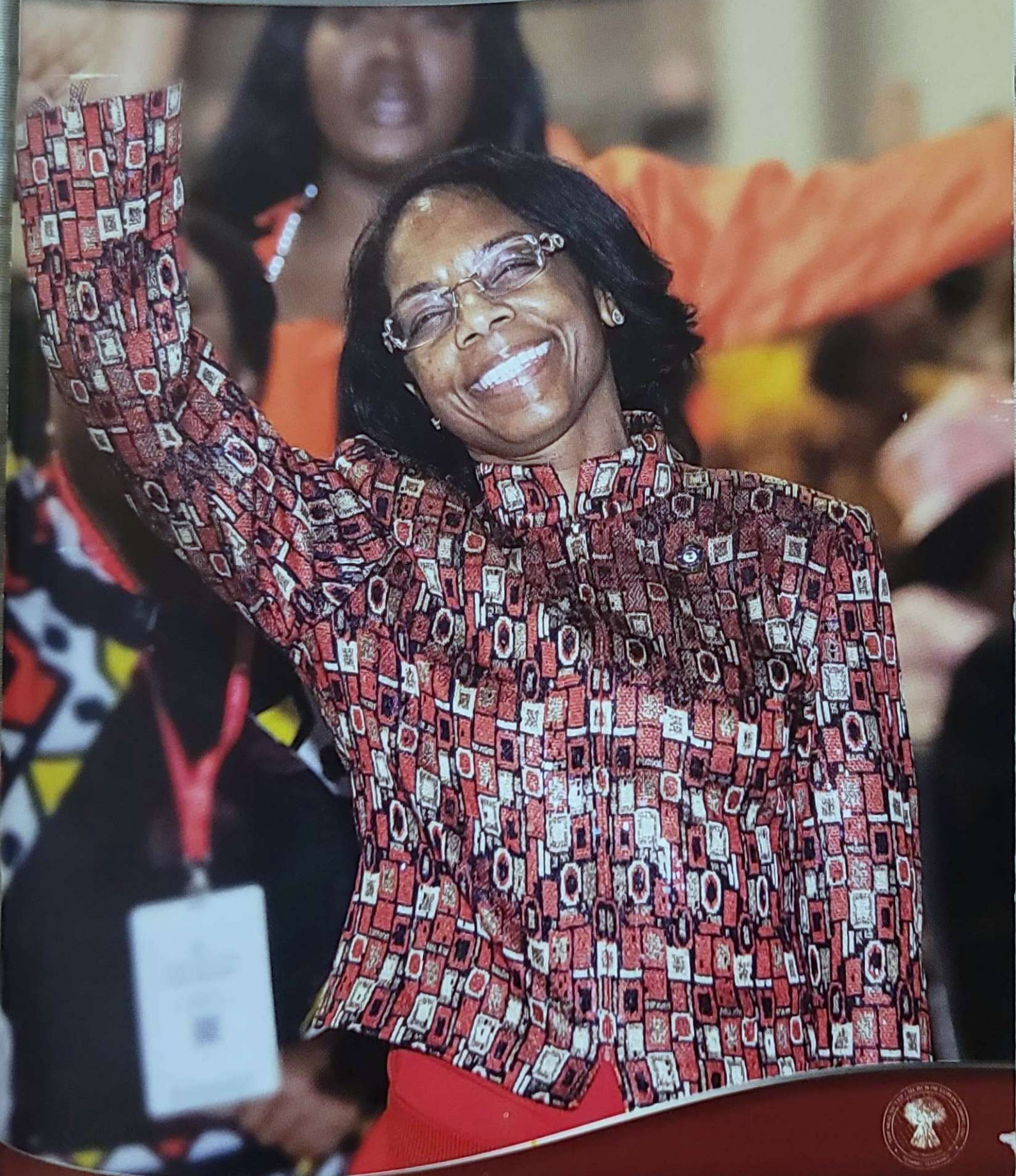


SPRING QUARTER 2024 | MARCH • APRIL • MAY

PRAYER & BIBLE BAND TOPICS  
CHRISTIAN CONCEPTS FOR  
GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT





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## Contributing Writers

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## THE GUIDE FOR WEEKLY BIBLE BAND MEETINGS

For weekly Bible Band meetings, the President should plan each meeting one week in advance.

- Secure a leader for devotion who will make preparations.
- Meetings should never last longer than two hours; however, let the Spirit of God lead.
- Appoint a different spiritually-minded individual for the leader of the devotional service.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

- Call to Order (by the President)
- Singing
- Prayer
- Scripture Devotional Reading
- A Five Minute Talk (on the devotion by the leader)
- President's Remarks
- President presents the teacher
- Announcements and Remarks
- Singing
- Benediction

# THE JOY OF SERVING



## Background Reading

Luke 17:7-10; Colossians  
3:22-25; Philippians 2:1-8;  
Mark 10:42-45

## Devotional Reading

Ephesians 6:5-9



## Central Verse

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

Galatians 5:13, KJV

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.”

Galatians 5:13, NLT

## Key Terms

**Grumpy**—Moodily cross: irritably sullen and churlish in mood or manner.

**Opportunist**—One who takes advantage of opportunities as they arise: such as exploiting opportunities with little regard to principle or consequences.

## Introduction

Jesus told His disciples that if they wanted to be great, they must become servants. A servant is someone who performs duties for others, especially a person employed in a house or one who does domestic duties or as a personal attendant.

People who are in this occupation are interacting constantly with people and should have a love, a major of understanding as well as wisdom as they strive to serve with joy. A person must be very miserable working as a servant and hate serving the people they serve.

This creates many kinds of problems when a person is in a strain trying to serve someone, he has no love or care for. A believer should try to find joy



in everything that he does, for it is a privilege to serve God's people in whatever way that he can.

## Discussion

There are many areas that believers can serve in Our Lord's Church. Serving as an usher of the Church is the first influence that a visitor meets when he visits a new church. The usher is a server and a silent evangelist of the Church. If he or she is warm and friendly, chances are that the visitor will return when he has an opportunity, but if he is grumpy, mean, and short tempered, this can change a person's mind and cause them to never desire to return. It is important for the believer to remember that he is serving because he chooses to serve, and this obligates him to serve with joy.

If a server in a restaurant is happy, friendly, and attentive, chances are that he or she will receive a wonderful tip. Their attitude works in their favor. Many times, because of the attitude of the servers, most people choose to come back to that place of business.

Giving time should be a happy time in our Churches, for when a believer gives his finance, he is giving his service to the ministry that he is a part of. Also, it's not just his finances that his Church wants and needs, it is his time, his talents, and skills, it's his love and his prayers that are so necessary for the well-being of that ministry. His giving or his service is an indicator of his love, faith, and trust in his Master.

If you are a server, serve with joy, FOR THE JOY OF THE Lord gives strength. Be like Mary, Martha, and Lazarus whom Jesus loved. He loved visiting their home, and they loved serving him. Jesus knew that when He went to Bethany, He was going to be served. Happy servers create a pleasant atmosphere and make people want to stay around.

Jesus told His disciples that if they want to be great, become a servant. The server has exposure to all the people of the house, the Master, and his visitors. The server is the one that people see, for he is the one who goes in and out as he serves. So many times, there are no named persons, who becomes a household name because of their willingness to serve. When he becomes a household name, he is not yet greater than his leader and being a servant demands that he remains subject to his master.



Jesus held one of the highest positions, for He was the Son of God, but He became a servant so that He could redeem the sinners back to His father. The word says that He thought it not robbery, to be equal with God, but He became obedient, even to the death of the cross.

Paul admonishes the believers to be obedient to their masters with love and respect, with your mind made up to be a good servant, not just when He or others are watching you, but as a committed follower of Christ, focusing on being in the will of God, being a blessing to someone else, realizing that you will reap what you sow. There are no special thanks for a servant doing his job, for he is doing what is expected of him. Usually, he is happy knowing that God blessed him to get his job done successfully.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus and told Him that they wanted Him to do something for them. Jesus asked them what it was, so that He could make arrangement for them to do it. They told Jesus to arrange it so that they could be awarded the highest places of honor in His glory, one on His right and one on His left. Jesus asked them did they really know what they were asking for. He let them know that even their being with Him serving Him daily, they were not prepared to go through what He would have to go through. They felt that they were ready to drink any cup that He drank and endured any baptism that He endured. Then Jesus told them that that was exactly what they would have to endure because they were close to Him. But Jesus let them know that awarding places of honor was not up to Him, that was up to God. It seemed like James and John were opportunists, seeking the high seats. God wants believers to serve with the right motives.

## Conclusion

The other disciples were not happy when they heard of James and John's request, in fact, they lost their tempers until Jesus calmed them down. Jesus reminded them how godless rulers threw their weight around because a little power had gone to their heads. He let them know that it was not going to be like that in the kingdom, for if they wanted to be great in His kingdom, then they must become servants, and whoever wanted to be first, must become a slave.

Jesus made His disciples aware that He, the Son of Man, came to serve, not to be served. So, believers learn to be servants and learn to serve with



joy. Serving in our Lord's Church with a pleasant spirit should give the server his greatest joy.

## Questions

1. What are some of the advantages of a servant serving with joy?
2. Why should serving bring the believer joy?
3. Which disciples want special seating in the kingdom?

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## Essential Thought

Serving with joy puts the server in the spotlight.



# LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE



## Background Reading

Isaiah 9:2; Matthew 4:16; 5:14;  
John 3:19-21; 15:19-20; 2 Cor-  
inthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:14

## Devotional Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:2-11



## Central Verse

“Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father which is in  
heaven.”

Matthew 5:16, KJV

“In the same way, let your good  
deeds shine out for all to see, so that  
everyone will praise your heavenly  
Father.”

Matthew 5:16, NLT

## Key Terms

**Permeate**—To diffuse through or penetrate something: to spread through-  
out.

**Shine**—To emit rays of light: to give light.

**Darkness**—The quality or state of being dark: such as the total or near total  
absence of light: a lack of knowledge or enlightenment.

## Introduction

The world was in darkness and had been since the fall of Adam and Eve. Satan reigned on the earth and caused it to be a sad dark world without light. Then God allowed Jesus, who was with God from the beginning to come to mankind. He broke the chains of sin and brought light to those who were in darkness emotionally, spiritually, as well as physically. Isaiah prophesied, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 5:2). God brought us out of darkness and put us into the kingdom of His Son and we became light, we now walk in the light. Jesus told the believers that they were the light of this world (Matthew 5:14). So, it became the responsibility of every believer to make sure that his light is on and is shining in all the dark places in this world.



Jesus has been shining His light in the world since time began, and He shines bright even during the darkest times in a person's life. The believer must join Him and be a light in this dark world, where Satan reigns. The word says that men love darkness more than light because their deeds are evil. But when a believer lets his light shine, men can see his good works and glorify the Father which is in heaven.

## Discussion

At night when the darkness comes, all kinds of critters come out that you rarely see during the day, because they do not like the light. The light exposes so many things that relate to darkness. It seems to be colder at night because there is no sun shining to give heat. More crime is reported to be committed at night because men can hide in darkness. But when the light of the word comes it exposes the devil and all his works. For the Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

If a man does not have the light inside of him, if he doesn't have a relationship with the Light of the world, it is hard for him to be a light in this dark world. The world should know that the believers are here to represent Jesus every place they go. The church is a community of redeemed image-bearers who are united by the Holy Spirit and modeled after the life of Christ. When Jesus Christ saves the believers, they become His body. In this body, the believers learn together how to live in and reflect the light of God into this world. As a reflection of Jesus Christ, they must shine as He shone while He was in this world. He is no longer the visible light that men see, but they see the believers who are now an image of Jesus the light of the world. And then the believers reflect the light of God into the world.

Therefore, the believer must let his gifts, talents and abilities shine in the workplace, in their business, in the government, in his community, in his family, and in everything that he sets his hands to do. He must allow his life to bring attention to the King who brings healing, restoration, unity, peace, and hope to a world that is in darkness and desperate for light. They need someone who has the love of Jesus to show them the way to a better life. For Jesus has encouraged every believer to let his light shine so men might see it.

Light is the opposite of darkness, so if a person wants to get rid of darkness, he must bring in light. On their own, sinners cannot bring forth light,



for they are not connected to the light. Light brings warmth, it illuminates and provides growth in this world, so the believer must add to the world that he is a part of in a positive way. The believer's light should permeate into every crack and crevice in the lives of the people that he encounters every day of his life. Knowing the value of light, ought to motivate the believers to be more diligent about letting his light shine, so men can see his good works and glorify the Father.

Before Jesus came, the majority of people were in darkness, they had no one or nothing to motivate them to do good works. But when the light came it gave them the strength, the power, and the know-how to walk in the light. Things that seemed to have no beauty became beautiful with the light shining on them. Jesus commands the believers not to hide their light under a bushel, but to let their light be seen. The world needs to see the believer as a beacon of hope and of light that draws people to Christ and His Church.

## Conclusion

The world ought to see the believer doing the things of light and righteousness. This world should see the believer walking, talking, and giving what he is supposed to give, because we should be seen giving. Though the believer does not give to be seen. He is light because he's had a chance to let it happen to his life. It makes him like a town that is situated on a hill and there is no way it can be missed.

So, as the light of the world, the believer must do good deeds and he must expose darkness. It is necessary that believers keep their lights burning so this world can see.

## Questions

1. Why did Jesus tell his disciples that they are the light of the world?
  2. What is the purpose of light?
  3. How does light help those in darkness?
  4. Why do people love darkness?
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## Essential thought

A light on a hill cannot be missed because it is lifted.



# YOUR MINISTRY MATTERS



## Background Reading

2 Corinthians 4:1-5; Acts 6:2-8; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; 2 Timothy 4:3-5; Ephesians 4:11-15

## Devotional Reading

Romans 12:4-8



## Central Verse

“Giving no offense in anything that the ministry be not blamed.”

2 Corinthians 6:3, KJV

“We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry.”

2 Corinthians 6:3, NLT

## Key Terms

**Discredited**—To have a good reputation destroyed: to have the lack or loss of belief or confidence.

**Recognition**—Knowledge or feeling that someone or something present has been encountered before: acknowledgment of something done or given.

**Ministry**—The action of performing religious ceremonies in church services: the act of giving aide to or serving.

## Introduction

The ministry of the Church of Jesus is always important. Every soul is important to God for He made every man and every human in His image. The people of God are fearfully and wonderfully made. God has saved and called the believers to a Holy life that will give glory to His kingdom and His name. He has a purpose for every person who has a ministry, for every ministry helps build the Body of Christ. He put what is called the five-fold ministry in the church to perfect the church. He gave some, Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, which each has their own functions, but are all vital to the growth and wellbeing of the church.



Every believer must be willing to yield himself to Jesus Christ and be willing to obey His commands. Psalm one hundred fifteen and twelve tells the believers that they are so important to God that He has them on His mind. Because they are on His mind, He will bless them and their houses.

## Discussion

With so much going on in our personal lives and in the world around us, the enemy will make believers feel that they really don't matter to God, the Pastors nor to others as well as to the Church. When one member of the Church hurts or is in trouble, God is concerned. He told Peter to tell the Church that they could cast all their cares upon Him because each person matters to Him (1 Peter 5:7). His word says that there is more rejoicing in heaven when one person comes to Him than ninety-nine saved persons. God cares so much that He doesn't want anyone to perish. (2 Peter 3:9). He sent His love to us, the believers, while we were yet in the sin business. For He sent not His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:17).

The word lets believers know that Jesus is the only beloved Son of God, (Matthews 3:17) but, because they matter to Him, He accepted them, the believers, into His beloved (Ephesians 1:6).

Sometimes, because a person doesn't always have what they think others may have to give and to do, they choose to do nothing. But they should be like the widow who only had one penny to give. She happily marched to the table with all the other church members and put her penny on the table. That was all she had, and she gave it willingly because she knew that she mattered.

The Samaritan woman mattered to Jesus, so He went out of His way to meet her at the well. Jesus did not allow the feud between the Jews and the Samaritans to stop Him from going to the well to meet her. This woman had violated so many religious laws, but Jesus was interested in her well-being. We may not have gotten everything right, but we matter to Jesus. She may not have mattered to the disciples, nor the people in her town, but she mattered to Jesus. Her name was not recorded nor called, but she mattered to Jesus (John 4:7-30).

Jesus saw her value even though society had counted her out. After one conversation with Jesus, she was able to witness to a city and caused a



great number of people to come and their lives were changed. Jesus knows your worth to Him and His kingdom when others see nothing worthwhile, because you matter to Him.

Remember when this world and the people of the world try to make you feel worthless remind them that God loved you enough that He sent His son into the world that each one can be saved. So, whatever Ministry you have been called into, do it to the glory of God, for it is important to Him. Ask God to help when there are insecurities in your spirit about your ministry, and he will. Each believer must know that he is doing the will of God for his life and not compare his ministry to others, unless he is trying to better himself by gaining something helpful that will work in his ministry. God does not want copy-cat ministries. He has enough work for everyone who will go into His vineyard and work.

Learn to be thankful for the ministry that God has given you and do it to the full extent of your ability and do it to the glory of God.

### **Conclusion**

Paul encouraged the young evangelist Timothy to make full proof of his ministry, to do the work of an Evangelist, and do what God had called him to do. Don't try to do a job that God had not called him to, but make sure that he was abiding within his calling. So many times, because believers don't feel that their ministry is important, they will try to do someone else's job and make a wreck of things in their lives. They see the success of others and want to be like them. That might be fine, but each successful person has paid a price for their success. You must develop your ministry through fasting and praying and developing a relationship with Jesus for yourself. And if you never receive recognition for your ministry gift, remember that God has His eyes on you. And if you continue doing your ministry, God will allow you to reap in your season here on earth, and great rewards in the world to come. The greatest reward is everlasting life.

### **Questions**

1. What should every believer base his ministry on?
2. Why is it important that you continue in your ministry even when no one gives you recognition?
3. What advice did Paul give to Timothy?



## Essential Thought

Never measure your ministry based on someone else's ministry,  
but treasure your own.



# YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN



## Background Reading

Psalm 128:2; Proverbs 14:23;  
Colossians 3:23-24; Matthew  
11:28;

## Devotional Reading

1 Corinthians 15:57-58;  
Matthew 20:1-16



## Central Verse

“Two are better than one because  
they have a good reward for their la-  
bor.”  
Ecclesiastes 4:9, KJV

“Two people are better off than one,  
for they can help each other suc-  
ceed.”  
Ecclesiastes 4:9, NLT

## Key Terms

**Murmur**—A half-suppressed or muttered complaint.

**Labor**—Expenditure of physical or mental effort especially when difficult or compulsory: to strive to effect or achieve.

**Vain**—Marked by futility or ineffectualness: having or being of no use.

## Introduction

From the beginning of the first chapter of the Bible, we hear about God working. He created a world, animals, and man and He was pleased with what He had done. He placed man in the Garden of Eden and gave him instructions on how to work and keep His world. Working and laboring have always been required of mankind since his fall from grace.

But when men labor and work, they want to know what they will get from working. There is nothing wrong with that, for Jesus said the Kingdom of heaven is like unto a householder who went early in the morning to hire laborers for a penny a day. And he made an agreement to pay the worker a penny a day, and he sent him to his vineyard to work. Most of the day he found workers standing idle and he made agreements with them and sent them to work in his vineyard. At the eleventh hour he also found men standing idle, he asked them, why were they not working? And they answered that no one had hired them. He then sent these workers to his vineyard to work also.



At the end of the day, he began to pay them, by giving them each a penny. Some felt that they should have gotten more so they murmured and complained to the householder. He reminded them that he had made an agreement with each one of them and he paid what he had agreed to pay. Every believer can be assured that if he works, God is going to reward each according to what He has agreed to pay.

## Discussion

Sometimes the believers give God their resources, their time, skills, their talents and their money and it seems like it is all in vain. But God's word assures the believer that he is not wasting his time nor is his labor in vain. The word of the Lord tells the believer, "And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9.

We don't always know when the due season will come but we know that it will come because God's word says so. God cannot lie (Numbers 23:19). His word tells the believer that he must be patient after he has obeyed and done God's will, that there will be a reward (Hebrews 10:36.) God is concerned about every aspect of a believer's life, and He will not allow the believer to do more for His work than what He will do for the believer. God lets the believers know that when they sow sparingly, they shall reap sparingly but the person who sows bountifully shall reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6). So, it is important that every believer love God, His Church, God's people and sow seeds of support with his time his talents, skills, and his money.

God loves the person who is cheerful in his giving. He blesses the ones who obey Him and willingly gives his tithe and his offerings. For the greater the sacrifice, the greater the blessings. The believer's lives are like gardens, but it takes time, effort, and resources. Most people who love to garden enjoy what they are doing, but know that after they sow the seed, they must wait for the sun and the rain to come and do their job.

He does not always know how things are going to work out, but he believes that his garden will yield fruit from the seeds that he has planted. So, each believer should enjoy sowing good seeds into good ground for he knows that his garden will yield good fruit or produce. When he knows that it is the season to sow, he is satisfied that God will give a great increase.

Remember "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards



Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9). God has promised to supply all of your needs according to His riches in Glory. So, of course, your labor is not in vain. Whatever you desire from God ask and do not doubt, God will give you what you ask Him for (Mark 11:23-24).

Believers must work until the day is done, as long as a person is able, he should be found working. Paul said, if a man doesn't work, he should not eat, stressing how important a man's labor is. Because if a man does not eat after a certain length of time, he will die.

## Conclusion

There are times when the believer has worked, without encouragement, without recognition, no pay or honorarium. He must allow the word of God to encourage him and resist every negative thought that comes into his mind. He will have to press on, knowing that he is working for his Master. Sometimes it can be painful just to think that it seems like you are forgotten or overlooked but push through the pain and continue to fulfil your purpose. Learn to resist those thoughts and those feelings, learn to speak to yourself, reminding yourself about what God has promised to you. When you trust and obey Him, and then praise God for the victory.

## Questions

1. When negative thoughts come to you about your labor, what are you going to do?
2. How can God's word help when you are in doubt?
3. How can a person know that his labor is not in vain?
4. Why did some of the men who went to work in the vineyard murmur and complain?

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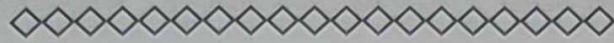
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## Essential Thought

When the believer feels that his work is in vain, he must learn to trust God's word and not his feelings.



# THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM



## Background Reading

Psalm 111:10; Proverbs  
2:7; 3:13; 4:5-7; 8:11; 9:11;  
James 1:5; 3:15-17;  
Colossians 3:16; 4:5

## Devotional Reading

Proverbs 2:6-7



## Central Verse

“But ye are in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”

1 Corinthians 1:30, KJV

“God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.”

1 Corinthians 1:30, NLT

## Key Terms

**Principal thing**—The most important matter or concern.

**Decline**—To refuse to undertake, undergo, engage in, or comply with.

**Perspective**—A mental view or prospect: the power to understand things in their true relationship to each other.

## Introduction

Wisdom is the quality of having experience, knowledge and good judgment, the quality of being wise. It is the ability to act productively using knowledge, experience, understanding and good old common sense. Many believers were raised in Christian homes where their parents were God-fearing and had godly principles and integrity. They taught their children good practical things and their children received good common sense about many things. But later found out that what they called “common sense” was not always common, because some people just don’t have it. So, when a person doesn’t have wisdom to discern good from evil, bad from good, he needs to go to God and ask Him for wisdom, because he will need wisdom



on this life's journey. Life will be very miserable for someone who has no wisdom to help them navigate through life. God wants His children to ask Him for wisdom for He said that He has sound wisdom laid up for the righteous. (Proverbs 2:7).

## Discussion

Wisdom is very necessary to have in this life's journey and it's available to all who really want it. Spiritual wisdom is God's way of overseeing the twists and turns of navigating the journey of life. The scripture challenges every believer to seek wisdom above all things, for the believer needs to know why's it's important and how to develop it. The book of Proverbs gives insights to how to find wisdom, for wisdom is something that is needed every day. Life can present believers with some challenging situations that you will absolutely need godly wisdom to move from day to day and from situation to situation. You will need wisdom as you lead others, in your own life purpose, your communication, making or maintaining good relationships or just developing good character.

Wisdom begins by desiring or wanting to have it. The next step is asking God for wisdom then the next step is believing that you are going to receive it. Believe that God wants you to have wisdom more than you desire it.

The message of wisdom tells the believers that they were not the brightest nor the best, not many had influence, they did not come from high society families, because God chose men and women that society overlooks, exploits and abuses. God chose those that look like nobodies who seem to have had truly little to offer Him. But in His wisdom, He has taken the foolish things of this world and has confounded the wise. God took men who could not read and taught them His word and made great Preachers, great builders, Pastors, Evangelists, Prophets, and Apostles and turned the world that they lived in upside down. The message of wisdom says, get wisdom, for it is better than gold. Wisdom is needed every day to be able to avoid the trickery of the devil, to be able to resist his nasty works.

The message of wisdom says that the believer needs wisdom in his work and his life to help make decisions, to make and sustain success, and to reinforce relationships. Knowledge is knowing what to say, but wisdom is knowing when to say it. Paul said all things are lawful but not expedient. Knowledge is required to be able to apply wisdom, for wisdom is the building that is built on the foundation of knowledge.



Wisdom brings happiness and fulfillment "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom," (Proverbs 3:13), when a person knows that he has made the right decision about things in his life. Keeping your immediate needs in mind and having long-term perspectives is what brings joy in decision making. The believer should seek godly wisdom, because wisdom provides a sense of personal security, stability, and wellbeing. When a believer uses wisdom, he can be assured that the decisions he makes will not displease nor dishonor God. The more things that a believer does that give glory to God allows him to live in peace and have happiness and joy in his life.

Wisdom tells the believer to acknowledge God in all things and He, God will lead him in paths of righteousness. So, the believer seeks wisdom, for he knows that wisdom leads to the path which brings happiness. Yes, there will sometimes be suffering and some denials, but being led by wisdom lets the believer know that the end brings peace, joy, and happiness.

## Conclusion

Do yourself a favor and get wisdom from Proverbs nineteen and eight which tells the believer that "He who get wisdom loves himself." When the believer gets wisdom, he is making sure that he will have a hope-filled future. Wisdom that leads to life and ultimate joy is knowing and fearing God, for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). Get wisdom, "for wisdom is better than rubies; and all things that may be desired are not to be compared to it." (Proverbs 4:11).

Godly wisdom will make a believer do what is right even when his flesh wants to do what is wrong. For it will work out of his spirit instead of out of his emotions and his flesh.

"Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not: neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not and she shall preserve thee: Love her and she shall keep thee: Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom:" (Proverbs 4:5-7).

## Questions

1. What is the message of wisdom to the believer?
2. How can a believer receive wisdom?
3. What can wisdom do to help the believer in the times that we live in?



## Essential Thought

Wisdom has been put in place by God to help the believer come out of any situation with peace, joy, and happiness.



# KNOWLEDGE IS IMPORTANT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER



## Background Reading

Hosea 4:6; Job 34:35; 36:12;  
Proverbs 9:10; Isaiah 33:6

## Devotional Reading

2 Chronicles 1:7-12;  
Colossians 2:1-5



## Central Verse

“The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; And the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.”

Proverbs 18:15, KJV

“Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.”

Proverbs 18:15, NLT

## Key Terms

**Prudent**—Clever and careful in action and judgment: characterized by, arising from, or showing prudence: such as: marked by wisdom or judiciousness.

**Knowledge**—The fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association: something learned and kept in the mind.

**Wisdom**—Ability to discern inner qualities and relationships: ability to see beneath the surface of things: good sense.

## Introduction

God is a God of wisdom, knowledge and understanding, so when He made man, He made him in His image and likeness. He gave man wisdom, knowledge and understanding. He told him to have dominion over all the animals, fowls, and over every living thing that moved on the earth. God gave him knowledge about the herbs, the trees and everything on this earth. He was filled with wisdom, knowledge and understanding until he disobeyed God and was put out of the Garden of Eden.



He lost his ability to have the facts, the information, and the skills that a person acquires through experience or education. He no longer had the wisdom, knowledge and understanding that God had given him. His knowledge was gone, and he had to start all over trying to subdue an earth that had become thistles, thorns and an atmosphere that was hostile to him.

## Discussion

When I first got saved, the leaders told me that I must study God's word if I wanted to live a life like Him. They told me that "I could not go, where I did not know." The older mothers told me that I must get the wisdom of God's word if I wanted to be obedient to His word. So, I began to study to get knowledge. I learned that a person must get knowledge before he can apply wisdom and understanding. Once a person knows what God is requiring of him, he can then make an intelligent decision about what he wants to do with his life.

Solomon had grown up around His father David at the palace. He was used to some of the finest things in life. He had all the advantages of an enriched life filled with the absolute best things that life could afford. He was used to servants serving him, he was used to riding in the best chariots. He did not have a need for material things, so when God visited him that night and asked him what He could do for him, he told God, to give him the ability to have to have wisdom and knowledge. That way he would be able to go out and come in before the people, so he could be able to judge so great a people.

God told Solomon, that because the desire was in his heart to be able to deal with the people and did not ask for riches, wealth, or honor, nor the lives of his enemies, neither did he ask for long life for himself. God said that He would grant wisdom and knowledge unto him, but that He would also give him riches, wealth, and honor. Such as no king before him had ever had, nor will any have after him.

The Lord has given every believer the privilege to ask for what he wants in Mark eleven and twenty-three. But most believers ask for selfish things, therefore, many believers suffer without the real blessings that God wants to give them. Sometimes, the believers need to take the focus from off themselves and ask God for wisdom and knowledge about or what they want for their lives. Solomon is yet known as the wisest man who ever lived, because he was given wisdom and knowledge.



God told Hosea that His people were destroyed because of the lack of knowledge. The same thing is happening today. Believers have all kinds of bibles and study helps available, but they refuse to study God's words, so they continue to make foolish mistakes that could be avoided. God told Hosea that because they rejected knowledge, He would reject them. They would no longer be a priest to Him, for they had forgotten the law of their God and that he would forget their children. The lack of knowledge had some terrible consequences for God's people. Believers can still see God's hand against many of our children in this day and time.

Isaiah prophesied to the people of his day and told them that because they had dealt treacherously and was spoiled, they needed God to deal graciously with them. He told them even though they had fled and were scattered, God was going to allow their spoil to be gathered. For He is exalted and dwelleth on high and has filled Zion with judgement and righteousness, wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of their times. Believers may make bad decisions, but if they can get to God, ask forgiveness and allow His mercy to be applied to their lives, they can get a hold of wisdom and knowledge. Things can get straightened out for the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. The fear of God is the best of Zion's treasure. So, get some wisdom, get some knowledge, and watch God change things for you.

## Conclusion

Wise men and women are always learning. Always listening for fresh insights. Paul told the Colossian church that even though he was not there with them in the flesh and some of them didn't know him, his greatest desire for them was that they would continue to be comforted and knit together in love and understanding. Acknowledging of the mystery of God and of the Father, and of Jesus Christ, knowing that the treasures of wisdom and knowledge was hid in God and Jesus. He encouraged them to not let anyone change how they felt about God and Jesus with enticing words. For all they needed was in the wisdom and knowledge of Jesus Christ and if they held on to this truth, then they would remain steadfast in Christ.

It is through the knowledge of Jesus Christ that the believers can escape the corruption that is in this world through lust.



## Questions

1. Why is knowledge so important in the lives of believers?
2. Why did God give Solomon such wonderful gifts?
3. How can you receive the wonderful gifts that God has for you?

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## Essential Thought

When you can walk in the power of knowing Jesus;  
no devils in hell can defeat you.



# ADD UNDERSTANDING TO YOUR LIFE

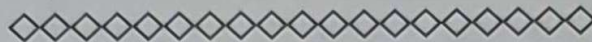


## Background Reading

1 Samuel 25:3; Proverbs 3:4-6;  
13:15; 16:16; 22; Daniel 1:17;  
Matthew 13:19; 2 Timothy 2:7;  
Ephesians 5:17

## Devotional Reading

Proverbs 2:2-6



## Central Verse

“Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom: And with all thy getting get understanding.”

Proverbs 4:7, KJV

“Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.”

Proverbs 4:7, NLT

## Key Terms

**Railed**—To revile or scold in harsh, insolent, or abusive language.

**Thrive**—To grow vigorously: do well: to progress toward or realize a goal despite or because of circumstances.

**Rationalize**—To bring into accord with reason or cause something to seem reasonable.

## Introduction

It is very difficult to deal with people who do not have a good understanding, their reasoning is off. They find it difficult to comprehend a situation. To be able to understand is a great virtue that everyone does not have. A person may be knowledgeable, but if their understanding is bad their knowledge is of little value. To understand means to perceive the intended meaning of words, a language, or a speaker; to interpret or to view something in a particular way. To understand the bible the believer must put things in context. When you don't know the context of the scripture you can look for disaster.



You must know to whom it was written, who did the writing or the speaking, the era of the society in which it was written.

## Discussion

David asked God to teach him the ways of His statutes, to give him understanding and then he would be able to keep His statutes always and be able to observe the law with his whole heart (Psalm 119:33-34). David knew that something was missing in his life, and he also knew that of himself, he could not put what he needed in his life without God. There comes a time when each believer must look at his life and recognize that something is missing. God wants the believer to ask Him for help when he needs help. It is God's desire to give His servants whatever they desire. Understanding is a virtue that every believer needs. He needs to be able to rightly divide God's Word. He must be able to understand what God's will is for his life. Each man is an individual and must be able to fulfil the destiny that God has for him. He cannot govern his life according to what his friend or his neighbor does.

Solomon advised young men and women to be careful and hold fast to God's law and keep His commandments. For they will add long life as well as peace to their lives and when they obey God's laws. They will be rewarded with mercy and truth that will lead them to favor and understanding in the sight of God and man. Favor and good understanding will help young people to trust in the Lord and not try to work things out on their own. They will know that God has their back. Remember that the ways of transgressors are hard, but good understanding gives favor.

We have been talking about good understanding, because King David and Solomon emphasizes the fact that every believer needs to have the ability to use good understanding. They need to be able to rationalize situations and be able to come to clear decisions about every situation they face.

There is a story in the book of First Samuel, chapter fifteen that talks about a woman named Abigail who was in a terrible situation. She was a married woman who had a husband who had provided her with a lovely home and plenty of material things. She was provided with servants and the necessities of life, but he was mean, evil, abusive and a drunkard. The Bible does not tell us how long they had been married, but she had apparently been married long enough to understand the situation she was in. For the Bible said that she was a woman of good understanding and of a beautiful countenance.



Life will not always give people a perfect situation to live in. And the believer must have enough wisdom and understanding to be able not just to survive but to be able to thrive in and through whatever it brings. God will help the believer to be an overcomer if he has good understanding like Abigail did.

When Nabal and his men were shearing his sheep at Carmel, David sent ten young men with a request to him. When the young men got to Nabal and gave him David's request, he acted a plum fool and refused the request to help. The young men came back and told David and he and four hundred of his men put on their swords and prepared to go after Nabal. But one of the young men told Abigail that David had sent messengers out to the wilderness to Nabal, and he railed on them, and now there was trouble.

Abigail got in a hurry and prepared two hundred loaves, two bottles of wine, and five dressed sheep. She also supplied, plenty of parched corn, a hundred clusters of raisins, two hundred cakes of figs, laid them on the animals, and with her servants rode out to meet David. She was a woman of wisdom, knowledge and understanding. She brought peace, and asked for forgiveness for her husband and household. She honored David, fulfilled his request, and kept him from attacking her husband and her household. Because of her ability to use good understanding, she was able to do what she needed to do and was able to leave the rest up to God.

## Conclusion

She left David in good spirits and went back home to her husband to find him having a party, drinking, and having a fun time. He was completely unaware of the danger he had been in. She told him what she had done in the morning after his feast, and he was truly angry.

His heart died within him and turned to stone. God smote him and in ten days he was dead. When David heard that Nabal was dead, he sent and communicated with Abigail and later sent for her and married her. She went from being the wife of a mean and evil man to being the wife of the King.

## Questions

1. Why does the wise man advise the believer to get understanding?
2. What does it mean to have good understanding?



3. How did good understanding help Abigail?
4. What was she able to accomplish?

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### **Essential Thought**

Being a man or woman of good understanding is better than having silver or gold for good understanding gives favor.



# YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH



## Background Reading

2 Kings 2:21; Job 6:6; Mark  
9:49-50; Luke 14:34-35;  
Colossians 4:6

## Devotional Reading

Ezekiel 47:1-12



## Central Verse

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”  
Matthew 5:13, KJV

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.”

Matthew 5:13, NLT

## Key Terms

**Trodden**—Past participle of to step or walk on or over: to beat or press with the feet.

**Versatile**—Turning with ease from one thing to another: able to do many different kinds of things.

**Stagnated**—To become or remain not active or brisk: motionless.

**Brine**—Water saturated or strongly impregnated with common salt: water containing a great deal of salt.

## Introduction

Salt is one of the most important and valuable commodities that is used in the world. It would be very difficult to live in a world that has no salt, for salt gives flavor and preserve from corruption. It has been said that from relieving rashes to removing stains to restoring household items to their original luster. To beauty scrubs and throat gargles, salt does more than just season



and preserve food. In the early days it was so valuable that the Romans used it as currency. We get the word salary from the word salt, because the military men were paid in salt payments. Salt is used in the health industry, the cleaning industry, the food industry, and so many others.

The human body could not function without salt. The animals could not survive without salt, because salt is so necessary to bring balance in so many areas.

## Discussion

Salt has so many uses that life would be in a world of trouble without salt. Salt comes from several sources, such as salt mines, from the sea, from springs or wells, and from ashes. But the primary sources are mines and sea water or brine.

Salt is used to purify things, preserve meat, season food, for personal hygiene. It is a preservative, yet it is tasty. Salt is so versatile, and it has so many uses.

Jesus spoke to His disciples and told them they were the salt of the earth. The believer ought to be able to always bring influence into any situation in life, for he is called to influence. He is called to improve and make the world a better place to live in. The believer and the church should be godly examples in the world around them. They should resist moral decay and corruption that is evident in the social media and in our godless society.

Believers who have become lukewarm, and those who quench the power of the Holy Spirit have lost their saltiness and will be cast out and trodden under the foot of men. Believers who have lost their saltiness are no good to the kingdom, for they are powerless against the attacks of the enemy.

When salt is added to a dish, it should make the food taste better. When there was no refrigeration available, salt was used to preserve the fresh meat in the fall at meat killing time. The meat was salted down and was able to stay preserved until it was springtime, and it was yet good enough to eat.

Jesus knew that when a believer is really committed to Him and the kingdom, he is like salt. Powerful enough to make things change, powerful enough to influence people for good, and change the atmosphere in a room. For



they are like salt that has so many uses. During times of adversity, trouble and crisis, the believer is mindful of what he says. His speech is seasoned with salt and this lets him know how to answer every man. As he navigates through difficult conversation, he allows his salt to help make sense of situations.

In Ezekiel chapter forty-seven, the prophet Ezekiel had a vision that showed him a life-giving river coming from the temple. As it flowed it grew in depth and width, giving life and fruitfulness to everything it touched. The river flowed into the Dead Sea area and rid it of death. The Dead Sea is a body of water that is stagnated waters, it is a body of water with salt water. The fresh water flowing into the Dead Sea turned the salt sea into fresh water. Where the river flows, life abounds. The purpose of the river was to bring abundant life and healing from God to the land and to the people. The swamps and marshes won't become fresh. They will stay salty. But the river on both sides will grow fruit trees of all kinds. The believers are the salt of the earth and out of their belly shall flow rivers of living waters. But the flowing water must pass through the salt, so it can be purified and get rid of the dead and let life come forth.

## Conclusion

A believer's speech must be pleasant, winsome, kind and gracious. It should be words that come from the operation of God's grace in their hearts, and they must speak the truth in love. "Seasoned with salt" should be conversation that is appropriate, meaningful, loving, filled with kindness and marked by purity, not mean spirited, not foul, not profane, nor corrupt. "Speech with grace" (Colossians 4:6) does not exclude fervent and stern words filled with truth, when necessary. It is the believer's responsibility to oppose false believers who are enemies of the cross.

## Questions

1. Why did Jesus classify believers as the salt of the earth?
2. What are some of the uses for salt?
3. Where does salt come from?
4. What did the vision that Ezekiel saw tell the believer about salt?



### **Essential Thought**

If you give a horse enough salt, you can take him to the water,  
and he will drink.



# JESUS AS SAVIOR OF THE WORLD



## Background Reading

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21;  
Acts 4:12; Hebrews 7:25;  
Luke 1:47; John 1:29

## Devotional Reading

Isaiah 43:1-13



## Central Verse

“And we have seen and do testify  
that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Savior of the world.”

1 John 4:14, KJV

“Furthermore, we have seen with our  
own eyes and now testify that the  
Father sent his Son to be the Savior  
of the world.”

1 John 4:14, NLT

## Key Terms

**Veneration**—Respect or awe inspired by the dignity, wisdom, dedication, or talent of a person.

**Remission**—The act or process of releasing from the guilt or penalty of.

## Introduction

A savior is a person who saves someone or something from danger or destruction and who is regarded with the veneration of a religious figure. A savior is a person who rescues another from harm.

Because mankind had fallen into sin and was in trouble, they needed someone to come and rescue them. Jesus was a part of the Godhead; He existed as the second person of the Trinity. He and His Father, God made the plan for Him to leave heaven and come into the world. Become one with mankind so that He could pay the price of atonement for the sins of mankind who could not pay for them on their own.

Isaiah prophesied that a virgin would conceive and bring forth a son and call His name Immanuel. When the young virgin got pregnant, her husband to



be was puzzled because he knew that they had not had any sexual dealings with each other. But because he was a righteous man, the angel of the Lord came to him in a dream and told him not to be afraid to take her as his wife, for the babe conceived in her was by the Holy Ghost. That she would have a son and he should name him Jesus, for he would save his people from their sins. Peter said that there is no salvation in any other name except the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12).

He came into the world as a baby through a virgin named Mary. He was implanted in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit of God, became flesh and lived on earth for thirty-three years as a man. He came into the world to become the Savior of the world. He came to save mankind from the penalty of sin. For the wages of sin is death. He had to die on the cross, go into the grave and rise up from the grave. And ascend back up to heaven so that men could repent of their sins and be saved. For without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sin.

## Discussion

Jesus is the one, chosen by God and appointed by Him to save humanity from their sins. He was the one chosen to bring salvation to those who were lost and in a helpless state. He is called the redeemer and He is a deliverer. Jesus is more than a role model or powerful figure, He is the hope for the hopeless and the joy in sadness. He is the believer's Redeemer and He is alive and goes before them. He stands up on behalf of the believers and covers them with His blood. His blood redeems, washes, and restores each person who believes, repents, and receives the salvation that He offers. He lived as a man here on earth, died on a cross, was buried in a grave. He got up out of the grave the third day and later ascended into heaven with His Father so men could be saved.

There are three types of sin that men are guilty of. The Original Sin, the Mortal Sin and the Venial. The Original sin is the sin that every man is born into. It is the sin that Adam committed and caused mankind to become a sinner. It is the sin that was committed in the Garden of Eden by Adam and Eve, it is not the kind of sin that mankind does, but it is a state of being. It is the sin that condemned the entire world.

The second sin is the Mortal Sin that brings spiritual death to a man's soul unless he repents of his sins. For if this sin is unrepented for it will damn



mankind to hell. A person who commits a mortal sin must know that he is doing wrong and that what he is doing is evil, and he is doing it according to his freewill.

The third sin is called a Venial, which is a sin that wounds the soul but it does not bring death to the person. It is a sin that allows a person to disobey moral law in a grave matter but without full knowledge or without complete consent. But be it known that Jesus saves to the uttermost, because He lives to make intercession for the believer. What can wash away our sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make us whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. For He has come to seek and to save those who are lost.

## Conclusion

Mary the mother of Jesus lived to understand that he was the Savior of the world, and she was a part of that world. She too had to repent and receive her baby as her Savior. Every person in this world who plans to spend eternity with Jesus, must repent of their sins. Receive the gospel of Jesus Christ and allow him to become their personal Savior. For God didn't send His Son into this world to condemn this world, but that the word through Him might be saved (John 3:17).

## Questions

1. What was Jesus' primary purpose for coming into this world?
2. How can He become your Savior?
3. Who did He come to save?
4. Why does mankind need a Savior?

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## Essential Thought

Jesus' primary purpose for coming into this world was to become the Savior of this world.



# JESUS WILL BE A FRIEND



## Background Reading

Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 27:6-9; 17; John 15:12-16

## Devotional Reading

John 11:1-16



## Central Verse

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down His life for His friends.”  
John 15:13, KJV

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”  
John 15:13, NLT

## Key Terms

**Friendship**—The state of being one attached to another by affection or esteem.

**Humanity**—Compassionate, sympathetic, or generous behavior or disposition: the quality or state of being marked by sympathy or consideration for others.

**Lingered**—To be slow in quitting a place or activity.

## Introduction

Every person needs a friend, and some need more than one. For when a person has a friend, he has someone who will always show him love, for a friend always loves. A friend is a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection. For a man to have friends, he must first show that he is friendly. Friendship is a relationship of mutual affection between two or more people. It is stronger than just being acquaintances. To have a friendship with another person means more than just liking someone. A friend becomes a special person, becoming a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

*Psychology Today* says that there are two reasons why a person needs friends. Number one, friends make life more enjoyable and number two, friends help one through challenging times. For he is there to keep his friend on track for friends trust one another.



## Discussion

Jesus, the Son of God wants to be more in your life than just a Savior, He wants to become friends with you. He wants an intimate relationship with you. He wants a relationship that has responsibilities attached to it, for friendship brings people together in a closeness that is like a brother and sister relationship. And if a person will allow it, His relationship with them will be closer than either a brother or sister. Jesus wants them to trust Him, so He can trust them. Friends trust one another.

There are many things that a friend will do for each other that a stranger will not do or are not even positioned to do. Friends are part of the inner circle who know personal things about each other and will always be honest with each other. There's a commercial that says, "friends won't let friends drive drunk." Well, I say that Christian friends won't endorse friends getting drunk.

Jesus is the Son of God, but He can also be a friend to each believer. He lived and traveled with twelve disciples, and I am sure they were not just traveling buddies, but they were friends who shared whatever they had. They walked together, they ate together, they slept together and whatever they did it was together.

He also had some friends who lived in Bethany, a little village two miles from Jerusalem named Lazarus, and his sisters Mary and Martha. Jesus loved them dearly for they were His host when He would be passing through their little village. One day Lazarus got sick, and the sisters sent for their friend Jesus. But Jesus didn't go to see him right away and lingered where He was for two more days.

Meanwhile, Lazarus died and was buried. When Jesus decided to go see about His friend, he had been in the tomb for four days. Many of the Jews had come to comfort Mary and Martha in the loss of their brother, but their friend Jesus was not there.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at the house. I know that Martha was upset because normally, good friends come when a person needs them. Martha told Jesus, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died." But Jesus had a greater reason for staying away. The sisters may not have understood why their friend did not come when they called Him. But when Jesus befriends someone, He always has their best interest at heart.



Jesus is always looking out for His friends, "He may not come when you want Him, but He's always on time." A good friend will look out for your health, even when you don't understand his action. Just as Martha did not understand the action of their friend Jesus. He had to explain that His delay was not for the lack of love, mercy, or compassion, but for the glory of God and His kingdom and for the ultimate eternal good of the suffers. He delayed in order to strengthen the faith of the family and His disciples, and to perform for them a greater good.

Many times, the believers forget that Jesus will be that friend who will never forsake nor leave His friends alone in their time of need. There are times when He wants the believers to wait patiently for Him. Knowing that "all things work together for the good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose."

Finally, when Jesus made it to the tomb, and had the stone removed, He called His friend Lazarus with a loud voice out of the grave. Lazarus came forth bound with graveclothes and his face bound with a napkin. Jesus said, "loose him, and let him go." Only then did the reality of the real friendship become a real to Mary, Martha and all who were there to witness such a great miracle.

### Conclusion

Believers must know that when Jesus is their friend, He will always have their interest at heart. His timing may be different from what the believers want as it was with Mary and Martha. God's timing is always on time, for He comes according to His will, wisdom, and love. He is always touched by the feelings of the believer's infirmities. Because Jesus was Savior and friend, He displayed His heart and feelings. He faced the fact that evil in this world had caused heartbreak and suffering to His friends. When He groaned in the Spirit and then He wept, letting them know the extent of His hurt and sorrow. For His soul was filled with rage toward evil as He fights for the salvation of humanity. For Jesus is indeed a friend!

### Questions

1. Who can be a friend?
2. What are the benefits of having friends?
3. How can Jesus be a friend?



4. What did Jesus do that made His friendship questionable?

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### **Essential thoughts**

Real friends will always be friends through  
thick and through thin.



# JESUS AS THE WORD



## Background Reading

2 Corinthians 2:27;  
Hebrews 1:1-3; Acts 8:25;  
John 5:24; 17:17; 2 Peter 3:5

## Devotional Reading

John 1:1-3



## Central Verse

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”  
1 John 5:7, KJV

“So, we have these three witnesses in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one: And we have three witnesses on earth.”  
1 John 5:7, NLT

## Key Terms

**Infallible**—Incapable of error: not likely to fail.

**Triune**—Three in one: of or relating to the Trinity: consisting of three parts, members, or aspects.

**Trinity**—The unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead according to Christian dogma.

## Introduction

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Jesus is the Word of God. He was always with God, He was not created, He was part of the creation, because He is part of the Godhead. God spoke to the Word when He said, “Let us make man in our image and likeness.” The Word of God is the creative word, for things came into being when God spoke His word. The Bible is God’s word in action, and the believer cannot come to know God without His word. Jesus said when you see me, you see my father, because my Father and I are one.” So, the believer comes to know God through His Word, for He cannot be separated from His Word.



There is power in the Word of God, for He is constant and dependable. Jesus spoke to the Scribes and the Pharisees and told them that they err, not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God (Mathew 22:29).

## Discussion

Jesus the Word is the only way to God. The culture that we are now living in suggests that all religions lead down the same path to the same God. As long as a person is sincere in his beliefs and tolerant of others, the path they take does not matter. That is so incorrect for Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by me." John 14:6. The Scriptures declare that Jesus Christ is the manifold wisdom of God and the perfect revelation of God's nature and the person of God. Just as a person's words reveal the heart and mind, Christ as the Word reveals the heart and mind of God. Christ was preexistent with God before the world was created. He was a person existing from eternity, distinct from but in eternal fellowship with God the Father. Christ was divine because He had the same nature and essence as the Father.

The Word of God is eternally fixed in heaven, yet it is not a static word; it is dynamic and powerful and accomplishes great things (Hebrews 4:12). The Psalmist wrote, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made" (Psalm 33:6). So according to the Word of God the Word that God used to create all things was Jesus Christ. Learn to know this Jesus who is God's Word in action. Do as David did, take this Jesus and hide Him in your heart, so you won't be found in the sin business.

So not only does the Word create, but it has the power to sustain creation, for it is a breathing book that gives life and power to those who embrace it. Hebrews one and three tells the believer that God upholds all things by the word of His power. For by Jesus all things consist or are held together. Peter tells the believers that God's Word, (Jesus) has the power to impart new life for by the Word of God, which lives and abides forever. It is important for believers to read God's word and discover how important it is for him to receive, heed and align himself with God's word. It will impact every area of his life. To fully understand Jesus, the believer must study Him through the word, and it will inspire the believer to search for more of Him.

The word of God is the most incredible resource and investment for navigating through life. Whatever a person needs to know God's word is revelation



knowledge. In all thy ways acknowledge Him (Jesus) and He will direct your life. Jesus the Word is all knowing. He is so much a part of God that He is in the mind of God. Jesus is called the Word of Life (1 John 1:1). The Word was made flesh, for God in Jesus became a human being, for He had the same nature as man but without sin. Christ, the Word left heaven and entered humanity and human life through the means of a virgin birth. The Word became flesh and was able to live and experience the same emotions that you and I can experience.

The Word tells the believers to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Him. For the word of God releases grace, power, and revelation by which believers grow in their faith and their commitment to Jesus Christ.

The believer must learn to be skilled as he fights against Satan and his host of demons. So, God has allowed His word to be a sword. The believers can be victorious over Satan just like Jesus was when He was tempted by Satan when He came out of the wilderness from His forty days fast. He defeated Satan by declaring, "it is written." The word of God will stand against Satan for it is the infallible word.

But if the believers don't know what is written, they cannot declare nor decree God's word.

## Conclusion

The believer must understand that God is a triune God. He's God in three persons, God the Father, God the Word, and God the Holy Ghost. He is the blessed Trinity or the three in one God. The God who is one but is yet three distinct personalities. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Father draws, (John 6:44), the Son saves (Acts 4:12), the Holy Spirit seals (Ephesians 4:30) or keeps.

## Questions

1. Why did John call Jesus the word?
2. How long has the word been in this world?
3. How can the word help a person?
4. What are the functions of God the Father, God the Word and God the Holy Spirit?



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## Essential Thought

Everything is going down but the Word of God;  
it shall stand forever.



# JESUS AS HEALER



## Background Reading

Psalm 107:20; Isaiah 53:5;  
Matthew 4:24; 8:16; 14:14;  
19:2; 21:14; Luke 6:19; 13:4;  
17:15; 22:51; Mark 6:5

## Devotional Reading

Luke 4:32-44



## Central Verse

“But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew Himself from thence: great multitudes followed Him. And He healed them all.”  
Matthew 12:15, KJV

“But Jesus knew what they were planning. So he left that area, and many people followed him. He healed all the sick among them.”  
Matthew 12:15, NLT

## Key Terms

**Incredible**—Too extraordinary and improbable to be believed: going beyond what is usual, regular, or customary.

**Inflammatory**—Tending to excite anger, disorder, or tumult: stirring up anger, disorder, or rebellion.

**Uncurable**—Unable to be cured or restored to health.

## Introduction

Isaiah prophesied that when Jesus came to the earth, one of the things that He would do was to heal the people. True to the prophecy, while Jesus walked on earth, He performed more miracles than we know about. He healed the sick, provided for the people, calmed situations, brought people back to life, and did unimaginable acts that left onlookers speechless. He healed people with physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds. Showing compassion and love for all people; Jesus took every sinner's place on the cross. He bore the punishment and He died for the sins of the world. By His stripes and wounds, we can be healed. His healing power continues to bring hope and comfort to those in need. For His blood has never lost its power.



## Discussion

Jesus loved the people so much that each Gospel writer wrote over and over about how He healed the sick everywhere He went. People had never seen anything like what was happening in their area, so the multitudes followed Jesus everywhere He went. After they heard about the miracles that were happening, they brought their sick and shut-in every place they heard that Jesus was going to be so they could be healed.

They found out that nothing was too hard for Jesus, because He could heal any type of sickness and disease. One woman had an issue of blood for twelve years and she wanted to be healed. The various doctors she had gone to, could not make her whole. So, she said to herself, "if I could just touch the hem of His garment, I know that I will be made whole."

The woman must have heard so much about Jesus' healing others, that her faith had become ignited until she believed that He could also heal her. So, she did what was necessary, put on some clothes, left her house, and made her way through the crowd until she got to where Jesus was. Sometimes the believers want something from Jesus, but they don't want to do what is necessary. But they must draw near to Him, so He can draw near to them.

When the woman touched His garment, the flow of blood immediately dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. Jesus knew that virtue had gone out of Him, turned around amid the crowd, and asked who touched His clothes. In that crowd with hundreds of people, Jesus's virtue went out to her. When Jesus spoke the disciples said unto Him, "You see this crowd and You ask who touched you?" The woman responded with fearing and trembling and by fell down before Him and told Him her story. Jesus called the woman "Daughter" and told her that her faith had made her whole, and to go in peace, because she was healed (Mark 5:25-34).

Healing belongs to the believers for It is "the children's bread." (Matthew 15:26). In the time that Jesus walked the earth, leprosy was a bad disease that was incurable. But ten Lepers came to Jesus asking to be healed. Leprosy is a disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*. It is classified as a chronic granulomatous disease because it is relatively slow developing and it causes inflammatory nodules to form in the skin. There was no cure, and it was considered a horrible, slow way to be disfigured and eventually die. People with leprosy were ostracized and forced to live among themselves in a leper colony.



These ten men had enough faith to disregard the law and made their way to Jesus and He healed each of them. Only one came back and said, thank you for the healing (Luke 17:12-17). Another man brought his son to Jesus to be healed of a dumb spirit. Whatever your lot in life or whatever a person needs to be healed from Jesus can do it. He can heal all matters of sickness and diseases. This dumb spirit would really cut up.

The spirit would throw the boy into the fire, into water, all kinds of destructive things. Jesus spoke to the spirit and commanded it to come out of the boy and never enter him no more, and of course, he came out. The spirit did not want to come out, but the devil is subject to the voice and power of Jesus (Mark 9:17-29). Jesus took the boy by the hand, lifted him up and he got up healed. When His disciples asked Him why they couldn't cast the spirit out, Jesus told them that this kind can only come out by nothing but by prayer and fasting.

Many Saints today are dealing with behavior problems with their children. We have given some of these spirits medical names, but they are evil spirits that need the healing power of the name of Jesus applied so that the children can be healed. The believer must rebuke the devils of this day in the name of Jesus Christ.

Believers need to search the scripture and find a sickness or similar disease and pray that scripture so healing can come forth. There's healing in the Word of Jesus. He sent His Word and it healed.

## Conclusion

Jesus did incredible work during His time on earth. Before He left, He said we would do even greater things after He was gone. That is a huge promise coming from the One who walked on water and healed the blind, changed lives of lame and deaf men. With Jesus in our lives, the believers have the power to change this world. But the believer must expect Jesus to do greater things through them. If the believer knows that Jesus Christ has changed his life and has now made him complete. Knows he has been healed by His love and now lives inside of him; he can do the things that Jesus did. Heal the sick, raise the dead, and be a light in this dark world.



## Questions

1. What was different about Jesus' ministry?
2. What kinds of sickness did He heal?
3. What does a person need to do to be healed by Jesus?
4. Who prophesied that Jesus would heal his people?

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## Essential Thought

Every place that Jesus went, He healed everyone who had sickness and diseases. He's yet a healer.



# JESUS LOVES AND USES YOUNG PEOPLE



## Background Reading

2 Chronicles 30:8; Psalm  
127:3; Proverbs 29:17; Joel  
2:28-32; Matthew 19:14;  
Acts 2:17-21

## Devotional Reading

1 Timothy 4:11-14



## Central Verse

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.”

Isaiah 11:6, KJV

“In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all.”

Isaiah 11:6, NLT

## Key Terms

**Heritage**—Property that descends to an heir: something possessed as a result of one’s natural situation or birth.

**Chasten**—To correct by punishment or suffering: to cause to be more humble or restrained.

**Compass**—To travel entirely around: to succeed at reaching or accomplishing (a goal, result, etc.) especially through effort.

## Introduction

Children are a heritage from God, for His plan of creation always included children. After He created Adam and Eve, He told them to be fruitful and multiply. It has always been the plan of God for children to be a part of a family unit. It is an honor and a blessing for God to entrust the love and the care into the hands of parents to look after them, train them, provide for them as well as protect them.



It is important that children are nurtured so that their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual growth is kept on track. God gives children parents so that their growth and development is supported. "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6 ESV).

## Discussion

God seemed to have a special place in His heart for children and the youth, for He used so many of them in His Holy Word. Jesus showed He loved the children. When the mothers brought them to Him, His disciples tried to turn them away because they were concerned about Jesus and did not want Him to be overburdened with people, especially children. But Jesus stopped them and told them to let the children come to Him for the kingdom is made up of children.

Children have the right to be loved, understood, and educated spiritually as well as academically. Children cannot afford to be neglected and be expected to develop correctly. Parents must give time to loving and training them. During their time of training, children need to be disciplined, but not harshly, but gently with the goal of leading them in the ways of the Lord. Remember that children are vulnerable and can be traumatized for the rest of their lives from harsh discipline. Though the Parent cannot allow a child to have their own way.

Children left to their own way will bring shame to their mother (Proverbs 29:15). Children who are not trained, disciplined, and restrained by their parents will later bring shame to them and harm to themselves. Sometimes words of reproof alone are adequate; but at other times they must be accompanied by an explanation so that the child clearly understands why the rod was used and what conduct is required. Adequate parental discipline administered in a wise, loving, and considerate manner helps children to learn that bad behavior carries unpleasant consequences and may involve suffering. The parent must wait until he is no longer angry before he administers discipline, for discipline must be done in love.

Just as the Heavenly Father chastens His children because He loves them, the parents discipline their children out of love. They must deal with the spirit of defiance, folly, rebellion, and disrespect, for godly discipline provides the family with a happy and peaceful home. Parents must prepare their children to be ready to fulfill their God given purpose.



Joel prophesied that God would use young men and young women in the last days. There was a time when certain educational opportunities were only available for young men. But as the world has expanded and has moved toward the end-time, God along with the world has made many opportunities open for young men and young women alike. So, we are now in the age when our sons and daughters shall prophecy. We have moved to the time when God said that He would "create a new thing in the earth, for a woman shall compass a man." (Jeremiah 31:22).

God is raising up young men and women, who have been trained by the fathers and the mothers to lead a new generation of youth who have a different mind-set than youth had twenty and thirty years ago. The youth of today are dealing with modern technology that adults didn't have to deal with before. They have strength and skills that were not known a few years ago. And our God is the only wise God who knows how to put them in places to lead His army on every level.

God instructed His children to not be rebellious and stiff-necked like their fathers. The saved youth of today are not fearful and reluctant like some of the forefathers, for there is a boldness in them. In the Old Testament God only chose one young woman to be a judge for Israel, but today many young women are judges. In the New Testament, it is only recorded about one young woman being a disciple of Jesus. But today a lot of young women declare they are disciples of Jesus. God is truly pouring out His spirit upon all flesh. For as many as are led of God, they are the sons of God.

## Conclusion

God is calling for young men and young women to step out of their comfort zones to ask and do things that are radical for their culture. The five daughters of Zelophehad changed a major law concerning inheritance for women, because they were bold enough to ask for what they felt they deserved. God is requiring that the youth of today be strong pillars of faith and be dependable witnesses of Him in the culture that they are a part of.

So, young men and young women, let no man despise your youth, but be good representatives of the Father who has counted you worthy and allowed your life to be involved in ministry. For the day will come when a little child shall lead them.



## Questions

1. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to allow the children to come to him?
2. What are some of the plans that God has for young people?
3. What is the responsibility of parents in preparing their youth for the future?
4. What has helped expand opportunities for young men and young women in ministry today?

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## Essential Thought

Powerful youth make powerful adults.