens with you in this matter is upheld by God. Now the person is in God's hands and God can deal with them and either they will be brought to repentance or will be condemned. (Matthew 18:15-17)

□ **If your brother sins against you, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.** Jesus has called us to not be passive when it comes to our brothers and sisters in Christ. If they sin against us, we need to rebuke them. If they repent, then you have won your brother over, and you can immediately forgive him. If not, then you have to follow the steps below. (Luke 17:3-4)

Forgive Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ when they sin against you

□ **Forgive people when they sin against you**, for if you do, your Father in Heaven also will forgive your sins. If you do not, however, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26; Luke 6:37)

□ **Give unlimited forgiveness to your brother who sins against you and repents.** Jesus is calling us to be longsuffering with our brothers and sisters in Christ, to the point where if they sin against us seven times in a day and seven times comes back and says: "I repent", we are to forgive them. (Luke 17:4; Matthew 18:21-22)

□ **Forgive your brother from your heart when He sins against you even up to 490 times in a day or else you will be given over to the tormentors!** God has forgiven you so much for all your sins. You must realize the depths of your sins against God and the depths of God's forgiveness and mercy towards you. When you realize this, then you will have mercy and show forgiveness to those who sin against you. We as believers must be the most forgiving people on earth, showing ourselves to be children of the Most High God. (The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant) (Matthew 18:21-35)

Be Reconciled with Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ after a Conflict

□ **Do not worship the Lord in the congregation until you have been reconciled with your brother** who has something against you. Jesus is speaking about the necessity of being quickly reconciled to your brother and sister in Christ after a conflict. (Matthew 5:23-24)

10. Loving all People



How to Treat All People in the World

- **Love your neighbour as yourself.** Jesus taught us that we should love our neighbour, any person in the world, as we love ourselves. In other words, we are to care for them as we would care for ourselves. This pleases God greatly. (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:31)
- **Do to others what you would have them do to you,** for this is the law and the prophets. We need to treat others the way we would like them to treat us. We need to see them as if we ourselves were them and in need. This will give us a new Christ-like perspective towards others. (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31)

Give to those who ask you

- **Give to the person who asks you,** and if someone wants to borrow something from you, do not turn that person away. (Matthew 5:42; Luke 6:30)

Forgive others when they sin against you

- **Forgive people when they sin against you,** for if you do, your Father in Heaven also will forgive your sins. If you do not, however, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26; Luke 6:37)

Take Care of Your Family Members

- **Take care of your family members as I cared for my mother Mary.** Even on the cross in intense suffering and pain, Jesus looked down upon His mother and John. Now His mother was probably a widow by this time. Jesus made sure that she had a place to stay after His departure. The apostle John would care for His mother as His own, and Mary would treat the apostle John as her own son. We must care for our family members, providing for them and protecting them as did our Lord Jesus Christ. (John 19:25-27)

Take care of People in Need

- **Have compassion on those in need like the Good Samaritan who saw a stranger in need and helped him, going the extra mile for him.** In this story, we find that the man who was beaten up was neglected by the priest and the Levite. However, the Samaritan

man had compassion on the man and bandaged him up, putting him on his own animal, to an inn, so that he might be taken care of. He was truly a neighbour to the man who fell among thieves. We must go and do likewise. (Luke 10:25-37)

How to Treat Sinners who know that they have sinned

□ **Don't condemn sinners, but show them mercy, for He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone.** Only God has the authority and the holiness to condemn sinners, not man. The woman was in sin when she was committing adultery with the man (by the way, where was the man?). However, she was at the feet of the Son of God for mercy, where the crowd was demanding her death. We are not to condemn sinners when only God has that role. We are to call sinners to repentance and let them see the mercy of God. (John 8:7)

How to Treat Your Enemies

□ **Do not resist an evil person.** If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If they want to take something of yours, give them even more than they ask. If they force you to go one mile, then go with him another mile. (Matthew 5:38-41; Luke 6:29)

□ **Love your enemies:** Bless those who curse you and do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. Don't just love those who love you, how is that any different from anybody else? Don't just greet your brothers in Christ only, greet all people, even your enemies. (Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-28; Luke 6:32-35)

□ **Make peace with your enemies quickly** or else God, the judge, will throw you into prison (torment) until you have paid the last penny. (Matthew 5:25-26; Luke 12:58-59)

Be Discerning of all People

□ **Discern people by their fruits.** You will know them by the fruits of their lives (what results from their life and work). Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit (like the false prophets) is cut down and thrown into the fire (hell). By their fruits, we can discern who they are and know them. Not everyone who says: "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but only the person who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Jesus on the Day of Judgment "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied, cast out demons and done many wonders in your Name?" Jesus will declare to them, I never knew you, away from me, you who practice lawlessness. (Matthew 7:15-23; Luke 6:43-45)

Beware of those who teach false Doctrine

□ **Beware of false prophets,** who come to you looking so good (in sheep's clothing) yet inwardly are full of evil (ravenous wolves). False prophets are hard to detect when seeing with a mere human perspective – we often need the discernment of the Holy Spirit and compare their lives with the Word of God to see the truth. (Matthew 7:15-20)

□ **Beware of the man-made doctrine of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.** The Pharisees and Sadducees put aside the commandments of God in order to follow their traditions. We as believers are to beware of those who do these things; who make rules in the church that are artificial, loading burdens upon Christians as if they were commandments of God. (Matthew 16:5-12; Mark 8:15)

□ **Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.** The Passover meal was to be eaten with unleavened bread, symbolizing that the bread was not defiled with yeast, a tiny microorganism. However, the Pharisees were unclean in that they had yeast in their lives, hypocrisy, which made them rise up tall, but was just a lot of hot air. In the same way, the Pharisees looked so good on the outside, but it was all a show, just leaven (or yeast) which puffed them up yet was lacking the substance of true obedience and love for God. (Luke 12:1)

How to Treat Hypocrites in the Church

□ **Leave the self-righteous hypocrites (Pharisees and Sadducees) alone and do not try to correct them,** for they are proud and will not listen, and they, with their disciples, are both blind and will fall into a ditch. (Matthew 15:12-14; Luke 6:39)

□ **Do not share your spiritual treasures with unbelieving mockers** (dogs - people who are against the Lord), and do not cast your pearls (share precious truths from God) before swine (people who get washed, “go to church” and go back to their own sins) or else these people will trample on these spiritual treasures, turn and viciously attack you, using your testimony against you. (Matthew 7:6)

□ **Do not try to uproot the unsaved (the wicked tares) who are planted by Satan in the Church – God will do it in the end.** If we try to pull up the tares, we may also pull out the righteous (the Godly wheat). Leave them alone for at the end of the age they will be uprooted out of God’s kingdom by the angels and brought to judgment and condemned to hell. (Parable of the Wheat and the Tares) (Matthew 13:24-30; Matthew 13:36-43)

11. Marriage



Honour marriage and let no person separate married couples

□ **Honour marriage and let no man separate what God has joined together.** Marriage is a sacred and indivisible bond between a man and a woman. No man has the right to break this bond. We as believers must hold marriage sacred. (Mark 10:6-9)

Spouses must leave their families of origin and be joined to each other

□ **At marriage a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife.** Through their commitment to each other and their sexual union, the two become one flesh. The goal of marriage is oneness: spiritual, physical and emotional, and both spouses must leave their families in order to fully join together with their spouse. (Mark 10:6-7)

Oneness is the Goal of Marriage

□ **Seek to have oneness in the marriage relationship.** God's intention for marriage is that the two become one flesh. This means that they are to work together. The husband is to lead in the marriage as Christ Jesus leads His church, and the wife is to become a helpmate to her husband. As the husband leads her in the Lord and in the fear of God, the wife is to submit herself to his leadership. However, through this relationship, oneness will develop – not only physically, but emotionally, mentally and spiritually. You become best friends and serve together in the Kingdom of God. An example is Priscilla and Aquila, a husband and wife team who served together in the early church. In fact, all of the disciples had their wives come with them as they went out to preach the gospel all over the world. (Mark 10:6-7; Acts 18:26; 1 Corinthians 9:5)

Divorce not Permitted unless Adultery Committed

□ **Do not divorce your spouse!** The two have become one flesh, therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate. God hates divorce, and wills that married couples remain faithful to each other sexually and relationally. Only when this oneness is broken through adultery, divorce is permitted Biblically. If couples get divorced when no adultery has taken place and get remarried, they are then committing adultery. (Matthew 19:3-10)

□ **Do not harden your heart and divorce your spouse.** It is only permissible by God in the case of adultery. Divorce was allowed by Moses because of the hardness of hearts of the Israelites. However, God hates divorce, and the intention of God was for the marriage relationship to be an unbreakable covenant between two people and God. (Matthew 5:31-32; Mark 10:1-12)

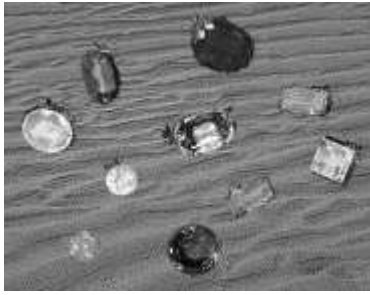
Remarriage after Divorce is Adultery

□ **If you are divorced (not for adultery) and you remarry, you and your new spouse are now committing adultery,** a continual sin in the sight of God. Jesus was very clear on this teaching, but so often those in the church want to divorce and remarry, breaking His commands. (Mark 10:10-12; Luke 16:18)

The Gift of Celibacy

□ **Deny yourself marriage for the Kingdom of God's Sake if God has given you the gift of celibacy.** Not everyone is destined to get married. Take for example the Apostle Paul who was single. Some have very fulfilled single lives. Those who are unmarried have more time to devote to ministry, although it is true that a spouse is a great asset to ministry. Jesus gives us the freedom to choose marriage with another believer. However, those who choose not to marry are to devote their lives to the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 19:11-12)

12. Christian Virtues



Love for God

□ **Love the Lord Your God with all your heart, soul and mind.** Jesus taught us that this is the first and the greatest commandment in all of scripture. We must put God first and love Him more than anything else. If we do this commandment and the commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves, we will live eternally. (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-30; Luke 10:25-28)

□ **Realize how much I have forgiven you of your sins, and you will love me to that extent.** The sinful woman anointed Jesus feet and wiped them with her hair, knowing that she had been forgiven of her great sins against God. She loved God much since she knew how much she had been forgiven. At the same time, Simon, who was a Pharisee had lived a pretty good life, and didn't really see his sin in truth, and therefore didn't see God's forgiveness as very much, and therefore loved God little. We as Christians must realize the depths of our sins against God before our conversion and throughout our lives and love the God who forgave us all those sins with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (Luke 7:36-50)

Love for Others

□ **Love your neighbour as yourself.** Jesus taught us that we should love our neighbour, any person in the world, as we love ourselves. In other words, we are to care for them as we would care for ourselves. This pleases God greatly. (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:31)

Love for Enemies

□ **Love your enemies:** Bless those who curse you and do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. Don't just love those who love you, how is that any different from anybody else? Don't just greet your brothers in Christ only, greet all people, even your enemies. (Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-28; Luke 6:32-35)

Boldness

□ **Be the light of the world** that is not hidden but gives light to all. Do not be afraid of men, hiding your witness as if it was some secret sin to hide in some closet, but let others know that you are a follower of Jesus Christ and live the life that He commanded in

obedience so that others may see the light. (Matthew 5:14-15; Mark 4:21-22; Luke 8:16-17; Luke 11:33)

Childlikeness

□ **Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.** We need to take every opportunity to bring children to the feet of Jesus, learning about who He is and obeying His commands. The Kingdom of God truly belongs to the childlike who are believers. (Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)

Compassion

□ **Have compassion on others in need, like the Good Samaritan, who saw a stranger in need and helped him, going the extra mile for him.** In this story, we find that the man who was beaten up was neglected by the priest and the Levite. However, the Samaritan man had compassion on the man and bandaged him up, putting him on his own animal, to an inn, so that he might be taken care of. He was truly a neighbour to the man who fell among thieves. We must go and do likewise. (Luke 10:25-37)

□ **Do not invite your friends, brothers, relatives or your rich neighbours when you give a dinner or supper,** or else they will invite you back and you will be repaid. We often want to do things for others when they reciprocate and we get a good return on our relational investment. However, Jesus is calling for us not to do this since, if we do, our reward is only in this life. (Luke 14:12)

□ **Invite the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind when you give a dinner or supper,** and you will be blessed, for they cannot repay you, but you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just. We are called to love all people, but especially the poor and disabled, and to be a blessing to them. The Father will see this and reward us in Heaven. (Luke 14:13-14)

Desire for God's Glory

□ **Do not labour for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life:** The people who were miraculously fed with loaves and fishes walked great distances to get to Jesus. However, they probably really enjoyed the bread and fish that Jesus made, rather than wanting to come to Jesus for eternal life. Jesus told them not to labour for the food that perishes, but to seek the food that endures to eternal life. Jesus is the real Bread of Heaven that we must all eat and live. (John 6:27)

□ **Seek My glory and My Father's glory, not your own glory:** Jesus did not seek His own glory, but the glory of the Father. Then the Father exalted Jesus, giving Him glory and the Name above all Names. We must seek Jesus' and the Father's glory in everything we do, for if we do, we will be people of truth, and there will be no unrighteousness in us. (John 7:18)

Diligence

□ **Be diligent: Do not bury the talent (either natural or spiritual) that I have given you, but put it to good use in My kingdom.** The wicked servant was afraid of the Master, seeing Jesus as a “hard man” and buried his one talent, not investing it nor using it for the king. This servant was cast out into hell. (Matthew 25:24-30; Luke 19:11-27)

Discernment

□ **Judge what is right.** Many people were calling Jesus a drunkard, demon-possessed and a deceiver. However, these people were blind and were judging wrongly. As believers, however, we are called to discern, which involves Godly judgment. We do not judge by external appearance, but in truth and righteousness, for believers are as wise as serpents but harmless as doves. We are to avoid, however, becoming judgemental by attitude, for that is often pride. We must however, judge what is right, discerning truth from error, rebuking those who sin against us when necessary and standing up for righteousness. (Luke 12:57)

□ **Do not judge according to the flesh.** The Pharisees were making false judgements about Jesus even saying that He was a Samaritan, Galilean, a drunkard, friend of sinners and demon-possessed. How wrong they were! We cannot look at someone’s skin colour, ethnicity, social status, place of birth, sex or age and be prejudiced about them. We need to judge what is right, and look into the heart of a person, judging them (in the words of Martin Luther King) by the content of their character. (John 8:15)

□ **Judge with righteous judgment, but not according to appearance:** The Pharisees were sitting in judgement of the Lord Jesus Christ for healing on the Sabbath, and were calling Him an evildoer and a law-breaker. They judged wrongly, according to appearance. We as Christians are called not to judge by appearance, but to judge with righteous judgement, with humility, knowing that God has been merciful to us as sinners. (John 7:24)

Discretion

□ **Do not share your spiritual treasures with unbelieving mockers** (dogs - people who are against the Lord), and do not cast your pearls (share precious truths from hardships) before swine (people who get washed “go to church” and go back to their own sins) or else these people will trample these spiritual treasures and turn and viciously attack you as well. (Matthew 7:6)

Eternal Perspective

□ **Do not see things from this world’s perspective for it is usually the opposite of reality.** In the eyes of the world, the rich are at the top, while the poor are “low class” and despised. However, in the Kingdom of God, many of the first in this life are last in Heaven, and many despised poor are actually first. Therefore, we must not see things from this world’s perspective. (Mark 10:31, Mark 10:42-45)

Faith in God

□ **Believe in Me and all things will be possible for you.** Through faith in Jesus Christ, all things are possible. All obstacles can be overcome, sickness healed, demons cast out, and many wonderful works – even the impossible - are made possible through faith in Him. We also need to believe fully in Jesus Christ and who He is – The Son of God, God in the flesh, the Great “I AM”, the Messiah or Christ and the Only Way to the Father. (Mark 9:23-24)

Faithfulness to Jesus Christ

□ **Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.** We are commanded by the Lord Jesus to continue in faithfulness to Him until the very end of our lives. If we remain faithful, we will be rewarded with the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

Faithfulness with Money

□ **Pay your taxes and tithes and give your offerings.** Jesus taught us to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. This not only refers to taxes, but also tithes and offerings, which if we do not give, God says in Malachi that we are robbing Him. By this principle all believers are to pay taxes and also to pay their tithes and give offerings to God. (Matthew 22:15-21; Mark 11:13-17; Luke 20:20-25)

Fear of God

□ **Fear God who has power to cast both body and soul into hell.** We are to have a good fear of God, realizing His universal and unlimited power, and through the fear of God depart from evil and do the things that please him. (Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:4-5)

□ **Do not receive or seek honour from men:** Jesus did not receive honour from men, nor did He seek it. Instead, He sought the pleasure of the Father on His life. We also must seek to receive commendation from God, not man, and not seek or receive honour from men, for it is very fleeting and meaningless compared to eternity. We are also called to humility, which does not seek to be recognized by men. (John 5:41)

Forgiveness

□ **Forgive people when they sin against you,** for if you do, your Father in Heaven also will forgive your sins. If you do not, however, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26; Luke 6:37)

Frugality

□ **Don't litter or be wasteful:** Following the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus instructed His disciples to “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” He didn't want trash or unused food to remain on the ground. He wanted to use it again later. We also, as Christians are not to be wasteful with what God has given us. (John 6:12)

Generosity

□ **Give to the person who asks you**, and if someone wants to borrow something from you, do not turn that person away. (Matthew 5:42; Luke 6:30)

Gentleness

□ **Be lambs among wolves.** Jesus wanted His disciples to be meek and gentle as lambs, just as He was (Matthew 11:29) among the wolves, the false-prophets and persecutors who would prey upon the true sheep. (Matthew 10:16; Luke 10:3)

Good Speech

□ **Speak good things out of your mouth.** A good man brings good things out of his mouth from the good treasure within him, but an evil man brings evil things out of his mouth out of the evil treasure within him. For every idle (careless) word someone speaks, they will give account for it in the Day of Judgement. By your words you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned. (Matthew 12:33-37)

Good Works

□ **Do what is good on the Sabbath (Day of Worship).** Jesus healed on the Sabbath, which the Pharisees saw as doing work, claiming that Jesus was breaking the Sabbath day, which Jesus was not. We also should be doing what is good on the day of worship, whether it be Saturday or Sunday. Let us dedicate one day to not working, and every day of the week, to the glory of God. (Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11; Luke 13:10-17)

□ **Let your light shine before men without being hidden** so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Holiness

□ **Be the salt of the earth** that does not lose its flavour. (Matthew 5:13; Mark 9:50; Luke 14:34-35)

□ **Walk with Me in white and do not let your garments be defiled.** The Lord Jesus has called us to walk with Him in righteousness and holiness and to run from sin which defiles. We need to pursue righteousness and a close walk with Him. We need to avoid the enemies of His presence in our lives. (Revelation 3:4)

Humility

□ **Humble yourself and you will be exalted.** Jesus humbled Himself by coming to earth from Heaven, leaving the glories of Heaven with the Father, in order to redeem us. Then he even humbled Himself more to the death of the cross. Therefore God exalted Him. In the same way, we as Christians must not seek the exalted place of honour, but must take the lowest place, humbling ourselves before God and man. Then God will exalt us in the proper time, but we must not seek it. (Luke 14:11; Luke 18:14)

- **Humble yourself like a little child** and you will be greatest in the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 18:1-5)
- **Be poor in spirit**, for yours is the kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 5:3)
- **Be blessed if you are poor**, for yours is the kingdom of Heaven. (Luke 6:20)
- **Sit down in the lowest place when you are invited by anyone to a party or reception.** Then the person who invited you will ask you to take a better seat and you will have honour before the guests. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 14:7-11)

Hunger for Righteousness

- **Be blessed if you are hungry now**, for you will be filled. (Luke 6:21)
- **Be hungry and thirsty for righteousness**, for you will be filled. (Matthew 5:6)

Integrity

- **Practice what you preach.** Jesus taught us that we are to say one thing and do that same thing, rather than the Pharisees who said for people to do something, but did the opposite when they were alone. We need to be transparent people; whose lives are beyond reproach, where we practice those things we talk about and preach. (Matthew 23:25-28)

Joy

- **Rejoice because your names are written in Heaven.** The seventy who went out to minister were true disciples and had their names written down in Heaven in the Lamb's book of Life. We also as true believers must rejoice that our names are written in this book. (Luke 10:20; Revelation 21:27)
- **Rejoice because I have risen again from the dead.** Jesus commanded His disciples to rejoice, rather than to be afraid, hiding themselves behind closed doors, realizing that God the Father had raised His Son Jesus Christ to life by the power of the Holy Spirit. We also need to rejoice continually that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. (Matthew 28:9; John 16:22)
- **Be of good cheer and have peace, for in this world you will have tribulation, but realize that I have overcome the world.** We need to rejoice and have peace within ourselves because the Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the world. Jesus has defeated all of the powers of the evil one. However, because we are on the Victor's side, we will be subjected to tribulation under this world's system, over which presides "the god of this world": namely, Satan. He will do all he can to try and stop the gospel and God's true people. He strategizes against the church to hinder it and to discourage believers. However, Jesus has overcome him completely and we have overcome him because we are abiding in Christ. Hallelujah! (John 16:33)

Meekness

- **Be meek**, ("enduring injury with patience and without resentment" – *Websters*) for you will inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

Mercy towards others

- **Be merciful to others**, for you will obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7; Luke 6:36)

Obedience to God

- **Obey Me and abide in My word and you will truly be My disciples – and then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.** Jesus commands us to take His commands seriously and to put them into practice. If we do, then we will truly be His disciples, and then we will know the truth and the truth will set us free. What a powerful statement made by Jesus. As we obey Jesus as His disciples, what freedom is awaiting us! (John 8:31-32)

Peace

- **Receive My peace which I give to you - do not let your hearts be troubled.** When Jesus said these words, He was soon to be crucified, and all of the disciples were in danger of persecution. However, Jesus comforted them by telling them not to let their hearts be troubled, but to receive His peace within themselves. We as believers must not allow our hearts to be troubled by circumstances, but instead to receive the peace of Jesus. His peace passes all understanding and will guard our hearts and minds. (John 14:27)

Perseverance & Patience

- **Persevere in the difficult times.** As believers we must persevere in challenging circumstances, continue to be faithful even when we are experiencing a spiritual drought or persecution. It is perseverance that pleases the Lord; that is why the Lord commands it. (Revelation 3:10)

Purity

- **Be pure in heart**, for you will see God. (Matthew 5:8)

Repentance

- **Be blessed if you weep now and are mournful**, for you will be comforted and laugh. (Matthew 5:4; Luke 6:21)

Respect for Godly Leadership

- **Do not murmur or complain.** The Jews who refused to believe in Jesus instead complained and murmured against Him. So Jesus said: “Do not murmur among yourselves.” (John 6:43)

Servant hood

- **Serve Me and My Father will honour you and where I am, there you will be also:** Those who serve Jesus Christ faithfully will be honoured by God the Father, and the presence of Jesus will be with them. (John 12:26)

Spiritual Maturity

- **Be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.** (Matthew 5:48)

Thankfulness

- **Be thankful, like the one leper who was cleansed and came back to thank Me.** Jesus cleansed 10 lepers in total. Of the ten, nine went away rejoicing, but didn't come back to thank Jesus. We can often be like this, receiving gifts from God, but not thanking Him as we should. However, one leper (a Samaritan) came back to Jesus praising God with a loud voice and fell down at His feet giving Him thanks. We need to be like this leper and give thanks to God continually for all that He does for us. (Luke 17:11-19)

Trust in God

- **Do not let your heart be troubled, but rather believe in God the Father and believe in Me.** Jesus had just told His disciples that He was going away. This made the disciples both saddened and anxious. At this time, they needed to look to God the Father and Jesus in faith, and not to let their hearts be troubled. We as believers must not look at the circumstances and allow our hearts to be troubled, but must look at the Author and Finisher of our faith, the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:1)
- **Do not fear, little flock (the church)** for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. We are not to be anxious, which comes from fear, since as believers nothing shall by any means hurt you, and our Father cares for our every need. (Luke 12:32)

Wisdom

- **Be wise as serpents and be harmless as doves.** As we go into the world with the message of Jesus Christ, we must be as wise as serpents (able to understand what is going on spiritually) and as harmless as doves (being gentle and Christ-like towards others). (Matthew 10:16)

Zeal for God

- **Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness** and all these things (your needs) shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33; Luke 12:31)
- **Be zealous and repent, and be red hot in your love for Me.** Jesus rebuked the Laodicean church who had become lukewarm in their love and commitment to Him. We need to be zealous for the Lord Jesus, ready and eager to obey Him, and to be completely hot in our passion for the Lord Jesus. If we do not have these qualities, however, it shows that we do not know Him, and we will be vomited out of the Lord's mouth. (Revelation 3:15-19)

13. Forgiveness



Forgive others or else you will not be forgiven by God

□ **Forgive people when they sin against you**, for if you do, your Father in Heaven also will forgive your sins. If you do not, however, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive your sins. We need to make sure that we offer forgiveness to others, or else God will hold our sins against us too. (Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26; Luke 6:37)

Forgive others just as God forgave you

□ **Forgive others just as you have been forgiven by God.** When we trusted in Jesus Christ to save us, God the Father forgave us all our sins against Him, even those deep dark secret sins we have committed. He forgave us for thousands of sinful thoughts, words and actions. Therefore, since we have been forgiven so much, let us, in the same way, forgive others when they sin against us. I like to call it the Cascade model (as shown in the picture above): Forgiveness initially flows from the Father to us, and then forgiveness can flow from us to others who have sinned against us. (The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant) (Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32)

We will love God to the extent that we realize God's forgiveness of our own sins

□ **Realize how much I have forgiven you of your sins, and you will love me to that extent.** Forgiveness and love are tied together. The sinful woman anointed Jesus feet and wiped them with her hair, knowing that she had been forgiven of her great sins against God. She loved God much since she knew how much she had been forgiven. At the same time, Simon, who was a Pharisee had lived a pretty good life, and didn't really see his sin in truth, and therefore didn't see God's forgiveness as very much, and therefore loved God little. We as Christians must realize the depths of our sins against God before our conversion and throughout our lives and love the God who forgave us all those sins with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (Luke 7:36-50)

How to Treat a Brother who Sins against you

- **If your brother sins against you, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.** Jesus has called us to not be passive when it comes to our brothers and sisters in Christ. If they sin against us, we need to rebuke them. If they repent, then you have won your brother over, and you can immediately forgive him. (Luke 17:3-4)

- **Give unlimited forgiveness to your brother who sins against you and repents.** Jesus is calling us to be longsuffering with our brothers and sisters in Christ, to the point where if they sin against us seven times in a day and seven times come back and say: "I repent", we are to forgive them. (Luke 17:4; Matthew 18:21-22)

- **Forgive your brother from your heart when He sins against you even up to 490 times in a day or else you will be given over to the tormentors!** God has forgiven you so much for all your sins. You must realize the depths of your sins against God and the depths of God's forgiveness and mercy towards you. When you realize this, then you will have mercy and show forgiveness to those who sin against you. We as believers must be the most forgiving people on earth, showing ourselves to be children of the Most High God. (The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant) (Matthew 18:21-35)

The Christian's Authority to Forgive others

- **Forgive others and they will be forgiven, but if you retain their sins, they are retained!** Believers have tremendous authority since they are in Christ. Remember how Jesus said to the paralytic: "Son, your sins are forgiven you."? He is one with the Father and represented Him perfectly and thus could forgive sins. We as believers are one with the Lord Jesus and with the Father and represent Him on earth. Therefore, if we forgive people, it frees them up to be forgiven, but if we withhold forgiveness, their sins are retained (kept) against them. As believers, however, we must show mercy to others who sin against us and forgive them, bearing in mind that we represent the Lord Jesus Christ to those people and all of Heaven stands behind true believers. (John 20:23)

14. Faith



Saving Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

- **Believe that I am the Son of God.** Jesus declared to the Sanhedrin who tried Him that He was the Son of God by saying: “You say that I am”. In other words, he was affirming this truth. Jesus is the Son of God, and we must believe in this fact. (Luke 22:70-71)
- **Believe that I AM God or else you will die in your sins.** Jesus was speaking to the Jews that they needed to believe that He was the “I AM” (Jehovah, God) or else they would all die in their sins. Modern translations (including the KJV) add “I am *he*”, but the word “he” is not found in the original Greek text. Therefore, taken literally, Jesus is declaring that unless people believe that He is God, they will die in their sins. (John 8:24)

Faith that the Old Testament Scriptures that foretell the Coming Messiah, Jesus Christ

- **Do not be fools and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets and all the Scriptures have spoken; that the Christ must suffer and then enter into His glory, but believe!** Jesus is commanding us to believe in all that the prophets have written about Himself, the Messiah, and not to be foolish and slow to put our faith in God and His word. (Luke 24:25-27)

The Results of Saving Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

- **Believe in Me, and you will not perish, but have everlasting life.** For God so loved the world that He gave Me to it, the Only Begotten Son of God. (John 3:16; John 6:40)
- **Believe in Me, and you will not be condemned,** but if you do not believe in Me, you are already condemned, because you have not believed in the Name of the only Begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)

Believer’s Faith in the Authority and Power of Jesus Christ

- **Have faith and do not doubt and say to even a mountain: “Be removed and be cast into the sea” and it will be done.** Jesus calls us to have great faith in Him, and promises that whatever we ask for in prayer, believing, we will receive. This is a great promise from our Lord Jesus Christ that we must take to heart. (Matthew 21:21-22; Mark 11:20-24; Luke 17:5-6)

□ **Believe in Me and all things will be possible for you.** Through faith in Jesus Christ, all things are possible. All obstacles can be overcome, sickness healed, demons cast out, and many wonderful works – even the impossible - are made possible through faith in Him. (Mark 9:23-24)

True Faith Takes Jesus Simply at His Word and Acts upon it

□ **Have faith in Me like the Centurion, who knew My authority and simply took Me at My word.** Jesus was amazed at the faith of the centurion, who knew that all Jesus had to do was say the word, and his servant would be healed, and it came to pass. (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10)

□ **Take me at My word, without doubting, like the nobleman from Capernaum, who heard my word, believed, and his son was healed.** Jesus told the nobleman, who implored him to heal his son: “Go your way, your son lives.” The nobleman in simple faith took Jesus at His word, as did the Roman centurion, and sure enough, the child was healed in that instant of time. We need to take Jesus at His word in total faith. (John 4:46-53)

True Faith refuses to be stopped or silenced by other people

□ **Have faith in Me like the woman with the issue of blood, who pressed through the crowd to touch my clothes, knowing that she would be healed.** This woman pressed through the crowd, going through the obstacles in her way, in faith knowing that Jesus would heal her. This is the kind of attitude of faith we need to have as believers. (Matthew 9:18-22; Mark 5:21-34; Luke 8:40-48)

□ **Have faith in Me, like the Blind man on the road to Jericho, who cried out to me and would not be quiet.** This blind man was brought to Jesus, told Jesus what was his request, and by his faith in Jesus, he was healed. (Luke 18:35-43)

True Faith does not trust in Flawed Human Reasoning but believes even without seeing

□ **Do not be unbelieving but be believing even if you can't see it.** Jesus gave this command to Thomas, who doubted the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. He needed physical evidence in order to believe and would not believe the testimony of the other disciples. Jesus rebuked him for his lack of faith in not only the testimony of the other disciples, but in His very words themselves, for He told the disciples many times that He would suffer, die and rise again. As believers, we need to be people of faith who believe God even though we cannot see things physically. For example, we believe in the Lord Jesus although most people have never seen Him. Therefore, we are blessed indeed. (John 20:27-29)

Pray in True Faith believing that you will have your Request and it will be done for you

□ **When you pray, pray in faith and believe that you will receive your request, and you will have it.** This is a great promise from Jesus and inspires us to keep on praying, for we will see the miracle working hand of God answering us when we ask God. (Mark 10:20-24)

15. Giving



Give Generously to Others in Need

□ **Give and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down and shaken together.** Jesus wants us to be giving people. We need to be people who give of ourselves, our time and our resources to others. (Luke 6:38)

More Blessed to Give than to Receive

□ **Give for it is more blessed to give than to receive.** It is great to receive good gifts, but how much better is it to give to others what they need. Our Lord Jesus Christ loves it when we give to others, for it is part of His nature to give good things to people. We as Christians need to be constant givers to support the weak and those in need. (Acts 20:35)

Give Freely without receiving remuneration

□ **Freely you have received from God, therefore you must give to others freely.** We could never buy the blessings that we have received from the Father. We have received freely from God, and therefore we must give freely to others. God does not want people to abuse His gifting by charging others for them, as if they had to buy the gift of God. Simon of Samaria tried to buy the gift of God with money, but Peter rebuked him, saying that he had no part or share with them in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We must be very careful not to mix money and ministry, for it can lead people into greed and turn ministry into profiteering. (Matthew 10:8)

Giving to the Poor

Give to others in secret, not to be seen by men

□ **Do not do your charitable deeds before men to be seen by them** (or you will lose your reward). As well, do not advertise your charitable work, because men will reward you, but you will have no reward in Heaven. (Matthew 6:1-4)

□ **Do charitable deeds only in secret,** for then God who sees what is done in secret will reward you openly. (Matthew 6:3-4)

Sell your possessions and give to the poor

□ **Sell what you have and give it to the poor so that you may store it up in Heaven.** Jesus is calling for us to liquidate some of our assets, selling it off, and giving that money to the poor, so that it can be stored up in Heaven. (Luke 12:32-34)

Giving to God and to the Government

Give your best gift to God

□ **Be like the poor widow who gave her best to God.** The poor widow put in all that she had, her whole livelihood in the temple treasury, while the rich put lots of money into it. However, in God's eyes, the poor widow put the most in since the rich gave out of their abundance, but she gave out of her poverty all she had. We must follow her example. (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4)

□ **Give your very best to Me,** like Mary of Bethany, who took an alabaster flask, part of her dowry, worth a year's wages, broke it and poured it on Jesus' feet. She is an example of devotion, giving all she possessed for Jesus. She is like the widow who gave 2 mites, all she had, to God. Jesus called her offering a "good work for me". (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8)

Give what belongs to God (Tithes and Offerings) and the Government (Taxes)

□ **Pay your taxes and tithes and give your offerings.** Jesus taught us to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. This not only refers to taxes, but also tithes and offerings, which if we do not give, God says in Malachi that we are robbing Him. By this principle all believers are to pay taxes and also to pay their tithes and give offerings to God. (Matthew 22:15-21; Mark 11:13-17)

Practical Ideas:

4. Pay your tithes through direct deposit at your church if it is available so that you will not forget to give first to God.
5. Pray about how you can use your own gifting and personality to serve others: (cooking for others, visiting others, showing hospitality).
6. Give your unused household valuables to Salvation Army, so that it can bless the poor.
7. Sponsor a child through World Vision or Compassion.
8. Sell valuable items and give the money from the sale to a Christian charity or a person in need in secret.
9. Have a bake sale and give the money from the sale to a Christian charity or a person in need in secret.
10. Buy a gift card from a grocery store and leave it inside a card with a Bible verse or a note that includes Jesus and leave it secretly at someone's door who is in need.
11. Sell your car and take the money and give it to missionaries to help them, or a needy couple needing a down payment for their home, giving it to them in secret.
12. Sell your house, pay off your debts, give the rest to the poor, and move to an unreached area of the world, bringing the gospel to them.
13. Make sure to pay your taxes on time. You may be able to file a return online.

16. Ministry



Making Disciples is the Goal of Ministry

- **Since all authority in Heaven and earth has been given to me, Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations:**
 - **Baptize them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
 - **Teach them to do all things that I have commanded you.** (Matthew 28:18-20)

As you minister, love each other so that the world will know you are my disciples

- **Love one another as I have loved you so that the world will know that you are my disciples.** Can we begin to fathom the love of God for you? He redeemed you out of your sin, and changed you, His enemy, into His child. He has loved you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3) Jesus has loved us so much, and now He commands us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ with that same love. What a command! Let us love each other just as Jesus Christ has loved us. As we do this, our witness will shine out to others, and they will see that we are His disciples. (John 13:34-35)

You will do even greater works than the Lord Jesus by the Power of the Holy Spirit

- **Believe in Me and you will do the same works that I do, and even greater works will you be able to do because I am with the Father.** Jesus is calling us to believe in Him and promises us that we will do the same works and even greater works than He did because He has gone to the Father and has poured out the Holy Spirit on His church. What a promise. (John 14:12)

Believe that many will come to Christ through your ministry

- **Lift up your eyes and look to the fields, for they are already white for harvest.** There are people all around you who are ready to come to the Lord Jesus Christ, and so we must lift up our eyes spiritually and look to the fields (the world) because they are ready. Many Samaritans in Samaria believed in Jesus after He had witnessed to the woman at the well. We must not get discouraged about the lack of people to follow Jesus. Jesus told us that the harvest is ripe (white) and ready to be reaped. We just need to go out in obedience, and begin to reap souls into His Kingdom in faith, because the harvest is truly ripe. (John 4:35)

Minister to others without taking money for your ministry

□ **Freely you have received from God, therefore you must give to others freely.** We could never buy the blessings that we have received from the Father. In fact, He chose us in Christ before the world began. We have received freely, and therefore we must give freely to others. God does not want people to abuse His gifting by charging others for them, as if they had to buy the gift of God. Simon of Samaria tried to buy the gift of God with money, and Peter rebuked him, saying that he had no part of share with them in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We must be very careful mixing money and ministry, for it can lead people into greed and turn ministry into profiteering. (Matthew 10:8)

Preaching the Gospel to Others

□ **Whatever I tell you in the dark, you must speak in the light.** What we hear in the ear, we must preach from the housetops. We are not an esoteric (occult) society, but speak freely to the world our true message. (Matthew 10:27; Luke 12:2-3)

□ **Confess me before men and I will confess you before my Father who is in Heaven.** However, if we deny Him, Jesus will also deny us before His Father who is in Heaven. (Matthew 10:32-33)

□ **Do not be ashamed of Me or of My words,** or else I will be ashamed of you when I come in My glory. We are not to be ashamed of Jesus or of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes. (Luke 9:26)

Go after Sinners, sharing the Gospel with Them

□ **Go after sinners so that you may share the gospel with them and see them repent and be saved.** Jesus went to visit sinners because their hearts were prepared to receive the gospel, because it wasn't too hard for them to realize their sin, whereas the religious people were hardened towards the gospel. The tax collectors and sinners rejoiced to be with Jesus, repented and were saved, but the Pharisees complained. (Luke 15:1-7; Luke 19:1-10)

Call People to Repentance

□ **Call sinners to repentance.** Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. We are also commissioned to call sinners to repentance, as Jesus did. All people without Christ are sinners and in need of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. The problem is that criminals are often more apt to see their sin than are the self-righteous, and may enter the kingdom far ahead of those who are church-ed. (Matthew 9:9-12; Mark 2:15-17; Mark 6:12; Luke 5:29-32; Luke 19:1-10)

You will be hated by the world for calling sinners to repentance

□ **Testify that the works of the world are evil, and you will be hated by the world:** Jesus pointed out the sin of the world and the sin of the Pharisees, and He was hated and ultimately crucified. In the same way, when we as Christians, testify that the works of the

world are evil, we will be hated as well. However, we will be doing the same things that Jesus did and be standing for righteousness and will receive a reward in Heaven. (John 7:7)

Minister with Wisdom

□ **Be wise as serpents and be harmless as doves.** As we go into the world with the message of Jesus Christ, we must be as wise as serpents (able to understand what is going on spiritually) and as harmless as doves (being gentle and Christ-like towards others). (Matthew 10:16)

Ministry of the Supernatural Power of God Commanded

The Anointing of the Holy Spirit is Necessary for True Ministry

□ **Be Baptized by Me with the Holy Spirit, receiving power to be My witnesses to the ends of the earth.** Jesus commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father: The filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit. We as believers must seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the first time being filled) and to be filled with the Holy Spirit on a continual basis. When we are baptized with the Holy Spirit we will be bold witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ everywhere we go. Praise God! (Acts 1:4-8)

□ **Preach the gospel to the poor by the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord.** Jesus specifically targeted the poor and needy, those whom society had rejected, showing them mercy and love. We also need to reach out to the poor and bring the gospel to them, preaching to them by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 4:18)

□ **Heal the broken-hearted by the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord.** (Luke 4:18)

□ **Proclaim liberty to the spiritual captives and recovery of sight to the blind by the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord.** (Luke 4:18)

□ **Set at liberty those who are oppressed and proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord by the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord.** (Luke 4:18-19)

Ministering to the Sick

□ **Anoint the sick with oil, praying for them that they should be healed.** The disciples anointed the sick with oil and prayed in faith for their healing and saw many healed. (Mark 6:13)

□ **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons.** Freely we have received salvation and all its benefits. We must also give it freely to others. (Matthew 10:8; Luke 9:1-2; Luke 10:9; Luke 11:20)

Ministering to the Demon-Possessed

- **Do not be unbelieving when you command evil spirits to come out of someone.** If you have unbelief, then you will not be able to cast out demons. If you have only a little faith in God, then nothing will be impossible for you. Even mountains can be moved at the command of faith in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 17:19-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-42)
- **Bind the strong man (Beelzebub or Satan) then you can plunder his house (rescue a possessed person from Satan's bondage).** Jesus cast out demons by the Holy Spirit, but the Pharisees claimed that it was by the power of the ruler of the demons, which made no sense. As Christians, we are commanded to bind the strong man (evil spirits) over people who are oppressed or possessed. (Matthew 12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:21-22)
- **Fast and pray in order to cast out stronger demons such as those involving epilepsy.** Before Jesus faced Satan's temptations in the wilderness he spent extended periods of time in fasting and prayer. Certain demonic strongholds cannot be broken unless the believer spends time in fasting and prayer before God. (Matthew 17:21; Mark 9:29)
- **If you deliver someone of evil spirits, make sure that they are then filled with the Holy Spirit,** or else the evil spirits will return with seven other spirits that are more evil than itself. Unfortunately, it would have been better if they had never been delivered in the first place, then to have been delivered, only to have the demon come back with seven others. (Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26)

Do not be afraid of Satan's power as you minister

- **Trample on serpents and scorpions and have authority over all the power of Satan, knowing that nothing shall by any means hurt you because I have given you authority.** Jesus called his disciples to invade the kingdom of darkness and to plunder it by casting out demons and preaching the Kingdom of God, seeing repentance and conversion. We are called as Christians to invade Satan's soon to be destroyed kingdom and to bring liberty to the captives in Jesus Christ. (Luke 10:17-19)

Ministering in Your Home Town

Share Your Testimony with Your friends and family

- **Share your testimony with others, going home to your friends, telling them what great things I have done for you, and how I have had compassion on you.** The Gadarene demoniac was cleansed, and he was so happy that he begged to go with Jesus, but Jesus sent him back to his people to tell the story of his deliverance. We also have a story to tell others about God's mercy and compassion on us. (Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39)

Invite People for dinner

- **Do not invite your friends, brothers, relatives or your rich neighbours when you give a dinner or supper**, or else they will invite you back and you will be repaid. We often want to do things for others when they reciprocate and we get a good return on our relational investment. However, Jesus is calling for us not to do this since, if we do, our reward is only in this life. (Luke 14:12)
- **Invite the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind when you give a dinner or supper**, and you will be blessed, for they cannot repay you, but you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just. We are called to love all people, but especially the poor and disabled, and to be a blessing to them. The Father will see this and reward us in Heaven. (Luke 14:13-14)

How to Minister in Foreign Places

Go into all the World

- **Go into the entire world and preach the gospel to every creature.** He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned. The following signs will accompany those who believe. They will do all these things in My name:
 - **Cast out demons.**
 - **Speak with new tongues.**
 - **Not be hurt if they take up serpents.**
 - **Not be hurt if they drink poison.**
 - **Lay hands on the sick and they will recover.** (Mark 16:15-18)
- **Preach repentance and remission of sins in My Name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.** Jesus is calling for His people to preach a two-fold message: repentance from sin and remission (forgiveness) of sin in the Name of Jesus to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47)
- **Go out two by two.** Jesus commanded His disciples not to go alone, but to go two by two, so that they could help and strengthen each other. We see this taking place much in the New Testament: Paul and Silas, Paul and Timothy, Paul and Barnabas, Aquila and Priscilla (Often it was husband and wife). (Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1)
- **Do not stay in one city only, but preach the Kingdom of God in the other cities as well.** (Luke 4:43-44; Luke 8:1)
- **Do not go taking money in your wallets or purses**, nor bag for the preaching journey, nor an extra change of clothes or shoes, because a worker in the kingdom is worthy of his food and necessities to be provided by others as they labour among them in the Lord. (Matthew 10:9-10; Mark 6:8-9; Luke 9:3; Luke 10:4)

- **Go without money bag, knapsack or sandals and you will lack nothing, for I will provide for you.** The disciples were sent out by Jesus and told not to take anything along with them, but to preach the word and trust their Father to provide for them. We as well, when we preach the gospel in the cities, will be well provided for, for the Father will care for our needs as we are obedient to His commands. (Luke 22:35)
- **When you go into a town, inquire as to who is worthy there, and stay there until you leave that place.** Jesus warns us not to go around from place to place in a city. (Matthew 10:11; Mark 6:10; Luke 9:4; Luke 10:7)
- **Eat and drink whatever you are served without feeling guilty as you preach the gospel there.** In many cultures it is an insult to refuse the food being offered. In order to reach them with the gospel, the disciples had to receive the people they ministered to, including eating their food. They were not to feel guilty about this since the labourer is worthy of his wages. (Luke 10:7-8)
- **Greet the household in the place where you are ministering saying “Peace to this House”.** If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. (Matthew 10:12-13; Luke 10:5-6)
- **Go out to the highways and invite as many as you can find to God’s Kingdom.** The servants obeyed their King and went out and gathered as many as they could find into the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 22:9-10; Luke 14:21-24)
- **Shake off the dust from your feet when leaving as a testimony against those who do not listen** to your words or receive you. Truly it will be more bearable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgement than for that city. (Matthew 10:14-15; Mark 6:11; Luke 9:5; Luke 10:10-12)

Rejoice when Someone Gets Truly Saved and Repents

- **Rejoice when even one sinner repents more than ninety-nine just people who need no repentance.** We need to be like the angels who rejoice when just one person truly repents and is saved. We need to throw a party when people truly come to know the Lord Jesus! (Luke 15:4-7)

Don’t Complain against new believers but support them

- **Don’t get jealous and complain when sinners repent, come into the church and receive My Father’s blessings.** We need to provide loving support to new Christians rather than criticize them, or criticize God Himself for accepting such sinners. Instead, rejoice with them, encouraging them like a good brother or sister in Christ. (Luke 15:11-32)

Christian Leaders are to Protect and Feed the Sheep in the Church

□ **Christian leaders are not to leave the flock (church) when the wolf (false teachers, prophets) comes or else the flock will be scattered.** Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep. However, a hireling (a false minister) does not really care for the flock, and when the wolf attacks, will run away, only wanting to save himself rather than rescue the flock. Then the wolf will catch and scatter the sheep, bringing destruction. The Christian leader is to lay down his life for the flock, dealing with the wolf that has attacked the church, putting them out of the church, so that the flock will once again be safe. (John 10:11-13)

□ **Feed my lambs, tend my sheep and feed my sheep.** Jesus commanded this to Peter following His resurrection. We as believers, are called to minister to Christ's sheep by caring for them, protecting them and feeding them with the Word of God. This is the calling of every true pastor and leader in the Body of Christ – to feed and care for the flock of God under their care. The challenge, however, is to properly discern which people in the church are actually sheep and to tend and feed them with God's Word. (John 21:15-17)

Rest for a While after Ministering to Others

□ **Come aside and rest for a while.** The disciples had faithfully served alongside the Lord Jesus and were ministering going from city to city. Jesus wanted them to rest for a while and spend time with Him to get recharged. We also as believers need to rest up after hard ministry, go to a retreat, if possible, be quiet and get restored by the Lord. (Mark 6:30-31)

17. *Worship and the Church*



Church is not a building but a gathering of believers

□ **Church is not a building made by human hands but a gathering of believers in Jesus' Name.** For where two or three are gathered together in Jesus' name, there He is right in the midst of them. For the first three hundreds years of the churches' existence, believers met in homes and often underground because of persecution. (Matthew 18:20)

Church is to be a Place of Worship

□ **Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.** (Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8)

□ **Worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth,** for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. Those who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit can worship God in their spirits, and they themselves become a temple of the Holy Spirit. When several true believers come together and worship the Father, it is like several temples of the Holy Spirit offering worship to the Father, and it is a glorious experience. Can you imagine how wonderful Heaven will be? (John 4:23-24)

□ **Worship Me as My disciples did on the Mount of Olives.** The disciples who saw the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ worshipped Him. Even doubting Thomas said: "My Lord and My God", worshipping Him. The disciples as well worshipped Him. We, as believers, must worship the Lord Jesus Christ and give Him full honour as Lord and God. Hallelujah! (Matthew 28:17; Luke 24:52)

□ **Worship Me with a loud voice and do not keep quiet.** If we do not worship our Lord Jesus Christ, the very stones will cry out. (Matthew 21:9-11; Mark 11:8-10; Luke 19:37-39; John 12:12-13)

Church is to be a Place where Christians give themselves in sacrifice to God in worship

□ **Be a living sacrifice that is salted (purified and sanctified).** God calls us to daily give up our rights and desires to obey Him alone. We become the sacrifice that is offered up to God. (Mark 9:49; Romans 12:1)

Church is to be a Place of Praise

- **Praise and Bless God for all that He has done.** We are called to be like the apostles, who returned to Jerusalem following Jesus' ascension with great joy, praising and blessing God. (Luke 24:53)
- **Let the little children come and worship Me.** The little children cried out to Jesus: "Hosanna". Out of the mouth of babes and infants God has perfected praise. (Matthew 21:15-16)

Church is to be a Place of Prayer

- **Make church a House of Prayer for all nations.** Christians are to be characterized by prayer and the church is to be a place where prayer is foremost. The church is to be known as a praying people. (Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:45-46)
- **Join with another believer and agree on earth concerning something, and as you ask, it will be done for you by my Heavenly Father.** There is great authority and power in the Name of Jesus as two or more believers pray and agree on something. Jesus promises that it will be done for them by the Father. (Matthew 18:19-20)

Church is to be a Place Where Communion is taken regularly

- **Remember to take communion regularly: Eat the bread, which represents my body, which was broken for you. Drink the cup, which represents my blood of the new covenant, which was shed for you for the remission of sins.** As you take communion, you will remember My death until I come. (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20)

Church is to be a Place Where Tithes and Offerings are given

- **Pay your taxes to Caesar and tithes and give your offerings to God.** Jesus taught us to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. This not only refers to taxes, but also tithes and offerings, which if we do not give, God says in Malachi that we are robbing Him. By this principle all believers are to pay taxes and also to pay their tithes and give offerings to God. (Matthew 22:15-21; Mark 11:13-17)

Church is to be a place of repentant and obedient believers

- **Repent as a church of disobedience and lack of love for Me.** Five out of seven churches in the Book of Revelation had allowed sin into their congregation. To these churches, Jesus commanded them to repent of the following: leaving their first love, following the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (a Gnostic sect allowing its adherents to believe yet live wickedly), tolerating Jezebel, a false prophetess, being spiritually dead and becoming lukewarm in their faith. If Jesus were to speak to today's churches, I believe that He would be commanding many to repent. (Revelation 2-3)

Church is to be a place of Holiness

□ **Be holy as a church, without spot, wrinkle or any other blemish.** The church is called the “Bride of Christ”. Therefore, at a wedding, the bride is dressed in a beautiful spotless wedding gown and taken to the groom for the wedding ceremony. The church, as well, must be free from sin, where believers are lifting up holy hands in prayer, praise and worship. (Ephesians 5:27; 1 Timothy 2:8)

Church is not a Place of Financial Corruption

□ **Do not make My Father’s house a Den of Thieves or a house of merchandise.** The church, or God’s house, must not be a place where people profit by charging huge fees and extort other believers. It seems as though the church has made industries out of the sales of books, CDs and other Christian paraphernalia. We must be careful lest we also become a place of profit, a literal den of thieves, forgetting our God-given mandate of being a place of prayer to becoming a place where huge profits are ‘raked in’. (Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:45-46; John 2:16)

Dealing with sin in the church

□ **If your brother in Christ sins against you, go and tell him his fault just between the two of you.** If he listens to you and repents, then you have your brother back. (Matthew 18:15-17)

□ **If your brother will not listen to you and repent, then take one or two more with you and share the fault with them,** that the matter will be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses and they will take the matter more seriously. (Matthew 18:15-17)

□ **If the offender refuses to hear all three of you and repent, then share the matter with the church** so that the person will get right with God. (Matthew 18:15-17)

□ **If the offender refuses to hear the church’s correction then cut off fellowship with them, seeing them as an unbeliever not as a brother.** Whatever church discipline happens with you in this matter is upheld by God. Now the person is in God’s hands and God can deal with them and either they will be brought to repentance or will be condemned. (Matthew 18:15-17)

Sin is not to be tolerated in the church, but dealt with strongly

□ **Do not tolerate a false prophet or prophetess, but test them first, and if they are found to be false, avoid them and remove them from the church.** We are not to tolerate wicked people in church leadership who mislead the people of God. Instead, we are to examine them spiritually, and if they are not from God, to distance ourselves from them, and church leadership must deal with them firmly so that they may come to repentance. (Revelation 2:2; Revelation 2:20)

18. Sin



Jesus Has Freed You from sin, so you need no longer live in it

□ **Sin no more.** Jesus has called us to walk away from sin (breaking God's law) and no longer sin. He said this to the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda, and to the woman caught in the act of adultery. (John 5:14; John 8:11)

Be Holy for Jesus is Holy and He is in You

□ **Walk with Me in white (in righteousness and holiness) and do not let your garments be defiled.** The Lord Jesus has called us to walk with Him in righteousness and holiness and to run from sin which defiles. We need to pursue righteousness and a close walk with Him. We need to avoid the enemies of His presence in our lives. (Revelation 3:4)

Deal Brutally with Sin in your life

□ **Get rid of anything that causes you to sin.** If your hand, foot or eye causes you to sin, get rid of them. It is better to enter into eternal life missing a hand, foot or eye, rather than go to hell with them. This means that sin is so treacherous that we must do all that we can to get away from it. (Matthew 5:29-30; Matthew 18:8-9; Mark 9:43-48)

Sins to Avoid

Abstaining from certain foods (unless offered to idols)

□ **Eat, for there is no food that you can eat that can defile you spiritually (as long as it is not offered to idols).** Jesus declared all foods clean. We as believers are permitted to eat all foods, except in the case where it is offered to idols, since these foods are given over to demons. We cannot partake of the table of the Lord and demons. (Mark 7:14-15; 1 Corinthians 10:26-28)

Adultery

□ **Flee from evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride and foolishness. These sins come from within and defile a person.** Adultery is sexual involvement with those

who are married. This is breaking the marriage covenant to be faithful to one spouse for life. God hates adultery and so we must flee this devastating sin. (Mark 7:20-23; Luke 6:45)

Anxiety

□ **Do not worry about needs and do not have an anxious mind** saying: “What shall we eat, drink or wear?” For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. (Matthew 6:31-32; Luke 12:29-31)

□ **Do not let your hearts be troubled, but receive My peace which I give to you.** When Jesus said these words, He was soon to be crucified, and all of the disciples were in danger of persecution. However, Jesus comforted them by telling them not to let their hearts be troubled, but to receive His peace within themselves. We as believers must not allow our hearts to be troubled by circumstances, but instead to receive the peace of Jesus. (John 14:27)

Armed Conflict

□ **Put down your weapons (swords, guns, etc.) and do not use them, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.** Jesus is calling for us as believers to follow His teaching of non-violence. We are called to be peacemakers in this world, knowing that God ultimately has power to bring judgment and retribution to His enemies. We are called to protect our families as much as we can, but not to use weapons to seek to bring justice to our enemies. We must leave them in God’s hands, love our enemies and pray for them. (Matthew 26:52; John 18:11)

Backsliding

□ **Do not fail to abide in the Lord Jesus Christ.** People who do not abide in the Lord Jesus Christ will not be saved, but will suffer everlasting punishment. However, those who abide in the Lord Jesus Christ, obeying Him, living in relationship with Him day by day, will live eternally. (John 15:6)

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

□ **Do not blaspheme the Holy Spirit by speaking against Him or attributing evil to Him** or else you will never be forgiven for this sin. (Matthew 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-30)

Coveting other’s Possessions

□ **Beware of Covetousness, for one’s life does not consist of the abundance of their possessions.** In this circumstance, we see a man calling out to Jesus to tell his brother to divide the inheritance with him. However, the Father did not call Jesus to become an arbiter between the two brothers, but Jesus used this as an occasion to teach the crowds using a parable. (Luke 12:13-21)

Deceit

□ **Flee from evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride and foolishness. These sins come from within and defile a person.** (Mark 7:20-23; Luke 6:45)

Evil Thoughts

□ **Flee from evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride and foolishness. These sins come from within and defile a person.** (Mark 7:20-23; Luke 6:45)

Evil Words

□ **Watch what you say for your words can defile you!** Eating with unwashed hands does not defile someone. For it is not what goes into your mouth (Food with its bacteria), but what comes out of your mouth (words which originate in the heart) that defiles people. (Matthew 15:10-20; Mark 7:14-23)

Fear

□ **Do not be afraid, only believe and have faith.** Jesus commanded his disciples several times not to be afraid. When He revealed His divine glory to them the time He walked on water and was transfigured, the disciples were very afraid. They were also afraid when He commanded the wind and the sea to be still. We are not to be afraid when Jesus shows His majesty to us, but rather to stand in awe of Him and worship Him. We must live by faith, not by fear! (Matthew 17:6-7; Mark 4:35-41; Mark 5:36; Mark 6:50; Luke 5:10; Luke 8:50; John 6:20)

Foolishness

□ **Flee from evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride and foolishness. These sins come from within and defile a person.** (Mark 7:20-23; Luke 6:45)

Fornication

□ **Flee from evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride and foolishness. These sins come from within and defile a person.** Jesus warned against the sin of fornication which includes all sexual activity outside of marriage. We as Christians must pursue sexual purity in our thought life, what we watch (including avoiding all pornography), and how we act (not having sexual relationships with anyone outside of marriage). (Mark 7:20-23; Luke 6:45)

Honouring Man with Spiritual Titles

□ **Do not be called or call others “Rabbi”, “Teacher” or “Father” in a spiritual sense.** We have only one Father, our God who is in Heaven, and we have only one Teacher or Rabbi, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 23:8-10)

Hypocrisy

□ **Do not do what the Scribes and Pharisees do,** for they say and do not do. They are hypocrites, binding their followers with heavy man-made laws, without lifting a finger to help them. They work so hard to get disciples to follow them and then make them twice the sons of hell as they are. (Matthew 23:1-4, 15)

□ **Do not appear clean on the outside while inside you are full of evil.** The Pharisees were like whitewashed tombs, appearing so beautiful on the outside, when inside they were full of dead men’s bones (extortion, self-indulgence, hypocrisy and lawlessness). (Matthew 23:25-28; Luke 11:37-40; Luke 11:44)

□ **Do not be like the Scribes and Pharisees, who do their good works to be seen by men.** The Pharisees did everything in order to receive praise from men. They even made their leather scripture boxes wide so that people would see them as pious. They loved the best places at feasts, the best seats at church, to be greeted in the marketplace, and to be called “teacher” by men. They devoured widow’s houses and for a show made long prayers. (Matthew 23:5-7; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 11:43; Luke 20:45-47)

Indifference to others in need

□ **Do not fail to take care of those who are least in the church (least of these My brethren) or else you will be cast into hell.** Those who neglected the least in the church had actually neglected the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. They had failed to obey Jesus’ commands, and were thus unprofitable servants, goats, and were cast into hellfire, which was prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:40-46)

Jealousy

□ **Don’t get jealous and complain when sinners repent, come into the church and receive My Father’s blessings.** We need to provide loving support to new Christians rather than criticize them, or criticize God Himself for accepting such sinners. Instead, we must rejoice with them, encouraging them like a good brother or sister in Christ. (Luke 15:11-32)

Looking at Evil

□ **Watch what you look at, for looking at evil can defile you.** Jesus said that the lamp of the body was the eye. Therefore, our eyes must be fixed on what is righteous and pure, bringing light into our whole lives. However, when our eyes look at what is sinful and dirty, it will bring darkness into our whole lives. We must especially watch what we look at on TV and movies, knowing that we can be defiled by these. (Luke 11:34-36)

Lust

□ **Do not look at a woman to lust** for her in your heart, because in God's eyes, it is equal to adultery with her. Instead, we are to treat younger women as sisters and younger men as brothers with absolute purity. (Matthew 5:27-28; 1 Timothy 5:2)

Lying

□ **Do not lie, for then you will be acting like Satan, the father of lies.** As believers, we are to continually speak the truth, as the Lord Jesus does, and to refuse to speak lies, as does Satan. Jesus spoke the truth to the people, but they were so used to being in the darkness of Satan's lies, that they preferred to live there and rejected Jesus' words. How sad. (John 8:44-45)

Pride

□ **Don't sit down in the best place when you are invited by anyone to a party or reception.** If you do, then someone more important than you may be invited, and you may have to then take the lowest seat in humiliation. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 14:7-11)

□ **Don't exalt yourself, or you will be humbled.** Jesus warns people from trying to exalt themselves before others or before God. If we do, God has a very good way of humbling us. (Luke 14:11; Luke 18:14)

Profiteering in the church

□ **Do not make Church a Den of Thieves.** The church, or God's house, must not be a place where people profit by charging huge fees and extort other believers. It seems as though the church has made industries out of the sales of books, CDs and other Christian paraphernalia. We must be careful lest we also become a place of profit, a literal den of thieves, forgetting our God-given mandate of being a place of prayer to becoming a place where huge profits are raked in. (Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:17)

Religiosity without Relationship with God

□ **Do not make long prayers for show.** The Pharisees prayed for a long time in order to be seen by men as pious, and Jesus forbade this. (Matthew 23:14; Luke 20:47)

□ **Do not only follow the small commandments like tithing while neglecting the greater commandments like justice, mercy and faith.** The Pharisees obeyed the small commandments like tithing (of mint, anise and cumin) to the letter of the law, yet neglected the more important commandments like justice, mercy and faith. This is why Jesus said that they "strain out a gnat, but swallow a camel"; because they were taking care to observe the small commandments, totally neglecting to do the more important commandments. (Matthew 23:23-24; Luke 11:42)

Self-Righteousness

- **Don't compare yourselves to sinners in order to feel better about yourself.** The Pharisee compared himself to other sinners in prayer so that he could feel better about his own sin. We must always watch out that we do not compare ourselves with others, but compare ourselves to God's Holy Standard, the sinless Lord Jesus Christ, fall on our faces and repent, for we have all fallen short of the glory of God. (The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector) (Luke 18:9-14)
- **Make sure that the "light" within you is not actually darkness.** The Pharisees claimed that they could see, but were in fact, spiritually blind. The light which they saw by was not light at all, but really darkness, into which they stumbled. However, they told others that they were walking in light, but were deceived and were in fact walking in darkness, and how great was their darkness, for they were completely ignorant of their blindness. (Luke 11:33-35)

Shame of your faith in Jesus Christ

- **Do not hide the light of your faith in Jesus Christ. Let your light shine before men without being hidden** so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Spiritual Pride

- **Do not deny your sin against God, being blind but claiming to see, but acknowledge your sin, admitting your blindness and receive sight from Me.** Jesus wanted the Pharisees to see their sinful condition before God and to receive mercy for their hypocrisy. However, the Pharisees were blind, but considered themselves to be the most illuminated. As Jesus said: "If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 6:23) This analogy fit the Pharisees completely, who denied their sin before God, being blind, but claiming to see the light. We must see ourselves in truth as we are before a holy God. Either we are justified in God's sight, or we are condemned sinners in need of God's righteousness. (John 9:39-41)

Swearing

- **Do not swear at all by anything.** Simply say: "Yes or No" and keep your word. As well, we as believers are not to use swear words in our communication (for this is the language of hell – and we are citizens of Heaven), but instead to speak only what is good for building others up. (Matthew 5:33-37)

Stealing

- **Flee from evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride and foolishness. These sins come from within and defile a person.** (Mark 7:20-23; Luke 6:45)

Testing God

□ **Do not put the Lord your God to the test.** Do not ask God to do something that would not glorify Him. (Matthew 4:7; Luke 4:12)

Traditionalism

□ **Do not put man-made religious traditions over the commandments of God.** Jesus' disciples didn't wash their hands before they ate, and the religious leaders complained about it to Jesus. They made a doctrine out of their own rules, yet at the same time they were breaking the 5th commandment of God to honour thy father and thy mother. Here they made a tradition, forcing men to obey them, while at the same time disregarding God's commandments. This legalism is great evil in the sight of God, for it puts ungodly men in the place of God, writing their own laws as if they were God. (Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13)

Unbelief in Jesus

□ **Do not fail to believe in Me completely.** We as Christians need to fully believe in Jesus and in everything that He taught about Himself. He is the Son of God. (John 9:35-37) He is the "I AM", JAHWEH, (John 8:58) and God. He is our God and we must worship Him (Matthew 28:17). We must believe that He is the promised Messiah (John 4:25-26) and the Lamb of God to take away our sins (John 1:29). Simply believing that He was a prophet is not enough. We must believe in Him fully or else we will die in our sins. (John 8:24)

Worrying

□ **Do not worry about your life** (what you will eat, drink) nor about your body (what you will put on). For life is more than food and clothing. Look at how your Heavenly Father feeds the birds, who do not sow, reap or store away in barns. By worrying, you cannot even add a foot and a half to your height, so why do you worry about clothing? Look at how your Heavenly Father clothes the lilies of the field. They do not toil or spin, and yet not even Solomon was as beautiful as them. If God takes care of the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is used as fuel, won't He much more take care of His children, even if they have so little faith? (Matthew 6:25-30)

□ **Do not worry about tomorrow**, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient to the day is its own trouble. (Matthew 6:34)

□ **Do not be worried and troubled about many things**, like Martha of Bethany, who was so concerned with serving the food, that she neglected spending time with Jesus. (Luke 10:38-42)

19. Money and Possessions



Seek first God's Kingdom

- **Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness** and all these things (your needs) shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33; Luke 12:31)

Be faithful in your use of money and possessions, using them for My Kingdom

- **Be faithful in the little things and you also will be faithful in the big things.** However, if you are unjust with little you will also be unjust in much. We are called by Jesus to be faithful with the very little tasks that He gives us to do. If we are, then we show Him that we can be counted on for greater things. However, if we are dishonest in the little things, we show Him that we will also be dishonest in the big things as well. Let's be faithful in scrubbing the toilets in the church and in the menial tasks, and God will put us in charge of greater things in His time. (Luke 16:10)
- **Be faithful in what is another's and I will entrust you with your own.** The principle that Jesus is teaching us here is that we are to be faithful servants in regards to money and material possessions, and if we are, this same faithfulness transfers itself over to matters of the Kingdom. We will also be faithful in the true riches. The opposite is also true. If we are unfaithful in regards to money and material wealth, then who will put in our trust the true riches? (Luke 16:10-12)

Do not be a servant of money

- **Do not be a servant of mammon (money and material wealth),** but serve God, for a servant cannot have two masters. Either he will hate the one and be devoted to the other, or else he will love the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (Luke 16:13)

Be rich towards God

- **Be rich towards God rather than laying up treasure for yourself.** Jesus is calling us not to gather up material wealth in this life, but rather to obey Him, storing up treasure that cannot be corrupted in Heaven. (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21)

Do not hoard or store up things for yourself

□ **Do not store up treasures on earth for yourself**, where it can be stolen and corroded. Instead, store up treasures in Heaven for yourself, where it cannot be stolen, corroded or destroyed. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Serve God, not material wealth. (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21)

Sell your possessions, get the money, and give it to the poor

□ **Sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have riches in Heaven.** Jesus called the Rich Young Ruler to do this and to follow Him. However, He is calling us to do the same. In many rich nations, there is so much clutter that is accumulated in every home. Jesus said: "Do not store up treasure on earth....but store up treasure in Heaven." What would happen if we asked around for a family in need, sold those things which we do not use, getting the money from that sale, and give it to that family in secret? That item that was collecting dust now has become treasure in Heaven. Wow! This principle is powerful! (Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-27)

Use money and material wealth to make friends

□ **Make friends using money and material possessions (unrighteous mammon) by giving it away**, so that if it fails (for instance if you are persecuted) you will be received into their homes. We as Christians are to use money for the purposes of the Kingdom of God. By giving it to others, their hearts will open towards us. We are not seen as TV preachers begging for money. Instead, we give away our possessions and money in order to strengthen our relationships with others, in hopes of being an example to them, but also if trials come to us, hopefully we will be able to receive help from them too. (Luke 16:1-9)

Give to the Government and to God

□ **Pay your taxes and tithes and give your offerings.** Jesus taught us to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. This not only refers to taxes, but also tithes and offerings, which if we do not give, God says in Malachi that we are robbing Him. By this principle all believers are to pay taxes and also to pay their tithes and give offerings to God. (Matthew 22:15-21; Mark 11:13-17)

20. Persecution



Jesus came to bring a separation between people of the light and darkness

□ **Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth.** Jesus did not come to bring peace, but a sword of conflict, dividing man against father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter in law against her mother in law, and a man's enemies will be those of his own household. Satan hates the godly since they will live in the presence of God for eternity while he rots in hell. He then incites his people to oppose God's people and to persecute them. (Matthew 10:34-36; Luke 12:51-53)

If Jesus was Persecuted then so will His followers be Persecuted

□ **Remember that a servant is not above his Master: If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you – all because they have not known the Father.** We must not think that because we are living 2000 years after Jesus that we should not be persecuted for our faith in Christ. If they persecuted Jesus Christ, then they will also persecute us, His followers. Persecution is a necessary part of the Christian faith, for we are following in the footsteps of the Master. People persecute Christians because they do not really know God relationally at all. (John 15:20-21)

Persecution is Necessary for all Godly

□ **Be persecuted for righteousness sake, for yours is the kingdom of Heaven.** The Bible also teaches that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. It is the mark of true believers to be persecuted by the wicked for their righteousness. (Matthew 5:10; 2 Timothy 3:12)

Do not Fear Your Persecutors but Beware of Them

□ **Do not fear your persecutors,** for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. (Matthew 10:26)

□ **Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.** Instead we are to fear God, who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

□ **Beware of men,** for persecutors will deliver you up to the councils, courts, governors and kings for Jesus' sake, to testify to them and to the gentiles. (Matthew 10:17-18)

Do not Fear Persecution

□ **Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer, for the devil may even throw you into prison that you may be tested.** Jesus commands us not to be afraid of our persecutors or afraid of things that may happen to us when we are apprehended by them. Jesus will strengthen us to go through any trial that may befall us. (Revelation 2:10)

Permit People to Persecute You

□ **Do not resist an evil person.** If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If they want to take something of yours, give them even more than they ask. If they force you to go one mile, then go with him another mile. (Matthew 5:38-41; Luke 6:29)

□ **Permit even this.** The disciples asked Jesus if they should strike with the sword, then headlong Peter struck the servant, cutting off his right ear. Jesus told them that they were to permit Him to be arrested and taken away without resisting them. Jesus taught non-resistance towards our enemies. We also need to permit when we are mistreated and persecuted, since Jesus taught us to do this and even gave us this example. (Luke 22:49-51)

Don't premeditate about how you will answer your Persecutors

□ **Do not worry about how or what to say when you stand before those who persecute you.** It will be given to you in that hour what you should speak, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Heavenly Father speaking in you. (Matthew 10:19-20)

Rejoice and Have Peace when Persecuted

□ **Be overjoyed when you are reviled and persecuted for My sake** and when men say all manner of evil against you falsely for His sake. You are also blessed if you are hated, excluded, reviled and your name cast out as evil for the sake of Jesus Christ, for great is your reward in Heaven. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy. (Matthew 5:11-12; Luke 6:20-23)

□ **Be of good cheer and have peace, for though in this world you will have tribulation, you must realize that I have overcome the world.** We need to rejoice and have peace within ourselves because the Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the world. Jesus has defeated all of the powers of the evil one. However, because we are on the Victor's side, we will be subjected to tribulation under this world's system, over which presides "the god of this world": namely, Satan. He will do all he can to try and stop the gospel and God's true people. He invents strategies against the church to hinder it and to discourage believers. However, Jesus has overcome him completely and we have overcome him because we are abiding in Christ. Hallelujah! (John 16:33)

Flee Persecution from one place to another

□ **When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another.** The cities of Israel will not have been completely reached with the gospel when the Lord Jesus returns. (Matthew 10:23)

Shake the Dust from Your Feet when you are rejected

□ **Shake off the dust from your feet when leaving as a testimony against those who do not listen** to your words or receive you. Truly it will be more bearable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgement than for that city. (Matthew 10:14-15; Mark 6:11; Luke 9:5; Luke 10:10-12)

Persevere and remain faithful to the Lord Jesus through Persecution

□ **Persevere in the difficult times.** As believers we must persevere in challenging circumstances, continue to be faithful even when we are experiencing a spiritual drought. It is that perseverance that pleases the Lord; that is why the Lord commands it. (Revelation 3:10)

□ **Do not deny Me, but hold fast to My Name, even when you are severely persecuted.** The church in Pergamos remained faithful to the Lord even when there was a man who was martyred among them. We also need to continue faithful to the Lord during persecution and not to deny the Lord Jesus, even if we are subjected to persecution and torture. The beautiful presence of the Lord will be with us when we suffer for His Name's sake. (Revelation 2:13)

□ **Continue with Me in trials for My Name's sake, and I will bless you.** Those who suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and because of their testimony of him will be blessed in the life to come. (Luke 22:28-30)

21. The Last Days and Second Coming of Jesus Christ



The Last Days

Beware of Deception that will come against Believers

□ **Beware that no one deceives you as a believer.** Many will come in Jesus' Name, saying: "I am the Christ" and will deceive many. (Matthew 24:5; Mark 13:5-6; Luke 21:7-8)

Beware of False Christs and False Prophets

□ **Beware of false Christs and False Prophets who will show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the Elect.** (Matthew 24:24)

□ **Do not believe the false prophets who are coming for they will deceive many.** (Matthew 24:11; Mark 13:21-23; Luke 21:8)

□ **Do not believe anyone who says: "Look, here is the Christ".** (Matthew 24:23; Mark 13:21-23; Luke 17:22-24)

□ **Do not go out or believe if anyone says: "Look, the Christ is in the desert" or "Look, the Christ is in the inner rooms".** Perhaps Jesus foretold the coming of Islam, where the spiritual leader, Mohammed, was from the desert and the secret societies, or mystery schools, where the worshipful master is in the inner rooms. However, the coming of Jesus will be so noticeable that it will be like lightning that flashes from one end of the sky to the next. (Matthew 24:26)

The Last Days will be a time of wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes and persecution of believers

□ **Do not be troubled when you hear of terrible things taking place on the earth.** There will be wars and rumours of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places. Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. These must occur before the second coming of Jesus Christ, but the end is still to come. (Matthew 24:6; Mark 13:7-8; Luke 21:9-11)

The Last Days will be a time of lawlessness

- **Do not let your love for Me grow cold when lawlessness abounds.** (Matthew 24:12)

The Last Days will be a time when Believers will be Hated by all Nations

- **Do not be troubled when you are hated by all nations for my Name's sake.** Jesus told us that not only would we not be popular, but we would be hated for our beliefs in Jesus Christ and mocked for our faith by all nations. (Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:13; Luke 21:17)

Endure Persecution in the Last Days

- **Do not be troubled when men deliver you up to tribulation and kill you.** (Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:9; Luke 21:12)
- **When you are imprisoned, executed and hated by all nations for my Name's sake, do not become offended by this nor betray or hate your brother.** (Matthew 24:9-10; Mark 13:12; Luke 21:16)
- **Do not worry about what to say to those who interrogate you,** for the Holy Spirit will speak through you, giving you wisdom and words that your persecutors will not be able to contradict or resist. When Jesus' followers were delivered up to councils, they needed only to rely on the Holy Spirit to speak through them. (Mark 13:11; Luke 21:12-15)
- **Be obedient to me until the very end of your life, for if I return and find you obeying Me, I will reward you.** (Matthew 24:45-47; Luke 12:35-38; Luke 12:42-44)
- **Endure to the end of your life following Me and you shall be saved.** Only those who continue in Christ, not departing from Him, but maintaining the faith until the end, will be saved. (Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13)

Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the Entire World in the Last Days

- **Preach the gospel of the kingdom in the entire world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come.** (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10)

Be obedient in the Last Days, knowing that I can come at any time

- **Watch (being obedient), for you do not know at what hour your Lord is coming.** We must be ready, for the Lord Jesus Christ will return at a time where people are all going about their business, getting married, and eating and drinking. It is like the days of Noah, or the days of Lot, where the people of their day were eating, drinking, marrying, buying, planting and building, then the floods came and the fire fell and they were all destroyed. Like a Master who returns home from a wedding, the servants must be ready to open the door for him when He returns. (Matthew 24:36-44; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 12:35-38; Luke 12:42-44; Luke 17:26-30; Revelation 3:2; Revelation 16:15)

□ **Watch therefore and be ready, for you do not know the day or the hour in which I, the Son of Man, am coming.** No one knows the day or the hour, which is why we must be obedient to Him and ready at any time to meet Him for eternity. (Matthew 25:13; Luke 12:39-40; Luke 21:36)

The Second Coming of Christ

The Wrath of God will be Poured out on Sinners

□ **Do not be disobedient (abusing your fellow brothers and eating and drinking with the drunkards) for I will return at an hour you are unaware of and give you a place with the hypocrites in hell.** (Matthew 24:48-51; Luke 12:45-46; Luke 21:34-35)

□ **On the day that I return, do not go into the house to get your possessions. If you are in the field, do not return to your house. Escape with your life. Lift up your heads for your salvation draws nigh.** The return of the Lord is going to be a beautiful day for God's people, but a terrible day for false Christians and unbelievers. Christians should stand still where they are and look up, not caring about their possessions or anything else but to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ. (Luke 17:31; Luke 21:25-28)

God will rapture the Saints and deliver them from His Wrath

□ **Remember Lot's wife when I return for whoever seeks to save His life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.** Lot, his wife and two daughters were fleeing the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and fire and brimstone were falling on it. The angels warned Lot's family not to look back at the cities that were being condemned by God. However, Lot's wife looked back towards the cities and turned into a pillar of salt. She longed for her life and comforts in Sodom and Gomorrah and was upset that it was being destroyed. We, as Christians, when our Lord Jesus returns, are not even to think about earthly possessions but to set our eyes upon Jesus and our hearts on being with Him. (Luke 17:32-33)

□ **When I return, I will take up my own people (like Noah and Lot), leaving the wicked to come under My judgement and wrath.** When Jesus returns, one will be taken and the other left. Two people will be in bed, one will be taken and the other left. Two people will be in the field or grinding grain, one will be taken and the other left. The believer will be taken, and the unbeliever will be left to fall under God's wrath and death, just as Noah and Lot escaped destruction while those around them perished who could not evade God's terrible wrath. (Luke 17:34-37)

Stay faithful to Jesus Christ until He returns again

□ **Hold fast what you have till I come.** The church in Thyatira had served the Lord well in many ways, yet had tolerated a false prophetess in the church and allowed false teaching to spread like cancer. However, to those who did not participate in this evil, Jesus called them to hold fast what they had (their faith and obedience) till He comes again. We are called by Jesus to hold tightly our faith and obedience to Him until we die or until He comes again. (Revelation 2:25)