

SUMMER QUARTER 2025 | JUNE • JULY • AUGUST

PRAYER & BIBLE BAND TOPICS

CHRISTIAN CONCEPTS FOR  
GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT





# Wisdom of Older Men and Women



## Background Reading

Zechariah 8:1-8; Proverbs  
17:6; 20:29; Joel 2:28;  
1 Corinthians 2:1-16;  
1 Timothy 5:1; Titus 2:1-8

## Devotional Reading

2 Chronicles 10:6-15



## Central Verse

**"I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom."  
Job 32:7, KJV**

**"I thought, those who are older should speak, for wisdom comes with age."  
Job 32:7, NLT**

## Key Terms

**Rebel**—To oppose or disobey one in authority or control; to renounce and resist by force the authority of one's government.

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

## Introduction

Wisdom is very necessary in the lives of God's people. Wisdom is the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment: it's the quality of being wise, according to the dictionary. Wisdom means that a person has the ability to interpret and understand knowledge. That person can discern inner qualities and relationships. Wisdom is a divine gift that God offers to those who ask him for it. **The Word of the Lord tells the believer that if he has no wisdom, ask God for it, and he will give it to him (James 1:5). God will give the believer wisdom, insight, and direction for any season of his life. He is the one who directs the steps of Godly men and women. Wisdom doesn't come by wishing or hoping; it comes by asking God for it.**

In today's world, we have all kinds of information at our fingertips, but sometimes, believers lack the wisdom to make good decisions and choices and miss out on the guidance that God wants to give them. The fear, respect, honor, and reverence of the Lord are the beginning and the starting point of wisdom. When a believer respects, submits and honors God, he will begin to reflect God's heart and character. Only the believer can allow wisdom to fill and lead his heart.

The life of the Lord Jesus is full of depth, wisdom, authority, love, mercy, and life examples for anyone who really wants to know, follow, love, and obey God. Jesus's teaching transcends times and cultures. Youth and experiences don't go hand in hand; it takes time, experience, and God to bring wisdom into a believer's life. So, young people should seek the wisdom of older, godly men and women when making plans or decisions or when they have questions. Young people can't get wisdom from just anyone; they must be Godly men and women.

## Discussion

God has several examples in His Word where younger people needed the wisdom of older men and women. In 2 Chronicles 10, the story of King Rehoboam was told. His father had been rough on the people and ruled them with a tight rein, but Jeroboam, one of the leaders of that time, went to him and asked him if he could lighten up some because his yoke was very heavy. He let them know that after three days, they could return, and he would have an answer for them.

King Rehoboam went and talked to the older men that had stood with his father, Solomon, and asked them for their wisdom and council concerning this request. They told him that he should be kind to the people, please them, and speak good words to them, and they would be his servants forever. But he did not accept the council of the old men. He took counsel with the young men who were brought up with him. Just as he had asked the older men, he asked the younger men, who told him to tell them that his fingers shall be thicker than his father's loins. He said that his father put a heavy yoke upon them and that he will put more to their yoke: he said that his father chastised them with whips but that he would chastise them with scorpions.

So, the next day, Rehoboam answered them roughly when he forsook the council of the old men but took the council of the young men, which caused

the House of Israel to rebel against the House of David. If only he had listened to the wisdom of the older men, who had more experience and knew how to deal with life and its issues.

God has older, Godly men and women in His body here on earth for a purpose. It's to the younger believers' advantage to receive and accept the wisdom of the Church's fathers and mothers. Solomon said that the glory of young men was their strength, but the beauty of the old men was their grey head.

During Job's sickness, he was able to share with his visitors that wisdom comes through age. He let them know that with the ancient is wisdom and understanding. Old age is a time when men and women can remember and recall events, and they have time to dream dreams.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul instructed the church in the Book of Titus that the aged men should teach the younger men many life lessons, as well as the aged women should teach the younger women. He was very specific in what he needed them to teach. They needed to observe things in many areas of life. If they listened to the Seniors, their lives would be so much more enriched.

## Conclusion

The wisdom of the Seniors will help younger believers have a more structured life, better personal relationships, better financial stability, and a much better well-rounded life. Psalm 92 tells the believers that the senior citizens who are Godly shall bring forth fruit in their old age, and they will yet be fat and flourishing.

The leaders of our Church of God in Christ were so wise, and they understood the value of the wisdom of the older men and women. They set up Bands, Auxiliaries, Units, and Councils where the older men and women could mentor the younger ones. They didn't call it mentoring, but that's what it was. They taught boys and girls in the Sunshine Band and Purity Class, the young women were taught in the Young Women's Christian Council, and the young ministers in The Bible Band and the Elder's Council. They taught everybody in the Young People's Willing Workers (YPWW) and Sunday School. They emphasized that as soon as you became a part of the Church, you automatically belonged to every agency of the Church.



## Questions

1. What is one of the benefits of having Godly men and women in the church?
2. How can their wisdom help the overall well-being of the church?
3. Why did the nation of Israel rebel against the king?
4. What could he have done to change that?
5. What were some benefits of the older men and women's wisdom in the early church?

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## Essential Thought

Experience is a wonderful teacher, but why pay for something that you can get free?

# Seed-Time and Harvest-Time



### Background Reading

Exodus 34:21; Ecclesiastes  
3:2; Isaiah 55:10; Mark 4:2-20;  
30-32; 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

### Devotional Reading

Mark 4:26-29



## Central Verse

“While the earth remaineth, seedtime  
and harvest, cold and heat, and sum-  
mer and winter, day and night shall  
not cease.”                      Genesis 8:22, KJV

“As long as the earth remains, there  
will be planting and harvest, cold and  
heat, summer and winter, day and  
night.”                              Genesis 8:22, NLT

## Key Terms

**Sow**—To plant seed for growth especially by scattering; to set something in motion.

**Harvest**—The season when crops are gathered; the gathering of a crop.

## Introduction

The harvest is a time to celebrate and gather the joys of previous seasons, but some preparations must be made for this event. There are laws of the harvest that must be observed before a believer can reap his harvest. The believer must give bountifully and cheerfully to receive the abundance that God promised in His word.

**Words are seeds that will produce if they are in the right setting. They produce one small seed at a time with God's help. Faith is a booster that, when applied right, will help seeds to flourish. For a person's life to be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, the person must have the "fruits of the Spirit" planted into his life, as recorded in Galatians 5:22-23.**



Believer's lives are like spiritual gardens, waiting to become beautiful and flourishing. They need time and effort led by the Holy Spirit to work the soil by pruning, watering, and shining upon it. It takes time and effort to bring them to the place of fulfillment. The seed cannot be sown and brought to harvest until the soil has been prepared.

### Discussion

The sower of seed must make sure that his seed (Gospel) is being sowed into good ground. The sower sowed the same seed into four distinct types of soil and each one responded differently. It is important that the sower knows the kind of soil into which he is sowing. In the parable that Jesus shared, the sower sowed, and some of the seed fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and ate it up. And some fell on stony ground, where there was not enough earth, and immediately it sprang up. Because there was not enough earth when the sun came out, it was too hot and scorched it, and because it had no roots it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, choked it, and yielded no fruit. Others fell on good ground; it wasn't too rocky, it had enough soil, and it was able to produce good fruit, which sprang up and increased and produced some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred-fold blessing.

Jesus told His disciples that the sower sows the word and the enemy, Satan comes immediately and takes the word out of their hearts. Then there are some that were sown on stony ground, who, when they heard it, received it with gladness. But it didn't last because they had no roots in themselves to endure but for a little while. For the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things come in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But thank God there are some whose ground was good and who received the word and brought forth good fruit.

There is a process, led by the Holy Spirit, that will help the sower make the soil of the heart soft and receptive to God. Included in this process is the believer's communion with His Father God as he engages in continual conversation with his loving, heavenly Father.

This process includes a time for seeding, planting, and watering. Each cannot succeed without the other because they all work together to give good results. The presence, the will, and the love of God help the believers to allow **their hearts to be tilled and become responsive**. The Holy Spirit cultivates

good soil so the world can produce and bear fruit. The Spirit of God breaks up the fallow ground, and the Word is sowed and produces fruit.

Grace is the seed that makes spiritual growth and maturity possible. Grace is simple, profound, and ever-growing, deeper and deeper than the believer can ever imagine. The believers were dead, but God rescued them so that they could have grace for the ages to come. With grace or the seed of righteousness, life, and discipleship are possible.

God gave the command to Adam to be fruitful and multiply. He has been consistent in His command and his persevering promise that through “Abraham’s seed, all nations will be blessed.” This is relevant to each believer today as he seeks to live in daily obedience to God’s Great Commission. Our children are our seed, and David said that he had “never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging for bread” (Psalm 37:25).

In Matthew 13:18-23, Jesus taught His disciples the power of words. The seed, which is sown, represents the Word of God. The ground receiving the seed symbolizes the condition of the hearts of mankind. The fruit that came forth is the manifestation of the Word. The words the believers speak impacts their lives and the lives of others. It is important that believers remember to speak positive things, for his words are seeds, and they will produce a harvest. Also, the power of life and death is in the tongue.

## Conclusion

God has made some promises to the believer, and one of them comes to reassure him that he will never have to worry. As long as the earth remains, there will always be seed-time and harvest time. He can count on the sun coming up, and certain things will be constant. God is so wise and caring for His children. He gave the command for Adam to work and dress the garden, but He also told him to take time and rest. The body cannot be healthy and produce all the things that God wants them to without proper eating and proper resting.

God has given man the right time to do everything he needs to do if he **observes the correct time. He says there is a time and a season for every purpose under the sun. So, seedtime and harvest must be done at the appropriate time.**



## Questions

1. What do seed time and harvest mean?
2. What promises did God make concerning seed time and harvest?
3. What was the meaning of the parable of the sower that Jesus told?
4. What is some of the process of sowing and reaping?

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## Essential Thought

God will always give seed to the sower and the sower must prepare for the harvest.

# Treating Others Right



## Background Reading

Zechariah 7:9; Joshua 2:12-14;  
Luke 6:36; 1 Thessalonians  
5:12-18; Philemon 1:7-10;  
2 Timothy 1:16-18

## Devotional Reading

2 Samuel 9:1-13



## Central Verse

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32, KJV

“Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32, NLT

## Key Terms

**Tenderhearted**—Easily moved to love, pity, or sorrow; compassionate.

**Vitriol**—Bitterly harsh or caustic language or criticism; something (as written or spoken words) thought to be as harsh and burning as acid.

**Pervades**—To spread through all parts of; permeate.

## Introduction

Treating others right is a choice. A person chooses to be kind, thoughtful, and selfless because it reflects the heart of Jesus Christ. Having Jesus on the inside helps a believer to have greater self-compassion as he sees himself through the eyes of God. When a person learns to be kind and nice to himself, it’s much easier for him to choose to be nice to others.

**Now, remember there is a difference between being kind and being nice. It is easy to fake nice but hard to fake kindness because kindness is selfless. It is loving and genuine kindness is costly because it mimics Jesus. It lets others know that the old man of sin has been transformed. Striving to be kind is striving to be like Jesus. But when a believer can remember how kind God has been to him, he can respond by being kind to others.**



## Discussion

David had ascended the throne after the death of King Saul. Usually, when a new administration came into power on that day, they killed or got rid of all the families of the old regime. But because David was a “man after God’s heart,” he sought to do what was right, and that was to treat others right. There is an old proverb that says, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” This is a good proverb to pattern a person’s life after.

After David got settled, he asked if anyone was left from the house of Saul so that he could show them kindness for his friend Jonathan’s sake. This was not required of David, but because he wanted to remember the kindness Jonathan had shown him and because he wanted to treat people right, he pursued this question. When doing what is right is inside of a person, it’s not hard to do what is right.

One of the servants from Saul’s house was there, and he was able to tell David that there was a son of Jonathan who was lame on both his feet yet living. David enquired about his whereabouts and found that he was living in a place called Lodebar. David immediately sent for Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan (Saul’s son).

His first words to Mephibosheth were words of reassurance, letting him know that he was not there for any other reason but to be treated with kindness. This young man had experienced an unhappy tragedy in his life and, like so many people, needed some kindness shown to him. David brought this young man into his house, made provisions for him, and allowed him to sit and eat at his table.

The New Testament tells the story of a slave who had been mistreated, so he ran away from his master. He was blessed to meet the Apostle Paul and because of this encounter, he was introduced to Jesus and a better way of living. Sinner’s lives should change when they meet a real Saint of God because we should be atmosphere changers. Believers do not have to participate in the atmosphere of vitriol that pervades the culture they are in. **They should demonstrate the kindness of God in the way they treat others as well as what they say to others. They can make a difference by practicing intentional kindness in the midst of all the darkness in their culture.**

**Because of the kindness of this slave Onesimus, Paul wrote a letter to Philemon asking him to receive Onesimus as a brother. Paul acknowledged that at one time, Onesimus had been unprofitable to Philemon, but now he was a servant of Jesus Christ and was profitable to him and would be to**

his master. He asked Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would receive himself and if he had any debts to him, charge it to him (Paul). He asked Philemon to show Onesimus the same kindness he would show him, the Apostle Paul. Sometimes a kind word to someone in authority is all a person needs to get his life back in order to experience a better life. So be kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving one another.

Stop holding grudges against one another; let them go because if a person wants God's kindness and forgiveness, he must forgive others. Some people find it difficult to forgive others, especially if they feel the person wronged them without a reason. But whether there is a reason or not, believers must forgive those who trespass against them. Believers must make the decision to treat everyone right.

## Conclusion

It's nice just to be nice, but it is even better to let someone know you are nice. Believers need to remember that they are the light of the world, and if anyone should be kind to others, it should be them. Our world is filled with darkness, evil, wicked, mean, and hateful people, and God wants His children to bring light, kindness, joy, peace, and happiness to those around them. A person can easily find a reason to ignore or be mean to others if they look for it. But they must let their light of love and kindness shine everywhere they go. It is with love and kindness that believers can draw the sinners. It doesn't cost much to be nice and treat others fairly.

## Questions

1. How much does it cost a person to treat everyone right?
  2. What are some of the benefits of treating others right?
  3. Why does God demand that believers treat believers right?
  4. Why must a believer be kind and forgive others?
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## Essential Thought

**Believers must be righteous in every situation they find themselves in because they represent God at all times.**



# Expect the Best from God



## Background Reading

Psalm 140:8; Proverbs 10:28;  
11:23; Mark 11:22-24; 1 John 4:4

## Devotional Reading

Romans 8:18-28



## Central Verse

“Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”  
Ephesians 3:20, KJV

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”  
Ephesians 3:20, NLT

## Key Terms

**Earnest**—Having or showing a serious attitude; not light or playful.

**Expectation**—The act or state of expecting; a looking forward to or waiting for something.

**Great**—Large in size; not small or little.

## Introduction

The earth belongs to God. Mankind belongs to God. Everything in Heaven and Earth belongs to Him, and nothing is out of His reach. Jesus said when you pray, tell the Father to let His kingdom come here on Earth just as it is in Heaven. So, everything that He has in Heaven can be released for the believer on Earth. Whatever the believer binds in Heaven is bound on Earth, and whatever he releases on Earth is released in Heaven. Sometimes, believers receive nothing from God because their expectations are so low. The believer must remember that his God has everything and everything belongs to Him, and it is the Father's good pleasure to give His children the kingdom.

Jesus said ask, and it shall be given, but the believer must believe that when he asks, he will receive what he asked for. Just as the believers' children

believe that when he asks his mother and Father for something, he is going to receive it, the believer should know that his Heavenly Father is going to give it to him.

## Discussion

To expect means to think or believe something will happen or someone will arrive, according to the Cambridge Dictionary. It also means to think that someone should behave in a particular way or do a particular thing. To expect someone to do something or expect something from someone is part of the word to expect.

To ask and receive from God, the believer must be positive in his thinking and use his faith in his expectation and use his faith to receive it. The Word of the Lord tells the believer it will happen, but it is according to the power that works in him. The Message Bible says, "God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us." Ephesians 3:20-21.

God had expectations of mankind, but they let Him down, so He put in place a power that could provide great expectations from mankind to Him. God so loved the world (mankind) that He gave His Son Jesus Christ to the world to die for their sins. God could not allow man to be in right fellowship with Him as long as sin separated them from God, so Jesus died to move the separation.

**Romans 8:18 lets believers know that the sufferings of this present time are not even worthy of being compared with the glory which shall be revealed in each believer. For the earnest expectation, for all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with great anticipation, the believers look forward to joining Jesus in glorious freedom from death, decay, and the grave. They expect to become just like Jesus, with a glorified body, able to spend eternity with Him. The Lord knew that humanity was lost and desperate, without help or hope, and in need of salvation. But thank God for Jesus, who laid the foundation and opened up the way. As believers remain faithful to Jesus, they can enjoy an abundant life and maintain a greater hope in Christ Jesus.**

**When the believer feels that things around him are confusing, when it seems like difficulties are increasing, he's feeling weak and powerless. That is when**

he remembers that's not the end of his story. He has hope; he has great expectations; he knows that God, through Jesus, will give him the strength that will help him to withstand every storm that life can throw out at him. He knows that God has given him the very best that He has. Jesus is the best thing that could ever be in anybody's life.

God has given the believer the authority and the power to tread and to trample over the enemy in every area of his life. He is not defenseless against the wiles of the enemy. God has equipped him with the authority and power to defeat and overcome the snares and traps of the enemy in every area of his life. The believer has a right to expect the best from God, for God said in Isaiah 1:19, "that if he were willing and obedient, he could eat the good of the land." In other words, he can have the best that God has to offer.

The enemy tries to make the believers feel they have no control over their circumstances. Satan wants them to be discouraged and feel depressed and helpless. God wants a believer to be inspired by His Word and His promises, expect and move on those promises, and watch every promise come to pass.

## Conclusion

The believer has not lived his life trying to live Holy and living the best he can for God and does not have great expectations. He has denied himself the pleasures of this world because he expects to spend eternity enjoying the very best that God has to offer. He expects to live in a mansion in Glory, walking on streets of gold, looking at the pearly gates and walls of sapphire. He expects to see the foundation stones of jasper, sapphire, agate, emerald, onyx, carnelian, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, and amethyst. **And above all he is looking forward to spending eternity praising and worshipping God with Jesus, the Angels, the disciples, and the saints from all the ages.**

## Questions

1. **Why can a believer expect great things from God?**
2. **What gives the believer confidence that God will give great things if he asks for it?**



3. What does the believer classify as great things?
4. What is the earnest expectation of the believer?

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## **Essential Thought**

Don't just plan to go to Heaven, but expect to go there  
because it is the best that God has to offer.

# God Heals Lepers



## Background Reading

Leviticus 13;1-13; 2 Kings  
5:1-14; Matthew 10:8;  
Mark 1:40-45;

## Devotional Reading

Luke 17:11-19



## Central Verse

“And many Lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.” Luke 4:27, KJV

“And many in Israel had leprosy in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian.” Luke 4:27, NLT

## Key Terms

**Unclean**—Morally or spiritually impure; prohibited by religious law for use or contact.

**Leprosy**—A chronic infectious disease caused by a mycobacterium (*Mycobacterium leprae*) affecting especially the skin and peripheral nerves and characterized by the formation of nodules or macules that enlarge and spread accompanied by loss of sensation with eventual paralysis, wasting of muscle, and production of deformities.

**Infirmity**—The quality or state of being infirm or weak or frail in body (as from age or disease).

## Introduction

Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost; He came to set the captives free, and He came to heal those who are sick and afflicted. “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2). It is part of the reason He left His home in Glory to come and redeem mankind from the curse of the broken law.

In the early days, before we had modern medicine, many sick people died of different illnesses and diseases that we now have cures for. Leprosy was a

bad disease during those days, and there was no known cure for it. Leprosy caused men and women to be separated from their families because they were classified as being unclean. But Jesus is the remedy for all kinds of diseases. Leviticus 13:9 says, "When the plague of leprosy is in a man, then he shall be brought unto the priest; and the priest shall see him: and, behold, if the rising be white in the skin, and it have turned the hair white, and there be quick raw flesh in the rising; it is an old leprosy in the skin of his flesh, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean, and shall not shut him up: for he is unclean."

### Discussion

Matthew 4:23 tells the believers that "Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." He is the God of all flesh and there is nothing too hard for Him to do. Sometimes the Lord allows His children to get into situations that seem to be impossible to get out of. He allows sickness and diseases to come upon some of His people and they find out that the doctor has no known cure for them. That is the time they must know that King Jesus is a healer, and He is a doctor who has never lost a case. The late Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson used to say, "If you can have it; Jesus can heal it."

Jesus came preaching about the kingdom of Heaven and He let the people of that day know that He could forgive their sins and heal their bodies. He provided healing for His people just as much as forgiveness through His finished work on the cross. God has not made it difficult to receive a simple faith that focuses on seeing Jesus and what He has already done for the believers. He positions the believers for the power of God that is enough to heal every kind of sickness and every kind of disease, including those for **which there is no known cure**. There were a lot of sick and impotent people **who had lost all hope of ever being whole again**. But when they heard and **saw the miracles that Jesus** was doing, they began to follow Him seeking **to be healed**. **The blind, the cripple, the deaf, the dumb, and those who had leprosy came looking for Jesus** so that they could be healed. Seeing the **multitude of people getting healed** gave hope to those who had lost hope. **The people began to understand** that God was a God who was no respecter of persons, for what He had done for others, He was willing to do for them. **So, men and women who had all kinds of sickness and diseases began to come to Jesus and receive their healing**. Jesus' fame began to spread all over the known regions and the people came looking for Him. Among those who came looking for Him in Luke 17:12-19 were ten men who were lepers,

which stood afar away from the people. They knew that being unclean, they could not come close to the people, so they cried with loud voices, asking Jesus to have mercy on them. When Jesus saw them, He said unto them, "Go shew yourselves to the priests."

As they obeyed Jesus and went, they recognized that they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back and, with a loud voice, glorified God. He fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks: even though he was a Samaritan. Jesus answered and said unto him, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." Then Jesus said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Jesus told His disciples that as they went preaching the kingdom of heaven was at hand. They were to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out devils: Freely you have received, freely give.

## Conclusion

The book of Luke reminded the people that there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elijah, the prophet, but none of them got healed except Naaman the Syrian. It was common to see people who had leprosy in that day, but they were not healed like they were after Jesus came. God can heal any disease that a believer has, but they must have faith in Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, sent two of his disciples to Jesus and asked Him if He was the Messiah or did they need to look for another. At the time they arrived where Jesus was, Jesus had cured many people of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; the blind had received their sight. So, Jesus told them to go back and tell John the things they had seen and heard. He told them to tell John that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and to the poor, the gospel is preached.

**Jesus has power over all disease.** Out of the multitudes that followed Jesus, a leper came and worshipped Him, saying Lord, if thou wilt, "Thou canst make me clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Jesus said to him, "Don't tell anybody, but go your way and show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them." (Matthew 8:2-4).



## Questions

1. What was so different about leprosy from other diseases?
  2. Why did the person who had leprosy have to separate themselves from their family and society?
  3. What was one of the purposes of Jesus coming to the earth?
  4. Who was the man in the Old Testament that God healed from leprosy?
  5. After the leper was healed, why did Jesus tell him to go show himself to the Priest?
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## Essential Thought

We serve a God who can heal anybody from anything.

# Walking in Wisdom



## Background Reading

Job 12:13; Proverbs 1:7; 3:13;  
13:10; 28:26; Ecclesiastes 8:1;  
1 Corinthians 2:2-9; 3:19; 12:8

## Devotional Reading

2 John 1:5-10



## Central Verse

“Walk in wisdom toward them that  
are without, redeeming the time.”

Colossians 4:5, KJV

“Live wisely among those who are  
not believers and make the most of  
every opportunity.”

Colossians 4:5, NLT

## Key Terms

**Unique**—Being the only one of its kind; being without a like or equal.

**Susceptible**—Capable of submitting to an action, process, or operation; easily affected.

**Burnout**—Exhaustion of physical or emotional strength or motivation, usually as a result of prolonged stress or frustration.

**Precepts**—A command or principle intended especially as a general rule of action.

## Introduction

Wisdom is the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment, the quality of being wise. It is the use of one's knowledge and experience to make good judgments. It is the interpreting and understanding of knowledge that leads to greater insight and common sense.

The Word of the Lord says “Wisdom is the principle thing: therefore get wisdom: And with all thy getting get understanding” (Proverbs 4:7). So, to walk in wisdom, the believer must make sure that he includes God and His infinite wisdom in his life, whether he is a leader or a follower. Without wisdom, every believer (leader or follower) is susceptible to isolation, discouragement,

insecurity, and burnout. But that does not have to happen; for the Word of the Lord has a plan for pastors, ministers, evangelists, missionaries, and church leaders on every level who want to walk in wisdom and reflect Christ's character in their leadership. Every leader can receive God's wisdom for the unique leadership challenges they must face. As a leader, the believer must be able to provide wise counsel to the emerging leaders around him who crave wisdom. When he becomes wise while leading others, he can expand his influence and change lives by learning how to give wise counsel. God gives by His Spirit the Word of Wisdom to the believer so that the manifestation of the Spirit can give profit to that believer to help the body. The believer does not stand alone. He is a part of the Body of Christ.

## Discussion

God's wisdom is available to the believer. The word of the Lord tells the believer that if he has no wisdom or lacks wisdom, he should ask God for it. To make himself available to gain wisdom, go to the book of wisdom, the Book of Proverbs in the Bible. The need for wisdom is the one common denominator that every individual has. Wisdom is needed to make the big decisions and the day-to-day decisions in life.

The believer always has wisdom available to him. God's word is the greatest source of wisdom that a man can find anywhere he searches. The word of the Lord tells the believer that "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (1 Corinthians 3:19). Having wisdom should be every believer's goal; for it is not just talking about intelligence or having above-average knowledge, but it is God's mindset that helps the believer consider and decide his path so that it can be aligned with God's will. Receiving wisdom will help the believer to grow in grace and in the knowledge of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But the believer cannot just go to any book and gain wisdom; he must be led by the Spirit of God. There are many educated people in the world around the churches, but all of them are not Spirit-filled and have no real understanding of the Word and the will of God. They will have a believer so confused that they will not be able to be victorious in anything they do.

The early Church had church mothers who would tell the Saints they **couldn't eat at everybody's table and be whole**. They stressed that you had **to be careful about going to unauthorized Bible studies** because, again, the **wisdom of this world is foolishness with God**. "There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

So, to walk in wisdom, the believer must take heed that he doesn't get caught up with man's philosophies and strange doctrines that will cause him to be led astray. It is important that believers know what they believe, learn, and know their Statement of Faith.

James told the believers that "the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits" (James 3:17). He said that if a man has "bitter envying and strife in their heart, glory not and lie not against the truth. This wisdom did not come from up above, but it is earthly, sensual, and devilish. Where there is envying and strife, there is confusion, and every evil work" (James 3:14-16). And where there is evil work, know that the devil promotes it. Because the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

Jesus Christ will help the believer walk in wisdom when he sees the importance of prioritizing wisdom and learns to experience wisdom in every situation daily. This causes the believer to walk in divine wisdom and good success as he pursues God's wisdom and becomes fulfilled in Jesus.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). It is vital to the well-being of the believer to build upon the principles and the precepts of God's Word as he walks in wisdom. The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the chief and choice part of wisdom. So, the heart fears that the believer has and the honor that he has for God come together in a united front as he walks in wisdom.

## Conclusion

As the believers read the book of Proverbs, they should become wisdom-challenged to unlock the secrets to a sustained approach of acquiring wisdom that profoundly changes them, as well as others. In his pursuit of walking in wisdom, the believer should put together a plan that is a simple, **effective strategy for pursuing wisdom. Partnering in the pursuit and passing it along for impact.** This should help develop a deep understanding and **a deep hunger for the life-changing power of wisdom.**

**Proverbs is the greatest book of wisdom that a person can find anywhere. Most of it was written by the wisest man recorded to have ever lived. God gave His servant King Solomon this wisdom to pass on to the generations after him. The book of Proverbs embodies wisdom that will make the believer's**



walk of wisdom more effective and productive in every place he walks. "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22).

Questions

- 1. How can a believer walk in wisdom?
- 2. What are some of the influences that can affect the believer's walk?
- 3. Why is the wisdom of the world foolishness to God?

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Essential Thought

Don't embrace foolishness because if you do, you will walk in foolishness instead of wisdom.

# Chosen by God



### Background Reading

2 Chronicles 28:6; 29:10-15;  
Psalm 33:12; Isaiah 48:10;  
Matthew 20:16; Ephesians  
1:3-4; 1 Peter 2:9-10

### Devotional Reading

John 15:17-27



## Central Verse

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you.”  
John 15:16, KJV

“You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.”  
John 15:16, NLT

## Key Terms

**Forbearing**—The act of holding back or keeping from; to be patient when annoyed.

**Longsuffering**—Patiently enduring lasting offense or hardship.

**Flaring**—To become very angry.

## Introduction

What a blessing to be chosen for an inheritance by God. Sometimes, believers fail to recognize how blessed they really are. The Word of the Lord tells believers that they are a chosen generation, and they are chosen for a purpose. They are chosen first to show forth the praises of God. God has instructed everything that hath breath to praise Him, but He goes farther than that with the believers. He lets them know that their purpose is to show the praises of Him, who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. When they were nobodies who had no mercy shown to them, He made them acceptable and made them His people by His mercy.

Many are called, but only a few are chosen. To be chosen by Christ means to be part of the eternal will and plan of God, to be positioned to impart God's will to humanity.

### Discussion

With all the global and world problems it is important for believers to know that they are more than just ordinary people. They are extraordinary. God tells them that they are a chosen generation, not just another generation, because generations come and they go. They are not just chosen, but chosen by God. God wants each of them to understand their calling and use it as a blessing for the body of Christ. They should help His people in this confusing time to know the will of God for themselves as well as for others. They need to know why God has chosen this time for them to be here on earth.

The believers chosen by God enter a priestly order, which puts the believer in a place where he must know that this high calling of priestly work positions him to be holy. They should be one of the instruments that God has chosen to do His work and to speak out for Him in this troubled society. He chooses believers who can tell others how God has made a difference in their lives. They should let others know how He has lifted them up far above the expectations of their families and the people who knew them. He has brought them from rejection to acceptance.

The Lord chooses people for His treasured possession. Out of all the people on the face of this earth, God has made choice of you: "For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14). The chosen ones are chosen even while they are in the womb of their mother. God told Jeremiah that He knew him before he was formed in his mother's womb, and before he came into this world, He had consecrated him and appointed him to be a prophet to the nation. That is one of the reasons the Lord lets the believer know that he didn't choose God, but God made choice of him.

Paul told the believer that he was blessed in Christ and every spiritual blessing by God the Father of Jesus Christ because, before the foundation of the world, God had a plan for his life. God has chosen for the believer to be in Him, holy and blameless before Him in love. Because God so loved the world, the believer so loves God.

God made choice of certain people because He knew that they would perform the job of being His witnesses. They would know and believe Him and

understand who He is and know that He's the only God and there will never be another God who can measure up to Him (Isaiah 43:10). He knew that there would be certain believers whom He would call through His Son Jesus's gospel and that they would obtain the glory of His Son, Jesus Christ.

These believers will not have to tell others that God chose them; others will see and know by their lives that God has loved and chosen them (Psalm 82:6). For Paul said that God had opened His heart and accepted him into the beloved.

When a believer is chosen by God, he seeks to be like God. He seeks the holiness of God by having a compassionate heart and by showing kindness to all. Putting forth a spirit of humility, showing meekness, which is strength under control, filled with the works of patience. Able to take things without flaring up, able to forbear one another, loving enough to forgive. Seeking and having peace in every aspect of his life and always filled with thanksgiving, he must have thanksgiving every day, twenty-four hours a day.

### Conclusion

To be chosen by God puts a person in a different category than just being a regular churchgoer. He must remember that he is not his own and can't just say anything. He is not his own, so he can't just go anywhere. He cannot connect with just anyone. He must ask God and allow God to lead him. He must remember that his steps are ordered by the Lord. Since he is chosen, he must acknowledge God and ask and receive His leading in everything.

They that are chosen are a part of the remnant chosen by God's grace, whom He has preserved for Himself, who will not bow to the things of this world, who will be an example of God's holiness and heirs of His riches and will be empowered through His grace.

### QUESTIONS

1. **How does a person know that he is chosen?**
2. **What is the difference between called and chosen?**
3. **What are some of the expectations that God has for those who are chosen?**



## Lesson 10 • First Week

A series of eight horizontal, wavy lines spanning the width of the page, intended for handwritten notes or reflections.

### **Essential Thought**

To be chosen by God moves the believer  
from ordinary to extraordinary.

# What Is the Greatest Sin



## Background Reading

Psalm 92:15; John 7:18;  
Romans 1:17-18; 29; 9:14;  
6:13; 1 Corinthians 15:56;  
1 John 1:7-9; 5:16-20

## Devotional Reading

Romans 7:7-25



## Central Verse

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is a sin.”  
James 4:17, KJV.

“Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.”  
James 4:17, NLT.

## Key Terms

**Atoned**—To apologize.

**Subsequent**—Following in time, order, or place.

## Introduction

Sin is a key concept in the Bible. All unrighteousness is sin. Sin is a rebellion against God in words, deeds, or desires. It destroys the relationship between God and humans and has disastrous consequences for people's relationship with one another and their natural environment. But know that God has a solution for the problem of human sin. Sin is a separator from God and all sin needs to be atoned. But some sins merit greater punishment than others. Jesus told Pilate, “He who delivered me over to you has the greater sin” (John 19:11).

Though Pilate would have to pay for the sentence that he allowed Jesus to receive, it was actually Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest, who coordinated the arrest and subsequent trial of Jesus (John 18:24, 28). It was Caiaphas, in conjunction with other religious authorities, who delivered Jesus into Pilate's custody.

## Discussion

In the eternal sense, there is no greater sin, for all sin is sin because all sin separates mankind from his creator God. All sins are mortal sins in that even one sin makes the offender worthy of spiritual death and eternal separation from God. James 2:10 tells the believer that if he offends at one point of the law, he is guilty of all the law. Whosoever committeth sin transgressed also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. We do not find in the scripture that there is the “greatest sin,” but C.S. Lewis mentions in his writing that pride is the ultimate rebellion against God, and all the other sins are byproducts of pride. The Word of the Lord tells the believer that all that is in the world is “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16). It is a proven fact that these three are destructive to the human being; for these are not of God, but of the world.

Pride is so bad that God names it among the six deadly sins that He hates in Proverbs 6. Pride has terrible consequences in the lives of believers, and it should be dealt with by completely putting it out of their lives. Believers know that God hates sin and evil, but because He is a righteous God, He tolerates it in His world. He has made it possible for mankind to know and realize that the wage of sin is death. He made man with free will to make his own choices, to choose Him and live, or to choose sin and suffer the consequences of their choice. He gives man a choice in Deuteronomy 30:19 where He tells mankind, “I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”

The Word of the Lord speaks of “the unpardonable sin” in Mark 3:22-30 and Matthew 12:22-32, and it is known as the unforgivable sin or “blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all sins and every slander utter” (Mark 3:28), but then He gives one exception: “Whosoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin” (verse 29). This sin occurs when someone knows the power of the Holy Spirit and denies it (Matthew 12:24).

**The Word also speaks of the sinfulness of sin.** Sometimes, because a person gets so caught up in doing the things of the world, he gets out of control and finds himself in a place that he never thought he would ever get to. Sin becomes so sinful that it controls his mind, thoughts, actions, and feelings. The devil will take a man farther than he ever thought he could go in sin and keep him longer than he ever planned to stay.

The prodigal son never dreamed that he would work a job touching swine, something no respectable Jewish man would ever touch. But when he got caught up in the sin business it robbed him of everything that was decent in his life. So many people have allowed themselves to become hooked on habits that get out of control. Sin becomes sinful when mankind loses all sense of right and wrong, when they will believe a lie and be damned. That is when men will have sex with their own child, whether male or female. It becomes sinful when a father is against his son and a son against his father. It becomes sinful when a mother is against her daughter and a daughter is against her mother. When men lose their natural affection for a woman and desire to lie with a man. And when a woman loses her natural desire for a man and desires to lie with a woman.

### Conclusion

“The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes” (Psalm 36:1). Romans 3:23 tells the believer that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” So, as believers go through life facing inconvenient situations, which are filled with pain, failure, humiliation, and powerlessness, not finding correct answers, they become objects of the devil’s power, if they don’t realize that their help and hope must come from God. God will give them the power to resist the devil so that the devil will flee from them. God does not want them to be caught up in the sin business. He wants them to flee from sin and all unrighteousness.

It is important that believers take sin seriously, and know that every challenge, every discouragement, should not cause them to forsake their commitment to God and slide back into the sin business. They must be committed to Jesus and follow Him; for He is a rewarder to those who trust and obey Him. To avoid sin, our lives must be those which obey God’s word and shun the very appearance of evil. With Jesus on the inside, the believer can find joy in every circumstance that they encounter. When Christ is their Lord, He gives them the power to overthrow the enemy in every area of their lives. When Christ lives in the heart of the believer, sin must bow, it must flee. The bondages of the past must go.

### Questions

1. What is the greatest sin?
2. Why did Jesus tell Pilate that he had committed the greater sin?



## Lesson 11 • Second Week

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3. What is the unpardonable sin?
4. What makes sin sinful?

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### **Essential Thought**

Sin is a reproach to any and all people.

# Reasons for Going to Church



## Background Reading

2 Chronicles 2:3-7; Acts 15:4-6;  
1 Corinthians 11:17-20;  
14:23; Philemon 1:2

## Devotional Reading

Ezra 5:8-17;  
Hebrews 10:23-25



## Central Verse

“I was glad when they said unto me,  
let us go into the house of the Lord.”  
Psalm 122:1, KJV

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let  
us go into the house of the Lord.’”  
Psalm 122:1, NLT

## Key Terms

**Tabernacle**—A house for public worship; a tent used as a place of worship by the Israelites during their wanderings in the wilderness with Moses.

**Tent**—A raised covering over something for decoration or protection.

**Church**—A building for public worship and especially Christian worship; an organized body of religious believers.

**Temple**—A building for religious practice.

## Introduction

For many years, the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness and could not build a stable place of worship. They used a tent as their tabernacle and moved it from place to place. They had been told to enter the courts of God with praises and to come before God’s presence with singing. They knew that the place of worship was special, for God said that He had hallowed it and put His name there. The believers are called to gather in God’s house and worship Him, but they are also called to help build and support His house. Each believer should be able to feel the call to action and help build God’s house. Believers have a love connection for God, which causes them to be very protective towards Him.

It is very necessary that every believer build a relationship with God by getting a deeper understanding of His abounding love and His desire for

each one of them to grow into a close personal relationship with Him. It can be done in a believer's home, but going into the Church gives him a closer feeling of God's presence because God's Spirit dwells in His Temple or His Church.

Going to the church building gives a person a sense of belonging to a family and allows people to develop wholesome relationships that enhance their lives. It allows for spiritual growth. And they are fed with spiritual food when the preacher preaches or the teacher teaches. It is a place where information and understanding are given. It is a place where the gifts and talents of believers receive a place of training and exercise. The Word of God instructs believers to never forsake the practice of going to Church.

### Discussion

Making the sacrifice of going to the church is giving God first place, which is a lifetime commitment that every believer must be willing to do. Each believer should learn to make attending church a habit by letting God work in his life. As he commits to going to church, he must commit to letting God build him, his family, his career, and every aspect of his life. The more he visits God's place of residence, the more he gets to know God. Going to God's House allows God to become involved in his life.

I personally can remember that I had gone to the doctor because I was having some physical challenges. I had been diagnosed with cancer, stage four. The treatment did not help me, and I was in much pain. Sometimes, I would say to my husband, "If I can just get to church, where the saints are." I knew the saints would be praying, praising, and worshipping God, and I needed to be in that atmosphere. Because I knew that somebody would touch God, and God would touch me. I attended one of our conventions (UNAC) in New Orleans, Louisiana that July. As I sat in the service that Sunday evening, the Spirit of the Lord spoke to me and said, "If you praise Me, I will heal you." Very reluctantly, after hearing the Holy Spirit repeat it to me three times, I leaped to my feet and began to scream Jesus repeatedly. While I was screaming Jesus, I felt the lumps in my breast began to move. In a matter of seconds, I could not find the lumps. I ran out of the sanctuary into a restroom, asked someone to unzip my dress, and proceeded to look for the lumps. Well, the lumps were gone! My breasts had turned from black and hard back to brown and soft. That evening, I received my healing. But if I had not gone to church, I probably would not have been healed.

Israel had been told that if they couldn't get to the church building, turn toward it and pray that God would hear and help them.

Life often presents unforeseen pitfalls that can throw believers off course. But believers must have a place of refuge and a place of anchor. When John F. Kennedy was killed, the family was looking for his mother. They found Mrs. Rose Kennedy in church. Her heart was hurting; her world was turned upside down, and the only place that she knew that she could go and receive the comfort and strength that she needed was her church.

The church is a place of healing for the spirit, the soul, and the body. So, in the trials and seasons of difficulty, the believer must hold the course to God and trust the process that renews and gives strength to the weary. The time that the believers are living in is a time of perils; it's a time of anxiety, fear, and worry. But in the House of God, there is rest for the weary. It's a place where people can come and lay down their burdens, fix their eyes on the Lord Jesus, and hear an encouraging word that will bring life to the dead issues in their lives.

For so many years, God's people had no beautiful house to worship in because the enemy had come in and stole all the beautiful vessels out of the Temple and destroyed it. God always has someone concerned about His house. King David wanted to build it, but God would not allow it to be so. But He did allow David to gather the gold, silver, brass, different types of wood, and all the materials needed to build it. But David's Son, King Solomon, had the privilege of building that beautiful temple.

## Conclusion

Go to church anyway; for every believer has a past, and every sinner has a future. If you are having sex before marriage, go to church anyway. If you are a drug addict trying to beat addiction, go to church anyway. If you went out to the club on Saturday night and got drunk and stayed out most of the night, get up and go to church anyway. If you're having identity problems, not knowing if you want to be a man or a woman, go to church anyway. If you have a habit that you can't break, go to church anyway. If you are living with someone and can't turn that man or woman loose, go to church anyway.

**The church is a hospital for the broken, the lost, the empty, the oppressed,**



the confused, the desperate, the indebted, and the rejected. God can take hold of a person and make something beautiful of their life.

## Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Church?
2. Why should a person go to church?
3. Why is the Church called a hospital?

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## Essential Thought

The Church is the place where God's spirit dwells.  
Meet Him, and He will meet you.

# The Kingdom of God for the Believers



## Background Reading

Luke 9:2; 10:7-12; 17:20-25;  
Matthew 6:9-10; Mark 1:14-15;  
Acts 8:12; Hebrews 12:28

## Devotional Reading

Matthew 6:25-34



## Central Verse

“For the kingdom of God is not meat  
nor drink, but righteousness, and  
peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

Romans 14:17, KJV

“For the kingdom of God is not a  
matter of what we eat or drink, but  
of living a life of goodness and peace  
and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 14:17, NLT

## Key Terms

**Joy**—A feeling of great pleasure or happiness that comes from success, good fortune, or a sense of well-being.

**Advent**—The coming of Christ as a deity, the Son of God.

**Kingdom**—The eternal kingship of God; the realm in which God’s will is fulfilled.

## Introduction

The Kingdom of God is said to be the everlasting realm where God is sovereign and where Jesus rules forever. The book of Romans tells the believer that the Kingdom of God is not meat nor drink; it is not carnal things, nor tangible things that a person can purchase at a store, but it is righteousness, peace, and joy. It is those things that can only come from the Holy Spirit. It may include gladness and happiness, which is found in joy, but it is joy unspeakable and full of the glory of God. It is a peace that surpasses all human understanding and flows out of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit on the inside working on the outside of man, and it is found within the heart of a believer.

Scripture shows believers that God is the undeniable ruler, the supreme being of the universe: "The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all" (Psalm 103:19).

### Discussion

The Kingdom of God is righteousness. It is the quality of being right in God's eyes based on God's laws and standards. Righteousness is a gift from God to believers through Jesus Christ. For God so loved the world that He gave His Son, Jesus, to all who would believe on Him and accept Him.

Christianity.com says that righteousness, by human standards, is defined as "the quality of being morally true or justifiable." Justification is made according to the conformity of behavior with the regulation (or constitution, in the context of a nation).

In its deeper spiritual meaning, righteousness is the quality of being right in the eyes of God, including character (nature), conscience (attitude), conduct (action), and command (word). Therefore, righteousness is based upon God's standard because God is the ultimate lawgiver (Isaiah 33:22).

Righteousness is a God-centered attribute that cannot be obtained by any human effort. God tells the believers that His ways are not their ways, and His thoughts are not their thoughts. There is too much difference between the two. Righteousness is a God thing, and it is not about mankind at all. Man cannot measure up to God's righteousness in any way, shape, or form. Man does not have to strive to be righteous. He must accept the will and the mind of God by faith. Works do not attain it because it is a gift from God. Jesus told the believer to pray to His Father in Heaven and ask Him to allow His Kingdom to come here on Earth as it is in Heaven.

What the Kingdom brings to a believer is much more than what he can receive here on Earth. On Earth, believers strive to have food to eat, shelter, and clothing, which are just temporal things that will fade away. But the Kingdom shall last forever, throughout eternity. Righteousness exalts, builds, and sustains, because it is everlasting.

**Jesus advised the believers to seek the kingdom of God before they seek anything else. Most believers are seeking more, and most have expectations for their lives to be happy, to succeed professionally and personally, to be**

healthy, to overcome limits, and to live a better life. Well, Jesus said if you seek the Kingdom of God—the righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit—everything else that you need will be added to your life. God wants every believer to be happy, complete, and prosperous in every area of their life. God knows that apart from Him, the believer's life is incomplete.

The Kingdom of God is peace, tranquility, harmony, security, prosperity, or well-being. It is a desired status in relationships between God, mankind, and oneself. Peace is so important in the Kingdom of God that the believers were told to follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no one shall see the Lord. He told the believers to go after peace, pursue peace, and find peace, for where there is peace, the blessing of the Lord abides. Jesus is the Prince of Peace; He is what everyone seeking for the Kingdom of God needs and desires (Isaiah 9:6). This peace will keep the heart and mind of the believer secure. So, as the believer seeks the Kingdom of God, he must believe, receive, and embrace the advent of Jesus Christ. Let the peace of God rule in your heart (Colossians 3:15).

The Kingdom of God is joy, which is a choice; the believer must choose to be content and satisfied as he goes through trials and negative circumstances that normally would not be a time of joy and contentment. But with the Holy Spirit, the believer receives power to do what seems impossible. The Holy Spirit will give the believer a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. The Kingdom supplies joy in the midst of sorrow, creating hope when the believer sees no tomorrow. Because the Holy Spirit gives joy, it is not based on human actions, so human actions cannot shake joy out of believers' lives.

## Conclusion

So, as believers, seek the kingdom of God and know that it can be found. If a believer believes in God as Scripture has said, he will find that the Kingdom of God is within himself. The Holy Spirit will walk and talk with them. The Holy Spirit will make Himself known in every possible way, and the believer can say, "This joy that I have, the world didn't give it to me, and the world can't take it away. God is the originator of true joy."

**So, he seeks not food and clothes, but a city, the place Jesus calls home—His Father's House, the place whose builder and maker is God. The place where he can spend eternity, the Kingdom of God, righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.**



## Questions

1. What is the Kingdom of God?
2. Who can have the Kingdom of God?
3. What makes up the Kingdom of God?
4. Why is righteousness a part of the Kingdom of God?
5. Why is joy a choice?

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## Essential Thought

It's alright to seek things that will comfort you, but make sure you have the Comforter first.