



*A Collection of Thoughts  
and Scriptures*



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Friends, over the years I have had some Bible verses that I wanted to know more about. I went through many commentaries and passages in the bible to get the information I wanted.

I was fortunate to have been able to attend church regularly with my parents. My mother taught Sunday School to me and my brothers and others over the years at Roscoe Methodist Church. Then during 35 yrs of shift work, I was scheduled to work most weekends.

In 2010, I was able to retire and soon joined the Bible Study group when Rev Cox was here, leading the class and next

was Rev Sullivan's Bible Studies; he was very knowledgeable with the Bible. It was a good experience for me. Rev Sutton helped me so much during his time with us and he helped me do things I never would have tried in the past. I started the verses out with one that Rev Sutton had listed about every time in our weekly devotional, which is- **JAMES 4:8**  
*8a Draw **near** to God and God **will** draw near to you.*

Rev Mitchell motivated me and his advice and computer skills helped get these out.

With all that said- I would like to share these Bible verses with anyone who would like to look at them. This project I put together for myself originally, to help interpret what the Word says. Then around 2016, when my grandson Jaxson James was born- and later my granddaughter, Lyla Faith, gave me a bit more spark to make this for them.

I put these on my phone and would read them daily, maybe just one or two... or whatever I needed for that day. I'd read through, marking the passages, and then start at the top and would do it again. It's so easy to do this when these are on your phone! After doing this for 2 years, I felt like I wanted to share these with others. These verses have been shared over time to Lester Cline- a 96-yr old close friend of mine. Having this on my phone is handy for me in this way.

Reverend Mitchell gave me the encouragement to go ahead and pass this on, because it has really helped my life with priorities...and if someone, somewhere can remember a passage or two and get a new idea or thought to help them- then that is what I'm hoping to happen. My goal is to pass this on to my grandkids while they are still young and I'm still around; hoping that they will dig into the Bible way earlier in their lives than their G.P. did. I sure do wish I had started to study harder into the Bible earlier in my life, but I'm so thankful that I finally did, which is why I'm passing this on to you!

So if you receive these verses please remember this is just my own view of what God's Word offered to me. Whether you interpret the Bible the same as I understand it or not- is okay. God has a way to give us each what we need to understand what we need. In conclusion- if you receive this message, please read and enjoy. If you have your own ideas or thoughts about what these particular verses mean to **you**, please share them with us- by sending the bible passage and your thoughts to: Pastor Bob (pastorbobmitch@gmail.com) and / or to Jim McCullough (mac\_jbm@yahoo.com ).

Thank you and God bless!

*Jim McCullough*



## JAMES 4:8

*8a Draw **near** to God and God **will** draw near to you.*

The catch here is that we **can't** be walking in sin and be close to God. He wants us to have **pure hearts**, **pure minds**, and to be **humble**.

## PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5 &8

4 **Rejoice** in the Lord **always**. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your **gentleness** be **evident** to all. Paul returns again to the theme of **joy** in this verse. This time, he strongly emphasizes that such an **attitude** should be **constant**- not temporary.

In **addition** to rejoicing- Paul encouraged his readers to be known for gentleness, patience, and moderation.

Christians are **not** to be seen as easily **angered** or **foolish**

-- **but** rather as **reasonable**- wise people who **can** handle **difficulties** and **disagreements** with **maturity**.

*6 Do **not** be **anxious** about anything, but in **every** situation, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God.*

Instead of anxiety, believers are to humbly and gratefully approach God with **whatever** is on their minds. This does **not** mean believers are going to live a **worry-free** life- nor does it mean **additional** help won't be required. **However**, it does show that **addressing** problems in our lives should begin with **prayer**.

**Petitions** are specific requests made to God. His worshippers can offer petitions "in **everything**," or "in **every** situation."

However, such prayers **must be** in harmony with God's will as revealed in the **Bible**.

Prayers of **thanksgiving** to God express **gratitude** for what he has **done**- and will do for us. When we focus on **reasons** we have to thank God, it helps us **maintain** a joyful outlook.

Then, when we do pray, we may **think** that the only help that God can give is to **grant** the **request** as we have presented it and **change** the situation. God does not promise to change every situation to our liking.

What He **does** promise to do is give us **peace** during **any** situation.

**Can worrying become a sin?**

while **basic** worrying and anxiety are **not** sins, there **does** come a time when they **can** become a sin---- when they begin to **dictate** and **control** our lives. **And**- we **allow** them to **without** seeking to **manage** and **control** them **or** when we choose to listen to the **voice** of **worry** rather than the **voice** of **God** in our lives.

***The Lord is near.***

*8 Finally, brothers and sisters, **whatever** is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable**—if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy**—**think** about such things.*

Filling our **minds** with truth and all **good** things is a **challenge**.

*We are called to **rejoice** in the Lord, to **pray** without ceasing, and in **everything** we do to give **thanks** to the Lord.*

**Noble**- unselfish and morally good **people** that "**received the word of God**".

true- noble- right- pure- lovely- admirable- excellent- praiseworthy - - - -

-- **think** about these things **when** your **mind** goes to **wandering**- this happens **alot** to us!

This **might** help **us** keep some **focus** - on **God** throughout our **day**.

In addition to rejoicing, Christians are **not** to be seen as easily **angered** or foolish, but rather as **reasonable**, wise people who can **handle** difficulties and disagreements with maturity.

It's **easy** to dwell on the **negative** when life is **hard**,

**Refusing** to dwell on **negativity** and **intentionally** focusing on **positivity** are **ingredients** God uses to allow **peace** to grow and **turmoil** to dwindle.

This is **why** it's so **important** to **follow** this verse of instruction; it's here to **help** us through the **tough** times

and **appreciate** the **great** moments.

Understanding that Christ can **come** at any **moment** is a source of **encouragement** for those who are **saved**

### **Romans 12:17-18**

*17 Do **not** repay anyone **evil** for **evil**. Be **careful** to **do** what is **right** in the eyes of **everyone**.**18** If it is **possible**, as far as it **depends** on **you**, live at peace with everyone.*

Paul comes to a **difficult** command for **many** people- including Christians. It is absolutely the **example** Jesus set for us, however.

Paul declares that we must **resist** our natural human instinct for **revenge!**

And to be **thoughtful** when evil is done to us. When we **do**, we make a **powerful** statement that we are choosing to **live** in **service** to God instead of to ourselves.

Paul gives two clear **conditions**: "*If possible*" and "*so far as it depends on you.*" This command recognizes that conflict is **sometimes** unavoidable

#### ***If possible***

It is **not** possible to live peacefully with **everyone**.

The truth is that there are **those** who will **not** be reconciled.

you can't control someone else's anger but you **can** control **yourself**.

***so far as it depends on you,***

**"Never** let yourself be the **reason** for an **un-peaceful** relationship with another person so that **you**-are **not** the **cause** of the **problem**."

### **1 JOHN 2:3-4**

*3 We know that we have come to **know** him if we **keep** his commands. 4 Whoever says, "I know him," but does **not** do what he commands is a **liar**, and the **truth** is **not** in that person.*

To live an effective Christian life you **need** to **KNOW** and **BELIEVE** who you are in Christ.

Your true identity is found in **whose** you are.

You're **HIS**. He bought you at the price of His Son.

We are **all** sinners and need to **repent**

Even though we **feel** unworthy we **must** believe God's Word

Who **you are** in Christ

**Because** you are in Christ, **EVERY ONE** of these statements is true of **you!**

I am **loved**. 1 John 3:3

I am **accepted**. Ephesians 1:6

I am a **child** of God. John 1:12

I am Jesus' **friend**. John 15:14

I am a **joint heir** with Jesus, sharing His inheritance with Him. Romans 8:17

I am **united** with God and one spirit with Him. 1 Corinthians 6:17

I am a **temple** of God. His Spirit and his life lives in me. 1 Corinthians 6:19

I am a **member** of Christ's body. 1 Corinthians 12:27

I am a **Saint**. Ephesians 1:1

I am **redeemed** and **forgiven**. Colossians 1:14

I am **complete** in Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:10

I am **free** from **condemnation**. Romans 8:1

I am a **new creation** because I am in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17

I am **chosen** of God, holy and dearly loved. Colossians 3:12

I am **established**, anointed, and sealed by God. 2 Corinthians 1:21

I do **not** have a spirit of **fear**, but of **love**, **power**, and a sound **mind**. 2 Timothy 1:7

I am God's **co-worker**. 2 Corinthians 6:1

I am **seated** in heavenly places with Christ. Eph 2:6

I have **direct access** to God Ephesians. 2:18

I am chosen to **bear fruit** John. 15:16

I am one of God's **living stones**, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:5

I have been given exceedingly great and precious **promises** by God by which I **share** His nature. 2 Peter 1:4

I can **always** know the **presence** of God because He **never leaves** me Hebrews. 13:5

God **works** in **me** to help me do the things He wants me to do Philippians 2:13

I can ask God for wisdom and He will **give** me what I **need**. James 1:5

As a sinner it's **hard** to **imagine** myself being so **important** to have these things said about me.

Even though I'm **undeserving** it's **true** because of **God's Love** for us.

God gave us the **Bible** and **His Spirit**.

**Knowing** the Bible helps you **understand** the **commandments** and how to **follow** them

**With** the Spirit in us we have **genuine** love for our **fellow** Christians This love **isn't** something we had **before** we were saved,

**Once** you choose to **follow** Jesus you become a **new** creation, the **old** you passes away and you **become** who you **are** in **Him**.

## **JAMES 1:19**

### **Listening and Doing**

*19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,*

Being "**quick to listen**" means that we train ourselves to wait for the whole story before diving in with our **opinion**.

Big talkers think they **already** know everything they need to know, and they **constantly** express their **opinions**.

**Pause** before you **speak**.

When someone asks a question- the **temptation** is to respond **immediately**.

Those who are **slow to speak** avoid this temptation.

**Train** yourself to be slow to speak by- **pausing** before you speak.

....slow to become **angry**

**Notice** that this is not a command to never feel anger. **Anger** is a human emotion that everyone experiences, and it can be justified. Like when people hurt innocent people.

However, James' instruction here makes it clear that we can **learn** to control—or at least **slow down**—our angry **responses**.

**Let every man** be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

We can learn to be **slow to wrath** by first learning to be **swift to hear** and **slow to speak**.

Much of our anger and wrath comes from being **self-centered** and not **others-centered**.

**Swift to hear** is a way to be *others-centered*.

**Slow to speak** is a way to be *others-centered*.

"But hath not Nature taught us the same that the apostle here doth, by giving us **two** ears, and those open; and but **one** tongue, and that hedged in with teeth and lips?" (Trapp)

**Slow to wrath**; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God: In light of the nature of temptation and the goodness of God, we must take special care to be **slow to wrath**, because our wrath does **not** accomplish the **righteousness** of God. Our **wrath** almost always simply defends or promotes our **own** agenda.

## **PROVERBS 19:11**

*11 Good sense makes a man slow to anger, and it is his glory to **overlook** an offense*

**First**, we can observe that the first half of the proverb focuses on **self-control**.

**Second**, we know that anger itself is not wrong but rather **how** we express it.

**How** is this overlooking of an offense accomplished?

From a **human** standpoint, it is **impossible**. But God's **Spirit** at work in the **life** of a believer offers the **power** to **forgive** any wrong.

Jesus **taught** us to pray like this: "Forgive us our debts, **as we** also have **forgiven** our debtors" We forgive **because** we have been forgiven, knowing that **all** have **sinned** and fall **short** of God's glory

## **The Bible tells us**

### **Trinity**

The Father Son and Holy Spirit are all in One the same equal eternal and co-exist *each share God's precious Name* **7** 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 King James Version (KJV)**

### **We are all sinners**

God created all mankind who *turned away from Him* but through *His love* He shows a way for *forgiveness of our sins* for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, **Romans 3:23** "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the **forgiveness of sins** is proclaimed to you. **Acts 13:38**

### **God sends Savior to the world**

The Father sends *His only Son* to die upon the cross *He took our sins upon Himself* that no one would be lost *For God so loved the world* that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16** He was delivered over to **death for our sins** and was raised to life for our justification. **Romans 4:25**

### **Christ is without sin**

Christ was *sinless as a man* yet He died to set us free the pain and suffering that He felt was caused by you and me! *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.* **Matthew 5:48**

### **Christ is Risen**

By rising from the dead Christ showed the entire human race that if we do believe in Him we will be saved by grace **6** He is not here; **he has risen**, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. **Matthew 28:6** **8** For it is by **grace you have been saved**, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **Ephesians 2:8**

### **Christ is taken back to Heaven**

Jesus defeats death to rise again then *ascends into the sky* with hopes all will believe in Him that not a soul should die **11** "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you **into heaven**, will come back in the same way you have seen him **go into heaven.**" **Acts 1:11**

### **Repentance**

I'm sorry please *forgive me Lord* for all the wrong I've done I thank you God from all my heart for giving us Your Son **32** *I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.* **Luke 5:32**

### **Holy Spirit**

Then Jesus sent the *Holy Spirit* to help us to survive *He guides and shows us how to live to gain eternal life* **26** *But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.* **John 14:26** **7** *To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.* **Romans 2:7** He replied, "Blessed rather are those who **hear the word** of God and obey it." **Luke 11:28**

### **The Bible is God's Word**

God the Father with the Son and the Holy Spirit *sent this message to the world for everyone to hear it* He replied, "Blessed rather are those who **hear the word** of God and obey it." **Luke 11:28**

## **1 Corinthians 12:3**

"No one can say, *Jesus is Lord!* **except** in the Holy Spirit."

**Whenever** we're doubting our salvation, we can **say** aloud, "Jesus is Lord!"

As we declare this, **we're in** the Holy Spirit-- **not** in our **questioning** mind or our **changeable** emotions, and the Spirit in our spirit **witnesses** and **assures** us that we most **certainly** are children of God.

Bible

Holy Spirit

Love for one another

Remember what the Bible says about God's children  
Keep commandments  
Repent when you sin  
Changed life  
Holy Spirit and our spirit

### COLOSSIANS 4:2 & 5-6

*2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

*5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

Prayer is the means to **maintain** unbroken **fellowship** with God

Unless we are **persistent** in prayer and **devote** ourselves to **praying**, we are in **danger** of **becoming** lazy, disinterested, and compromised in our faith.

**Wisdom** should be used regarding our **actions** towards unbelievers.

We must **know** the Bible! What we **do** and what we **say** must be **consistent** with the Bible in order to **clearly** present the **message** of Jesus

For **effective** evangelism the idea of **gracious** or kind **speech** is given here

**Why** does Paul tell us to season our **conversation** with salt? He means that our **words** should be **tasty** and **delightful** to people who may **hear** them.

The content and tone of our **words** should **impact** those around us for the **better**, especially unbelievers.

### GALATIANS 6:10

*10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

The opportunity in **general** is our **lifetime** which is the season of **sowing**

There are **opportunities** to do good in the **name** of Christ **all around** us. Like the Good Samaritan.

Let us do good - in **every** possible **degree**.

At whatever **time** or **place**, and in whatever **manner** we can.

A **small** goodness is **better** than **no** goodness and can, in fact, have a great **impact**.

As Samuel Johnson said, "He who **waits** to do a **great** deal of good at **once** will **never** do any."

**Unto all men** - Neighbors or strangers, good or evil, friends or enemies.

But **especially** to them who are of the **household** of faith. For **all** believers are but one **family**.

### EPHESIANS 5:15-21

*15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ..*

*20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Looking **carefully** at our spiritual **walk** is considered **wise** by **abiding** or **remaining** in Jesus  
**Temptation** is all around us.

We must be **careful** because it is so **easy** to fall into Satan's **traps**. It is so easy to **fall** into sin.

The Spirit-filled **believer** is a person who is **regularly** thankful for what God has **done** in his or her life.

Notice **who** we are to thank as Spirit-filled believers: "God the Father in the **name** of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Submission** in the context of a Christian relationship includes the idea of putting **someone else**, and their needs, **above** ourselves.

### COLOSSIANS 3:17

*17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

" whatever you do."

we are to submit **everything**, and every **moment** to Christ

make **no** exceptions" to this

This includes what we **say** and how we **act** and how we **think**

The "name of the Lord Jesus" **means** under the **authority** and **approval** of Jesus.

We recognize that we **represent** Jesus in **all** that we **do** and **wherever** we're at

We **thank** God the Father, in the **name** of Jesus. It is **through** Jesus we are **saved** and have a **new** life.

## BOASTING ABOUT TOMORROW

### James 4:13-17

*13 Now **listen**, you who **say**, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do **not** even **know** what will **happen** tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that **appears** for a **little** while and then **vanishes**. 15 Instead, you **ought** to say, "If it is the Lord's **will**, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you **boast** in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is **evil**. 17 If anyone, then, **knows** the **good** they ought to do and **doesn't** do it, it is sin for them.*

Most recently, James has pointed out that speaking about human plans **without** acknowledging the **influence** of God is **evil**.

It's a **form** of bragging with an arrogant attitude

Instead, we ought to say, "If it is the Lord's **will**, we will **live** and **do** this or that."

The particular meaning then would be, "that he who **knows** what sort of **views** he should take in regard to the future, and **how** he should form his **plans** in view of the uncertainty of life, and **still** does **not** do it, but **goes** on recklessly, forming his **plans** and confident of success, is **guilty** of sin against God."

We **know** the right things to do. But simply **avoiding** bad choices is **not** enough.

We must **also** obey God's Word and **not** avoid doing the **right** things by committing sins of **omission**.

James follows the **example** of Jesus, who gave us a much more **difficult**, more **powerful** command: to actively **pursue** the good of **others**!

### 1 PETER 3:9

*9 Do **not** repay evil with evil or **insult** with **insult**. On the contrary, **repay** evil with **blessing**, because to this you were **called** so that you may inherit a **blessing**.*

There will be **times** when someone **does** wrong to you or insults you. Do **not** act on **impulse** with **revenge**

A blessing is a **positive** statement. We are to **pray** for the other person and **forgive** them

**Why** would we ever **do** such a thing for someone who has **hurt** or **insulted** us?

**Because** that's what **Jesus did** for us, and **He** is the one we **follow**.

Where evil is **repaid** with **good** and where **blessings** are the **response** to an **insult** that is what God has **called** us to **do** and He will **bless** us for it

### Romans 7:15-25a

*15 I do **not** understand **what** I do. For **what** I **want** to do I **do not** do, but **what** I **hate** I do.*

*16 And **if** I do **what** I do **not** want to do, I agree that the **law** is good.*

*17 **As it is**, it is no longer I **myself** who do it, but it is **sin** living in **me**.*

*18 For I know that **good** itself does **not** dwell in **me**, that is, in my **sinful** nature. For I have the **desire** to do what is **good**, but I **cannot** carry it out.*

*19 For I do **not** do the good I **want** to do, but the **evil** I do not want to do—this I keep on **doing**.*

*20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is **no longer** I who do it, but it is **sin living** in me that does it.*

*21 So I find this law at work: Although I **want** to do good, evil is right there **with** me. 22 For in my inner being I **delight** in God's law; 23 but I see **another** law at work in me, **waging war** against the law of my **mind** and making me a **prisoner** of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! **Who** will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 **Thanks** be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*



Paul characterizes himself as a **person** who continually does the **opposite** of what **he** himself **wants** to do. **Instead** of doing the things he **wants** to do, he **does** what he **hates**, instead. He insists that the law is **how** he came to **know** and **understand** sin

This **struggle** with **sin** is what is so **baffling** to Paul. As a **mature** believer, he does **not** understand **why** he is **still** sinning, when he has a **new** heart that **loves** God.

It is **bewildering** to Paul. This is a point of major **frustration**, because he **desires** godliness and holiness. But he keeps **falling** into **sin** and is **confused** by this **mystery** about himself.

**Why** does he **still** sin when he has a **new** nature with **new** affections, and the **Holy Spirit** now lives **inside** of him?

Paul **recognized** his natural **inability** to do **right** and **realized** his **need** to be **delivered** from sin by God **through** Jesus.

**Like** Paul, we have a constant **struggle** when it comes to doing the **right** thing. We **know** what is **right**, but when it comes to **doing** what is **right**, we often **fail**.

Our daily **decisions**, no matter how small, usually **shape** a lifetime, and **wisdom** is found in making the **most** of each and every **opportunity**. All of our decisions **matter** to God **because** they **impact** our lives and the **lives** of **others**.

Lifelong **recovery** lies in treating the **mind**. Paul was “addicted” to his **past**, sinful life, and **we** as Christians can **become** “addicted” to our past sinful lives **without** a strong **faith** in Christ. **Only** Christ can **rescue** us from our “cravings.”

The **Christian** life is a **fight** for **holiness**. This **battle** within **us** is real, intense, ongoing, internal, spiritual, and **found** within **all** true **believers**.

## 2 TIMOTHY 2:23

23 Do **not** have anything to do with foolish and stupid **arguments**, because you know they produce **quarrels**.

The **result** of these value-less **arguments** is that they simply lead to **more** arguments. They set Christian brothers **against** each other for **no** good reason

In 1 Timothy 2:8 Paul called leading men in the church to pray **without** quarreling

1 Timothy 3:3 taught elders could **not** be quarrelsome

And 1 Timothy 6:4 taught that a sign of **false** teachers was this type of **quarreling** over **words**

## Hebrews 13:2

2 Do **not forget** to show **hospitality** to strangers, for by so **doing** some people have shown **hospitality** to **angels** without knowing it.

The word “hospitality” means “**treating** strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.”

You **receive** someone you don’t know, who is not apart of your group – as a **guest**; so that they feel **comfortable** and at **home**.

**True** brotherly love is **not** satisfied with mere **words** but expresses itself with **deeds** of **compassion**.

Jesus said that whenever we **refuse** to **help** a **servant** of the Lord—the **needy**, the **stranger**, the **hungry**, the **thirsty**, the **sick**, and “the **least** of these my brothers and sisters”—we are **refusing** to **help** the **Lord** Himself

It is **recorded** in the Bible that **many** people got unexpected **blessings** because of **entertaining** strangers whom are **angels**

However God may **send** holy angels, family members, strangers **who** come to our door, **or** people we **interact** with in the street as **ministering** spirits to encourage, teach, correct, or instruct us in righteousness.

.....**Reason** it's a good idea for believers getting together at church... Sunday school and Bible study groups? **You**--- just **might** be one of those who could be **giving** or **receiving** answers from each other--- from one of

those **ministering** spirits to encourage, teach, correct, or instruct us in righteousness.

### 1 PETER 4:7-9

*7 The **end** of all things is **near**. Therefore be **alert** and of sober **mind** so that you may **pray**. 8 Above all, **love** each other deeply, because love **covers** over a multitude of **sins**. 9 Offer **hospitality** to one another **without** grumbling.*

The “**end**” is the limit at which a thing **ceases** to be what it **was** up to that point.

**Everything** necessary for history to come to an **end** has already **happened**.

**Messiah** has come, lived, died, been resurrected, and ascended **back** to His Father

True, by God's **grace**, it has been 2,000 years since Peter wrote these words

That **span** seems extremely **long** to short-lived **humans**, but the day **continues** to draw ever nearer.

Peter connects the **nearness** of the end with the **need** for **prayer**. Peter writes, we must be **self-controlled**, or alert, or exercising sound judgment about our **choices**. We should be sober-minded. In this context, "sober" means "**serious**."

And, that **prayer** requires **strong** and **clear** minds

The phrase “**above** all things” makes love **priority** above all other virtues.

**Greatest** commandment is to **love** the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **mind**, all your **soul** and all your **strength**, and to love your **neighbor** as **yourself**

## FAITH & WORKS

### 1 JOHN 3:18

*18 Dear children, let us **not** love with **words** or speech but with **actions** and in **truth**.....that is the Bible*

We **don't** serve those in need in **order** to be **saved**,

but rather, **because** we are **saved** we **want** to help **others**

It is **not** that it is **wrong** to love with **words**, but words **without** “actions” or “truth” are **empty**

Let us not **merely** profess with our **tongues** that we **love** one another, but **prove** it by **deeds**; for this is the **only** true way of **showing** love

The **words** we speak must correspond to our **actions**, and the use of our **tongue** must **agree** with the truth of God's **Word**.

### JAMES 1:22

*22 Do not merely **listen** to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do** what it says*

James **continues** to describe what the **life** of genuine saving faith looks like and that those who trust God don't merely become experts at **listening** to God's Word.

To believe is to **act** on what we **hear**.

Just **nodding** our heads at the Word is **not** enough—we need to **do** what the **Word** tells us to do. We need to figure out which **way** God wants us to go, and then actually **go** that way.

**Part** of what the **Word** says that we should keep **control** over our **words**, to **care** for those who are weak and suffering, and to **keep** ourselves from being **polluted** by the **world** around us.

### JAMES 2:17

16 If one of you **says** to them, “**Go** in peace; **keep** warm and **well** fed,” **but** does **nothing** about their physical **needs**, what **good** is it?

17 In the same way, **faith** by itself, if it is **not** accompanied by **action**, is **dead**.

A person who **says** "I believe," but does **nothing** to support such a belief, does **not** actually **believe** what they have **claimed**.

**So-called** "faith" which **doesn't** lead a person to **participate** in **good** works is **not** a **saving** faith; it is a **dead** thing.

It is **pointless** and **meaningless** to "**wish**" a poverty-stricken **person** to be **well**, if such an opinion **leads** to **no** action

Paul, on the other hand, **declares**

### **Romans 3:28.**

"A man is **justified** by **faith**," and **not** by **works**,

And yet there is **no** contradiction **between** the **apostles**: because they **do not** speak of the **same** faith: **James** is speaking of **dead** faith—talking to **people** thinking all they **have** to do is **believe** with **no action** to be saved

**Paul** is speaking of **living** faith;--talking to **people** thinking their **actions alone** will save them **regardless** of **how** much **faith** they have **if any**

**James** is speaking of works **because** you have **faith**

James is pointing out that a **lack** of **good** works in the **life** of a **Christian** demonstrates **dead** faith. However, **dead** faith does **not** equate to **loss** of **salvation** but rather **loss** of **reward**.

James is **not** saying that salvation **requires** good works. He's talking about **doing** good works that are **consistent** with **loving** other **Christians** and **obeying** the **Father**.

However he is saying that **truly** saving faith **cannot** be **separated** from the **evidence** of **good** works.

**Jesus** is the **One** Church-age **believers** are **instructed** to **follow**. We should **live** by **faith** and carry out **good** works by **faith**.

We should **understand** that it is **not** the good **works** we **do** that **save** us - **but** the **good** work that **Christ** carried out on the **Cross** on **our** behalf, **by which** we are **saved**.

James doesn't say that **faith** is **not** essential for **salvation**. He **never** claims works are **required** to **obtain** or keep **salvation**. In other words, we are **saved** only by **faith**, and this **faith** which **saves** will **produce** good **works**.

-----**show** your deeds **because** of your **faith**

### **HEBREWS 4:9-10**

*9 There remains, then, a **Sabbath-rest** for the people of God; 10 for anyone who **enters** God's rest also **rests** from their works,[z] just as **God did** from his.*

First, we enter God's rest when we **believe** in **Jesus Christ** as our Lord and Savior.

This includes the **acknowledgement** that we are **all** sinners and can do **nothing** to earn our **own** salvation.

God wants us to make Sunday feel **different** from the **other** days of the week by **resting** from our **normal** daily routine and **dedicating** our thoughts and time to **Him**.

During the **other** six days of the week, it's **easy** to get **caught** up in all of our **responsibilities**.

**Sunday**, you can take time to **turn** your thoughts and hearts to **God**.

We can attend **church** services. We can read the **Bible** and other books of **scripture**. And we can **talk** with God in **prayer**.

**Without** some planning, Sundays can **easily** become just as **busy** as other days of the week. **Plan** the rest of the week with the **Sunday** in **mind** so that you have **plenty** of time to rest and **worship**.

One other **thought**- in **today's** age **many** people **work** on Sunday

so your "SUNDAY" can happen on **another** day

### **JAMES 5:12**

*12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do **not swear**—not by heaven or by earth or by **anything** else. All you need to **say** is a simple "**Yes**" or "**No**." Otherwise you will be condemned. ---you*

should **always** be **truthful** so there should be **no need** for an oath

When James writes that we must **not** "swear," he **isn't** talking about using **cuss** words.

He is talking about taking an **oath** to **convince** someone either that you were **telling** the **truth** or that you would **keep** a promise.

We might **think** of saying to someone, "I swear on a stack of **bibles** that I'm not lying," or "I **swear** on my mother's **grave** that I'll pay you next Thursday."

The **issue** appears to be about **honesty**. **Truthfulness** should be the absolute **norm** for those who trust in **Christ**.

Our simple **yes** or **no** should be completely **binding** since **deception** is **never** an **option** for us. Christians have **read** this command as forbidding them from taking oaths in **legal** settings such as courts of law or military service, but **most believers** see it as a **personal** oath **especially** for purposes of **deception** or manipulation.

Otherwise you will be **condemned** by the Lord if you get into a **habit** of lying and **deceiving**

## ALL WILL STAND BEFORE GOD FOR JUDGMENT

### ROMANS 14:10-14

*10 You, then, **why** do you **judge** your brother or sister[a]? Or why do you **treat** them with **contempt**? --- disrespect—worthless*

*For we will **all** stand before God's **judgment** seat. 11 It is written: "As **surely** as I live," says the Lord, '**every** knee will bow before me; every **tongue** will **acknowledge** God.'"*

*12 So then, **each** of us will give an **account** of ourselves to God.*

*13 Therefore let us **stop** passing judgment on one another. **Instead**, make up your mind **not** to put any **stumbling** block or **obstacle** in the **way** of a brother or sister.*

*14 I am **convinced**, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that **nothing** is unclean in **itself**. But if anyone **regards** something as unclean, then for **that** person it is **unclean**.*

Paul is saying that the day of judgment is **real** and it is **coming**. Judging other Christians is **not** our job. **Why** would any Christian ever see it as **their** place to **judge** or **despise** their brother or sister in Christ? We will **not** be the ones sitting in the **judge's** chair!

Instead, **we** will be standing **before** the judge **along** with **every** other Christian in history.

**Every** tongue will **confess**—everyone gathered at that judgment will **willingly** recognize and submit to Christ as the **Lord** of **all**.

Those who feel **free** to partake in certain things should **not** look down on **those** who are **not** comfortable with that same **activity**.

At the same time, **those** who feel a personal **conviction** about something should **not** judge those who do not **share** their conviction.

Paul previously referred to Christians who **don't** eat meat for religious **reasons** as being "**weak** in faith" but did **not** condemn these believers however.

Instead, he told the **stronger** Christians to fully **accept** those weak in faith and **not** to try to **argue** them **out** of their **opinion**. Especially over these **disputable** matters of **opinion** like **eating** meat and **observing** special days

Stronger Christians should be **willing** to **abstain** from eating meat if **need** be, for the **sake** of the others.

This does **not** mean their **actions** are, in fact, **sinful** if they **do** eat meat..

However, it **does** mean they ought to **consider** the weakness of **others** when deciding **when** and **if** to partake.

Paul adds that if a Christian **believes** anything to be **unclean**, then it **is** unclean—for **him** or **her** Paul is talking **about** a person's **conscience**. If, because of upbringing or previous **experiences**, someone **cannot** bring themselves to **believe** they can **participate** in eating or drinking something, that **thing** is actually **wrong** for them to **consume**.

We **must** remember ---**all** of us have **sinned** and fallen **short** of God's glory!

### Matthew 7:1-2- Judging Others

*"Do **not** judge, or you too **will** be judged. 2 For in the **same** way you judge others, **you** will be **judged**, and with the **measure** you use, it will be measured to **you**.*

A **faithful** servant of God will see **himself** as accurately as he sees **others**. He recognizes his **own** sinfulness and **need** for God's **mercy**—a need he **shares** with all **other** Christians.

He will have **no** reason to **consider** himself **better** than **others**.

The apostle Paul cautioned, "You may **think** you can **condemn** others but **you** are just as **bad** with **no** excuses. When you say **others** are **wicked** and should be **punished** you are condemning **yourself**.

Since you **judge** others for **doing** these things, **why** do you **think** you can **avoid** God's judgment when **you** do the **same** things?"

And we **know** that God, in his **justice**, will punish **anyone** who **does** such things.

It's **important** to realize this **only** applies to **disputable** issues

In other words, **murder**, adultery, and stealing are always **wrong**. That's a moral **fact**, ...**regardless** of what our **conscience** tells us!

## 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

*10 For we must **all** appear before the **judgment** seat of Christ, so that **each** of us may **receive** what is **due** us for the things **done** while in the **body**, whether **good** or **bad**.*

This refers to an **assessment** of what each saved, heaven-bound Christian has **done** "in the body" since coming to **faith** in Christ.

**How** has he or she used **this** life in Christ? **What** have they **done**, for good or for evil?

How will Christ respond?

Every **good** action will be **rewarded**. Christians will **receive** those efforts "back from the Lord" (Ephesians 6:7-8).

"If anyone's work is **burned** up, he will suffer **loss**, though he himself **will** be saved, but **only** as through fire" (1 Corinthians 3:15).

Paul is motivated by the **awareness** of this coming **judgment**, and he wants his **readers** to be **motivated** by it, as well.

We will stand **before** Him and be held to **account** for our **choices**. That accountability does **not** affect our **eternal** destiny. It declares our **time** as spent **well** or **foolishly**.

The consequences of **reward** or **reprimand** in that **moment** will be genuinely **pleasurable** and/or **painful**, based on the **choices** we have made in our **bodies** on this side of eternity.

## ROMANS 12:3

*3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do **not** think of yourself more **highly** than you ought, but rather **think** of yourself with **sober** judgment, in accordance with the **faith** God has distributed to each of you*

By nature, human beings **inflate** our perception of **ourselves**. We are ever at the **center** of our own mind Paul writes that one of the ways our **minds** must be transformed is in developing the **ability** to see ourselves accurately as we **really** are.

We need to be **honest** with ourselves about what we're **good** at and what we're **not**.

God **equips** every believer with unique **gifts** and the amount of **faith** required to **use** their gifts effectively Each gift requires a **different** "measure of faith" that God supplies us with

Our varying **gifts**, along with the varying **faith** each requires, are graciously **given** and **empowered** by God for the **building** up of the **body** of Christ.

## HEBREWS 4:13

*13 **Nothing** in all creation is **hidden** from God's sight. **Everything** is **uncovered** and laid bare before the **eyes** of him to whom we **must** give account.*

**Everything** we think is hidden is crystal **clear** to **God**, including our own **thoughts** and motivations.

**Each** person will give **account** for what he or she has **done** before God.

There is a **reckoning** that **each** Christian must **face** before God. God is in the process of auditing **everything** we do.

## PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5 & 8- MIND AND THINKING ABOUT

4 *Rejoice in the Lord **always**. I will say it again: Rejoice!* 5 Let your **gentleness** be **evident** to all. **The Lord is near.**

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, **whatever is true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable**—if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy**—**think** about such things.

**Noble**- people that are **unselfish** and **morally** good.  
people that “**received the word of God**”.

Filling our **minds** with truth and all **good** things is a **challenge**.

We are called to **rejoice** in the Lord, to **pray** without ceasing, and in **everything** we do to give **thanks** to the Lord.

In addition to rejoicing, Christians are **not** to be seen as easily **angered** or foolish, but rather as **reasonable**, wise people who can **handle** difficulties and disagreements with maturity.

It's **easy** to dwell on the **negative** when life is **hard**,

**Refusing** to dwell on **negativity** and **intentionally** focusing on **positivity** are **ingredients** God uses to allow **peace** to **grow** and **turmoil** to **dwindle**.

This is **why** it's so **important** to **follow** this verse of instruction; it's here to **help** us through the **tough** times and **appreciate** the **great** moments.

Understanding that Christ can **come** at any **moment** is a source of **encouragement** for those who are **saved**

## YOU ARE ALREADY RAISED WITH CHRIST

### COLOSSIANS 3:1-2

1 Since, then, you have been **raised** with Christ, set your **hearts** on things **above**, where **Christ** is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your **minds** on things **above**, not on earthly things.

### Ephesians 2:6

6 And God **raised** us up with Christ and **seated** us with him in the **heavenly** realms in Christ Jesus, Once we're **saved**, we're **no** longer **citizens** of the **earth** in the spiritual sense and our **entire** way of **thinking** in regards to **how** we act, **what** we **believe**, what we **say**, our **view** of right and wrong, etc... needs to become **adjusted** to our **new** status as **citizens** of heaven.  
We should **always** be conscious of our **actions**.

### ROMANS 12:15-16

15 **Rejoice** with those who rejoice; **mourn** with those who mourn. 16 Live in **harmony** with one another. Do **not** be **proud**, but be willing to **associate** with people of **low** position.[c] Do **not** be **conceited**.

This verse deals with the subject of Christian **empathy**

Empathy is the ability to **relate** to another person's **situation** and to **identify** with people in their **problems**. To **love** with empathy is to put **oneself** in the place of **another**. It is the ability to project **oneself** into the **needs** of **another** person.

When we are **jealous** of another's success, we **cannot** rejoice with him

A **loving** person takes **pleasure** in **another's** success.

It is more **difficult** to empathize with a person's **joys** than his **sorrows**; in the second case the other person **needs** us, and in the first case he does **not**.

Nothing **communicates** sincere love and **concern** for another person more **powerfully** than **recognizing** and **joining** in their **highs** and **lows**.

Paul is **not** instructing Christians to all be exactly alike in **every** behavior and opinion.

But we are to **think** of one another as **equally** interested in the **love** of God **redeemed** by the **blood** of

Christ

People who are **wise** in their **own** eyes are **conceited**. Others might **not** have the same **view** of ourselves as **we** do.

We are **not** to be arrogant and stuck up but **associate** with the **lowly**.

There should be **no** social hierarchy in the **church**; social status **only** matters to men, **not** God.....we are all **equal** at the **cross**!

### Hebrews 12:14

*14 Make every **effort** to live in **peace** with **everyone** and to be **holy**; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

To be "**holy**" means that we are **cleansed** by the **blood** of Jesus and the **work** of the Holy Spirit in the **heart** so as to be set **apart** for God's **purpose** and **glory**.

Bringing holiness to "**perfection**" means that we should be **increasing** in spiritual **fruitfulness** every day which we must **actively** pursue

In the book of Exodus the Bible speaks of **holy** water, **holy** garments and **holy** utensils.

But **what** made them **holy**?

It was the **fact** that they were being **used** for God. These items were set **apart** to be used for the **temple**.

Christians are **empowered** by the **Holy Spirit** to **live** godly, righteous, moral **lives**

### ROMANS 14:19

*19 Let us therefore make **every** effort to do what leads to **peace** and to mutual **edification***

**Necessary** doctrine, that Jesus is **Lord** may there be **unity**!

But there should be **no** arguments on **what** to eat or what to **drink**, what **day** to worship or

what **ordinances** to follow for **whether** we live or die, eat or speak, we are to **do it** to the **glory** of God.

With these **non-essential** doctrines we are given the grace to **follow** our own **consciences** ....knowing that **each** one will give an **account** of their own **lives** to the Lord **Himself**.

Let us aim for **harmony** in the **Church** and try to **build** each other up!

### EPHESIANS 4:26-27

*26 "In your anger do **not** sin"[[1]: Do **not** let the sun go down **while** you are still **angry**, 27 and do **not** give the devil a **foothold**.*

Biblically, there are **two** kinds of anger.

The first kind of anger is **righteous** anger. This is the **kind** of anger we can have toward **sin** and **evil** that is in the **world**

Or if we are **angry** when people **lie** against the **truth** of God, are **against** God's purposes, or **cause** others to sin and **produce** evil and destruction

We can also be **angry** at mean and evil people who **abuse** and hurt **innocent** children and **people**.

The **second** kind of anger is the **wrong** kind, where **anger** for instance **overcomes** a person when things are **not** going their **way** and **pride** takes over their **mind**

Or it **could** lead to an anger of **revenge**

For humans, when we get angry, **even** if we feel that our anger is righteous anger, our anger **usually** turns into **unrighteous** anger.

We must **not** let our anger get to the **point** where we **lose** control

And we do **not** stay angry. We do **not** dwell on it. We **deal** with it **quickly**, in constructive and God-honoring **ways**

**Before** we go to **sleep** that night, we should have taken **positive** steps to find a **solution** to the problem and **alleviate** the anger.

To **hold** onto anger **against** another person **opens** the door of **our** life to the devil

## EPHESIANS 6:4 & 10-18

4 Fathers, do **not** exasperate (*irritate and frustrate*) your **children**; instead, **bring** them up in the training and **instruction** of the **Lord**.

In practice, this **instruction** is meant for **both** parents We **should** be involved in **teaching** our children about **God's** ways through both **education** and **example**. Therefore, we **must** have an **authentic** Christian **life** by showing our **actions** to be morally **good**

**The Armor of God** 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the **full armor** of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's **schemes**. 12 For our struggle is **not** against **flesh** and **blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and **against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms** 13 Therefore put on the **full armor** of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and **after** you have done everything, **to stand**. 14 Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, 15 and with your feet **fitted** with the readiness that comes from the **gospel of peace**. 16 In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. 18 And **pray** in the **Spirit** on **all** occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and **always** keep on **praying** for **all** the Lord's people.

**Remember** the armor is to be put on **each day!**

**Pray** that God will help you to **remember** that the **armor** is **there** and **what** it's **used for!**

**Purpose** of the **armor** of God is **spiritual** protection against **evil** forces that are trying to **trick** us into **believing** it is **ok** to do **wrong**. Or **things** - that you **know** are **wrong** will **try** to **trick** you to **believe** they are **good** and **not wrong**-- also **against all** the **lies** coming into your **mind!**

**Remember**--- what you **think** is **how** you **act!**

The **Bible** tells us that God's **enemy** Satan- is the "**father of lies**," and does **not** like **those** who **love** God. The devil wants us to **mess up** and **do** things God **doesn't** want us to do. You might also be **pressured** by other **kids** or **adults** to **do** things that you **know** God **wouldn't** want you to do. By putting on the **armor** of God, you will be able to **stand** up to these things and **do** what is **right!** Our **battle** is **spiritual** not physical. The **enemies** we face are **not** people or objects.

### **Belt of Truth.**

We need to put this on first to be **truthful** and **remember** the truth we **know** about God. We can **know** the truth by **reading** the **Bible** and **by** the **Holy Spirit** letting us **know** through our **conscience** **Always** be **truthful**-- there should be **no** need for an **oath** Being **honest** should be our **norm!**

### **Breastplate of Righteousness.**

**Jesus** is righteous and **He** is the one we should **try** to **follow**. If people **think** someone is a **christian** then we **should act** like it and **not** to give anyone a **reason** to call us **hypocrites** **because** of our **actions!**

### **Sandals of Peace.**

We need to **keep** our **protective** sandals on and be **peaceful** where ever we go Also to always **go** where **God** would **want** us to go and to **avoid** places we know we **shouldn't** go Once we **know** the **truth** we need to **share** it with others! This way they will **know** that people that **believe** in Jesus and the Apostles Creed---also known as **Christians** are good people.

**Never** let yourself be the **cause** of an **argument**

### **Shield of Faith.**

Just think of what you could do with a **real** shield. If someone **throws** a snowball at you you can lift



the **shield** so it doesn't hit you at all. Use **this** shield in the same way **when** bad things come our way like **temptations** or doubt. The devil will **try** to make us think that there isn't a God- or that he **doesn't** love us We need to **hold up** our shield and sometimes many to **stop** these **thoughts** and **remember** that God loves us no matter what! Think about **Abraham** having **great** faith

**Colossians 3:2-4** *2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your [a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

### Helmet of Salvation

This is what we use to protect our **minds** to help us make the **right decisions**

We need to **remember** what we've **read** in the **Bible** and **learned** from our parents- grandparents and church about God and to **remember** that we're **God's children** and He **loves us** and will **help us**.

—by studying the Bible- we begin to think more like Jesus. And the way we **think** influences the way we **talk** and **act** so it's **important** that we **guard** our **minds**. Once we're saved- nothing can hurt us- even death.

**Matthew 10:28**

*28 Do **not** be **afraid** of those who kill the **body** but **cannot** kill the **soul**. Rather, be **afraid** of the **One** who can **destroy** both **soul** and **body** in hell.*

### Sword of the Spirit.

The weapon we use to **attack** our Enemy is the **Word of God**- the **Bible** and having the **Holy Spirit** in our **heart** and **mind**

**Knowing** and **doing** what bible says will **help** you keep **away** bad **thoughts** getting the best of you A good way to help you **remember** the armor is to put it on **each day when** you get out of bed or **before** you go to school. **Pray** that God will **help** you **remember** that the **armor** is there and **what** it's **used** for so you can fight the bad

**1 John 4:4** *4 But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the **Spirit** who lives in **you** is **greater** than the **spirit** who lives in the **world**.*

### Pray often

this isn't a particular **piece** of armor but **helps** us **holds** all of our armor **together**.

**Talk** to God **continuously** **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** *16 Rejoice always, 17 **pray continually**, 18 give thanks in **all** circumstances; for this is **God's will** for you in Christ Jesus.*

### JAMES 3:5

*5 Likewise, the **tongue** is a **small** part of the body, but it makes **great** boasts.*

The **tongue** can **affect** virtually **every** area of our **lives**. That same small **tongue** can **cause** great **harm** or great **help**.

Its **influence** is **powerful** in human relationships and we should **not** underestimate its influence and **power**. A few **misplaced** words can be **devastating** to others!

### JAMES 3:8-10

*8 but **no** human being can **tame** the **tongue**. It is a **restless** evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the **tongue** we **praise** our Lord and Father, and with it we **curse** human beings, 10 Out of the **same** mouth come **praise** and  **cursing**. My brothers and sisters, this should **not** be.*

Our **tongues** are more **powerful** than we are.

We **can't** control the **words** that come out of our **mouths**. It's **not** an ability that **human** beings **possess** in our **own** power.

Our tongues **control** us just as a **bit** guides a **horse** or a **rudder** a massive **ship**.

**Every** human being is **born** with a **wicked** heart and an **evil** sin nature

Lurking within **each** of us are varying **degrees** of **hatred**, **bitterness**, **jealousy**, and **pride**, and

the **tongue** takes hold of **these** and other **destructive** tendencies and **strikes** out, often with a **push** from the devil

It can **destroy** the characters, credit, and reputation of **people**

**Even** when we use our words for **good** purposes, we **might** very well **use** them for **harm** in the next moment.

James does **not** mean that the tongue is **impossible** to tame but is something extremely **difficult** to **control**. It will take the **power** of God to **tame** the tongue.

Our **tongues** are **uncontrollable**, powerful, evil, and hurtful.....**period!**

### 1 PETER 3:15-16

*15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be **prepared** to give an **answer** to everyone who asks you to give the **reason** for the **hope** that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and respect, **16 keeping a clear conscience**, so that **those** who speak maliciously **against** your good behavior in Christ **may be ashamed of their slander**.*

There **must** be something about our lives that **results** in us acting **differently** from the world. When believers **display** their sure **hope** in Jesus **despite** their circumstances, others will **notice**

When **questioned** about our **faith** we may be given **ample** warning or caught completely **off guard** by the timing or the nature of the question

And **one** answer is **unlikely** to fit **all** circumstances.

We **need** to know **what** we **believe** and be **prepared** to respectfully **explain** our **faith** and the hope that we have in **Jesus**.

Our conscience will **never** condemn what we **believe** to be right. This is a **conscience** that comes from a **sincere** and heartfelt **faith**

**Those** who wrongfully **hurt** us for our **good** behavior **might** feel shame about doing so.

**Or** it will at least be **apparent** to others that we are being attacked for **no** good reason

We **defend** our faith with our **mouths** and **back** it with our **lives**. Life and lip must **match** for a **powerful** testimony!

## YOUR ACTION SHOW WHO YOU ARE

### 1 JOHN 2:6

*6 Whoever claims to live in him **must live** as Jesus did*

To obey Jesus we need to evaluate **all** that we **think, say** and **do**. This is an **ongoing** part of a Christian life. Abiding in Jesus means **confessing** that we are **sinners**, that we are still **imperfect** and in **need** of His **continuing** work of restoration in us

As we choose to **abide** in Him, He **lives** in us; so we have **power** over the enemy because **greater** is **He** that is in **you**, than **he** that is in the **world**. (1 John 4:4)

### JOHN 3:6

*6 **No one** who **lives** in him **keeps on sinning**. **No one** who **continues to sin** has either **seen** him or **known** him.*

We are **all** sinners and believers **do** sin on occasion and **need** to **repent** But a person who **continually** or **repeatedly** sins does **not** live in Christ

The general context of this passage is that a believer is marked by a **changed life**. A believer's life will involve some level of **growth** and is expected to be **noticeably** different from that of an unbeliever.

Though every believer is a **work** in **progress**, every believer's life should **show** a noticeable **difference** in living a life that becomes **more** like Christ.

**However**, the person whose life does **not change**—who shows **no change** from their former life, or a **distinction** between them and the **unbelieving** world—**reveals** he or she has **not** seen or known Jesus.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 11:13

*13 For such people are **false** apostles, deceitful workers, **masquerading** as apostles of Christ*

Therefore it is **no** great, **no strange**, thing; whose **end**, notwithstanding all their **disguises**, shall be **according** to their **works**....john wesley

### 1 JOHN 3:10

*10 This is **how** we know **who** the children of God are and **who** the children of the devil are: Anyone who does **not** do what is **right** is **not** God's child, **nor** is anyone who does **not** love their brother and sister.*

A believer will **seek** to live **according** to God's **ways**. They may fail, **sometimes** miserably, but they will **not** persist in **deliberately** "walking" in darkness.

Anyone who does **not** practice **righteousness** or **love** his brother is **not** of God, **nor** does he **know** God. It is by **applying** the principles and **practice** of **love** which comes to us **from** our heavenly Father, that we can be **identified** as the **children** of **God** and **not** as the **children** of the devil

### 3 JOHN 1:11

*11 Dear friend, do **not** imitate what is **evil** but what is good. Anyone who does what is **good** is from **God**. Anyone who does what is **evil** has **not** seen God.*

Throughout **life** we will have people who are **bad** examples and those who are **good** examples.

God exhibits His Son **through** our **conduct** and people who watch our lives should **see** Jesus in us

Dad's if you will **look** behind you, there is a little boy who is trying to walk in **your** footsteps.

Mom's, that little girl is **trying** to grow up to be just like **you**.

**How** do you want them to be **when** they grow up?

Just **know** that they are learning from you and looking to **you** for their **example**.

Doing good deeds is **evidence** of a person's Christian faith. While **only** God **sees** the heart, and **knows** who is truly **saved**.

Those who **act** and **do** good show **evidence** of salvation.

Those who do **evil** things are giving **evidence** that they are **lost**.

Godly **love** for our brothers in Christ, is a **demonstration** of the **grace** of God, the **love** of Christ, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit, to **whomsoever** we come in **contact**.

No matter how **focused** a believer may be on God today, **tomorrow** will **test** his **commitment** anew in many ways.

Each **day** the truth of 3 John 1:11 should **challenge** us

That is why we must **pray without** ceasing.

That is why we must make God's **Word** our **constant** companion.

We need **daily** input from God to **keep** our perspective **right**.

The **story** is told of an old saint who in his youth had written in his Bible's flyleaf,

"**Sin** will **keep** me **from** this book, and this **book** will **keep** me **from** sin." How **true** that is.

### TITUS 1:15-16

*15 To the pure, **all** things are **pure**, but to those who are **corrupted** and do **not** believe, **nothing** is pure. In fact, both their **minds** and **consciences** are **corrupted**. 16 They **claim** to **know** God, but by their **actions** they **deny** him. They are **detestable**, disobedient and **unfit** for doing **anything** good.*

We are **not** pure people by **nature**. And not only do **we have** impure actions: our impure actions proceed from our impure **hearts**

You need a heart **change**, and this is God's **work through** Jesus Christ **and** the Holy Spirit.

Essential purity is possible **only** by **admitting** your rebellion against God's will and **seeking** forgiveness by **faith** in Christ.

Far from having a **rebellious** heart that dishonors the one true God, Christians **want** to please Him and bring **no** reproach upon **His name** through their **conduct**.

Christians can never be **entirely** sure of what is happening in **another** person's heart

**However**, we can see others' **actions** to see if they're compatible with the **will** of God

**When** a man has an impure mind and conscience, he may have **book** knowledge of God but

his **actions** show **different** Our **deeds** "speak" very **loud** to those around us!  
-----**Watch what you "say" and "do"**

### 1 John 1:5-6

**5** This is the message we have **heard** from him and **declare** to you: God is **light**; in him there is **no darkness** at all. **6** If we **claim** to have **fellowship** with him and yet **walk** in the **darkness**, we **lie** and **do not live out the truth**.

Here in 1 John 1:5 John adds that God is **light**. He is **without** any **darkness** or shadow. He is **both** perfect and without sin.

1 John 1:6 says that those who **claim** Christ, but show **no signs** of a **changed** life, are **lying**. This is typically interpreted as a reference to "**false converts**," or those who do **not**, in fact, have saving faith.

Though a changed life is the normal, **expected** condition of a Christian believer, **accepting** Christ does **not** automatically **make** a person sinless, or **incapable** of sin. **Nor** does it **guarantee** a close walk with God.

Here, in particular, self-professed believers are **called** out for **attempting** to walk with God while **living** in sin. If we are **truly** walking with God, we will live **consistently** with our beliefs, offering **evidence** of a life **changed** by God.

A **major** goal of the Christian life is **close** fellowship with **other** believers and with the **Lord**. This requires walking in the light (**obedience**) rather than darkness (**disobedience**).

It's **important** to note that the Bible **never** commissions Christians as "**salvation police**," or encourages **judgment** of another person's salvation. Those who show **no change** in life may give **little** evidence that they are **true** believers

.....**but this is ultimately only something God can know**

### 1 PETER 2:15-16

**15** For it is God's will that by **doing** good you should silence the ignorant **talk** of foolish people. **16** Live as **free** people, but do **not** use your freedom as a cover-up for **evil**; live as **God's slaves**.

People who hate God and **despise** Christianity will often **accuse** Christians of **hypocrisy**.

That result **depends** on Christians leading **good** lives out in the **open**

Christianity is not merely a set of beliefs; it is a **way** of life.

The idea here is that when we **live** in a way that lines up with God's **will**, instructions and principles, so that **no one** should have anything that they can bring **against** you as a definitive act of sin that is being **displayed** in your life.

Christians are **free** people in Christ. We are **no** longer subject to the Old Testament **Law**, and our **true** purpose and future are **not** determined by any **human** government.

We are **servants** first and foremost to God and **His will**

So live **boldly** for Christ. Pursue what is **good** for your **own** blessing, but **also** for a witness to **others**.

### Prayer by Pastor Don Patterson

Your **words** are powerful all by themselves, but it's an unquestionable **reality** that your **actions** have made them even **more** penetrating for all of us. You **perfectly** walked the walk that you **talked**. I know that your **amazing** life and innocent death are my **salvation** but I still **want** to live a **good** life. I **want** to be **gentle**, generous and spineful. (as opposed to spineless) I want the prating **fools** that say all Christians are hypocrites to take **pause** when they **observe** me living and move among them. I hope my **demonstrative** love will make them **long** to have what I have because **all** I have is you and your perfect grace. I can **share** your grace with them like a spiritual fountain of youth. I am **free** to live however I want because I am **saved** and therefore I **want** to live a grace driven life. Help me Lord Jesus. **Amen**

.....*try to live like this as a follower of Jesus*

## JUDE 1:16-19

16 These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they **follow** their own **evil** desires; they **boast** about themselves and **flatter** others for their **own advantage**.

17 But, dear friends, **remember** what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ **foretold**. 18 They said to you, "In the last times there **will be** scoffers who will **follow** their own **ungodly** desires." 19 These are the people who **divide** you, who follow mere natural instincts and do **not** have the Spirit.

**Whether** they criticize or flatter, whether they grumble or boast, their **actions** are always motivated **solely** by what is going to **benefit** them **personally**

They **love** to believe that they have **\*influence**.

Their **great** desire is for people to **think** them to be **important**.

They flatter **foolish** people to gain an **advantage** over them and secure **control** over their lives.

Or when there is nothing that stands in **their way**--- their **pride** is intolerable and arrogant

According to Jude, these **unbelieving** deceivers **think** and **act** like "unreasoning **animals**"

Jude labels them as **manipulative** people "who cause **divisions** and are worldly minded, and do **not** have the Holy **Spirit**."

"In the **last times**".... will **continue** until the **return** of Christ, and the **completion** of God's ultimate **plan** for our redemption.

## EYEWITNESSES

### 2 PETER 1:16-21

16 For we did **not** follow cleverly devised **stories** when we **told** you about the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were **eyewitnesses** of his majesty. 17 He **received** honor and glory **from** God the Father when the **voice** came to him from the Majestic Glory, **saying**, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." [b] 18 **We** ourselves **heard** this voice that came from heaven when **we** were **with** him on the sacred mountain.

19 We also have the **prophetic** message as something completely **reliable**, and you will do well to pay **attention** to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your **hearts**.

20 Above all, you must understand that **no** prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's **own** interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy **never** had its origin in the **human will**, but **prophets**, though human, **spoke** from **God** as they were **carried** along by the **Holy Spirit**.

This is **not** the **only** miracle which Peter **saw**, He **witnessed** the **dead** being raised, the **blind** receiving their sight, and the **lame** walking

When Peter preached about Jesus' power and impending return, he **wasn't** following someone **else's** script; .He **saw** Jesus' majesty with his **own** eyes.

It's called the "**transfiguration**" because Peter, James, and John were allowed to **see** Jesus "**transfigured**" from His **appearance** as a normal **man** into His **true** and eternal **appearance** as the **Son** of God.

Peter **knew** Jesus was the Son of God because he **heard** God the Father **Himself** give honor and glory to Jesus.

The **experience** that they had on the mount of transfiguration was a **prophetic** glimpse of the **truth** that He is coming **again** in power and glory to reign.

The **Bible** tells us that our **faith** is built on the **witness** of the **apostles** and **prophets** of God.

### Mark 16:15

He said to them, "**Go** into all the **world** and **preach** the **gospel** to **all** creation.

### Luke 24:47

47 and **repentance** for the forgiveness of **sins** will be **preached** in his name to **all nations**, **beginning** at Jerusalem.

Peter is saying that the prophetic **message** or scriptures are **reliable** because **God** was **active** in the **writing** process; He **influenced** people to write **truths** about Him  
**Many** of those **prophecies** were **fulfilled** with the **birth, life death,** and **resurrection** of Jesus. **Other** prophecies are **yet** to be **fulfilled**  
The **reality** of those events **confirms** the Old Testament **prophecies**. Peter has the **privilege** of **eyewitness** testimony and **all** of Jesus' other **signs** which had been **written** about the **Messiah** by the **prophets** of old.  
**Eyewitness** accounts and God's written **Word** guarantee the **truth** of what the **apostles** teach.  
**How** are we to **know** that this was **really** God **speaking** to the **prophets**?  
**Because** the written **prophecies** are **happening**....and **will** continue!

## 1 JOHN 1:1-7

*1 That which was from the **beginning**, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked** at and our hands have **touched**—this we **proclaim** concerning the Word of **life**. 2 The life **appeared**; we have **seen** it and **testify** to it, and we **proclaim** to you the **eternal** life, which was **with the Father** and has **appeared** to us. 3 We **proclaim** to you what we have **seen** and **heard**, so that you **also** may have **fellowship** with us. And **our** fellowship is **with the Father** and with his **Son**, Jesus Christ. 4 We **write** this to make our[a] **joy** complete.*

*5 This is the **message** we have **heard** from him and declare to you: **God is light**; in him there is **no** darkness at all.*

*6 If we **claim** to have **fellowship** with him and yet **walk** in the **darkness**, we **lie** and do **not** live out the **truth**. 7 But if we **walk** in the **light**, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the **blood** of Jesus, his Son, **purifies** us from all **sin***

John **also** makes a claim to **eyewitness** testimony: he has personally **seen** these things he is **teaching** others about

John **starts** from the very "**beginning**," referring to **Jesus**.

**Jesus** is God, and **was** in the **beginning** with **God**

The life appeared

Jesus came to **earth** in **flesh-and-blood** form.

Jesus was **with** the Father in heaven **prior** to coming to **earth**.

Those who **claim** to know Christ, but show **no signs** of a **changed** life, are **lying**.

Those who show **no change** in life may give **little evidence** that they are **true** believers, but **this** is ultimately.... **only** something **God** can **know**

The **goal** of John's teaching was **shared** fellowship. John had spent over **three** years **walking** and **talking** with the Lord and **learning** from Him and was **eager** to **share** all that he had learned

And, he reminds the reader that **we also** have **fellowship** with **both** Christ and God the Father. Also important is John's **emphasis** of the **connection** of the **Father** and **Son**

A major **goal** of the Christian life is **close fellowship** with other **believers** and with the **Lord**.

This **requires** walking in the **light** (obedience) **rather** than **darkness** (disobedience).

John **isn't** saying a person will **never** sin, but **when** we **do** slip into the **darkness** we need to **repent** and **change** our lives

To walk in **darkness** is to **try** to turn **off** God and His light.

To walk in the **light** is to **want** to live where God is, to have your whole life **illuminated** by Him

Can you imagine what Peter, James and John witnessed!

## Conclusion

When each of us experience our own 'God moments'- think how hard it is to try to share with others the experience you just had! This struggle happens to all Christians- who want to share their experience with God and their faith, but can't put into words what they feel and how their hearts have changed. What is amazing about our faith- is that while we can't stand with Jesus at the transfiguration- through our faith, we CAN stand in the presence of Him- actually feeling what the disciples felt and LIVING in the faith that they lived! Through Scripture, we can access a miraculous way to connect with God in a deep, powerful and life-changing way. I encourage you to continue to read and study Scripture... record your thoughts and share with others. God's Word is an AMAZING means of Grace to bring us close to our Christ.

