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1 January 2025

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Praise the Lord! We have a new year to live for Jesus. Thank Jesus for being with you and for helping you all the way through 2024. Have faith that 2025 is going to be one of your best years because Jesus is your Lord and Savior.

God bless you as you study God's Amazing Word this month.

Gladly in His Service,

DR. 9--

Dr. Jason B. Brittain





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**Wednesday January 1** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1-2

**Matthew 1** 

Praise the Lord! 2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of truth." I wanted to start the year off with this verse. We have a whole new year to live for Jesus and we need to do our best to study and learn from His Word. When you do your best God will help you to grow in His Word and in His ways. With that in mind I am believing this to be a great year for all of us.

2 Peter 1:10-11 say, "Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." These verses don't use the words do your best. These verses say make every effort. I am sure you can see that these are talking about the same things.

Here we are told that when we do our best and make every effort then, we will never stumble, and we will receive a rich welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That's how I want to live! How about you?

We should do these things and we should help others too. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 says, "And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone." Let's commit to living fully for Jesus and let's be willing to reach out to others to help them.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for another year to live for You. I want to do my best and to make every effort to live fully for You and I know that You will help me. As you help me I also want to reach out to others and help them. I hear the part where you tell me to be patient with everyone. Please help me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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#### **Thursday January 2**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3-5

Matthew 2

Praise the Lord! I lay out the Scripture Readings on here every day to help you to read the whole Bible each year. Just in case you didn't do your reading yesterday and today, you can still catch up. *Do your best* and *make every effort* and God will help you.

Here is a little from our reading in Genesis 3. Verse 1 says, "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?""

When the devil came and tempted Eve he challenged the Word of God. Eve knew what God had said and the devil deceived her into doubting it. Let me be very clear, the devil is still tempting people to doubt the Word. We have the Word of God. We need to believe It and never doubt it.

Here is a New Testament verse that goes right along with this. 2 Corinthians 11:3 says, "But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ." Paul was writing to Christians who knew the Word and he was warning them that the devil still tries to deceive people. Paul didn't want them to be led astray.

We need to know what the Word says and we need to never quit believing it. Don't ever quit believing the Word and don't entertain any doubts about the Word.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your Word. I want to base my whole life on Your Word and I am not going to doubt any of it. I choose to believe and I choose to reject anything other than faith and confidence in You and Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Friday January 3** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 6-8

**Matthew 3** 

Praise the Lord! The first part of Genesis 6 talks about all mankind going astray. Genesis 6:5-6 say, "The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that He had made human beings on the earth, and His heart was deeply troubled."

This was serious but God had a plan. God always has a plan. Look at Genesis 6:8-9, "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God."

Things were going bad and most of mankind were in rebellion to God and His ways: **BUT NOAH...** God had a plan and His plan involved Noah who was a **righteous man**.

God's plan involved a righteous man then and His plans still involve righteous people today. Look at 2 Corinthians 5:21, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." God made Jesus to be sin for us so we can be made righteous in Him.

Now back to Noah. He was righteous and he walked faithfully with God. We have been made righteous in Jesus and we need to walk faithfully with God. When we do those things we will be part of God's plan in our day.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You have made me righteous in Jesus. I believe and I am not going to doubt Your Word. I want to live faithfully with You and I want to be used in Your plan. I know that You helped Noah in His day and I know that You are going to use me in my days. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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#### **Saturday January 4**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 9-11

**Matthew 4** 

Praise the Lord! In Romans 5, Paul wrote about the consequences of Adam's fall in the garden and then he wrote about the consequences of Jesus' obedience.

Look at Romans 5;17, "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!"

Adam's sin caused death to reign. Jesus' obedience resulted in *God's abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness to reign* for us when we give our lives to Him.

Verse 18 says, "Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people." We are talking about some amazing truth here. Our part is to believe!

Look at John 6:28-29, "Then they asked Jesus, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent." These people asked what they had to do. Jesus said that we have to believe in the One God sent. We have to believe in Jesus. Do you believe in Jesus? If so, do you believe what the Word says you have because you believe in Jesus?

Prayer: Lord, I do believe in You and I believe in what You have done for me. I know that I was completely lost without You and I can see that I am completely saved with You. Thank You for this truth. Help me to renew my mind to this truth and help me to live the born-agin victorious life that You have provided for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Sunday January 5** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12-14

**Matthew 5:1-26** 

Praise the Lord! In our closing prayer yesterday, I had us pray this, "Help me to live the born-agin victorious life that You have provided for me."

I want to back that up with Scriptures today. Romans 8:31 says, "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" God is for you because You have given your life to Him and no matter who or what comes against you, God is greater.

Romans 8:37-39 say, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Nothing will ever be able to separate you from the love of God that is in Jesus! Take a moment and say this, "Nothing will ever be able to separate me from the love of God in Jesus!" Believe that because it is the truth.

Look at Luke 10:19, "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." Jesus said this. He has give us authority over all the power of the devil and we have His protection.

Psalms 91:9-13 say, "If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways: they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent."

Prayer: Lord, I believe! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Monday January 6** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 15-17
Matthew 5:27-48

Praise the Lord! Matthew 5:43-44 say, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Do you think Jesus really meant what He said here? However you thought about answering that question, take a moment and think about your answer.

Jesus went on and said, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Can you think of some situations or some people where you need to take what Jesus said and put what He said into action? Let me speak some good word over us right now. We believe the Word and we know that Jesus is always right in the things He speak to us. Jesus is working in our lives and He is helping us to live like He wants. We are growing and we are doing better.

Look at the last thing Jesus said, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You and I am thankful that You are working in my life. I do believe what You said and I know that the only way I can do what You want is with Your help. Please help me. I don't want to live like pagans. I want to live like a born-again, spirit filled believer. Help me to keep growing and I thank You for helping me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Tuesday January 7** 

# Scripture Reading: Genesis 18-19 Matthew 6

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, we looked at what Jesus said about our need to love our enemies and to pray for them and I pointed out several times that God will help us. Thank God for His help.

For today look at what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33-34, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Yesterday's truth about forgiving and praying for our enemies might seem way different than these verses, but I want to tie them together. In Matthew 6, Jesus told us to seek Him and His ways and then He promises that He would help us with all the rest. That means Jesus will help us to love our enemies and He will help us to pray for them. Isn't that good news? When we keep Jesus first, He will help us with everything we face in life.

Then verse 34 talks about not worrying about tomorrow. As we live for Jesus fully, we don't have to worry about tomorrow. Jesus will help us when tomorrow gets here. Don't you have enough to deal with today? We don't have to worry about what is coming tomorrow. Many times we find that the things we worry about don't really happen anyway.

So, take care of today. Forgive those who need forgiveness and bless those who may be opposing you. Those are things Jesus wants you to do today and He will help you with tomorrow when it gets here.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be a doer of Your Word and not a hearer only. I choose to seek You and Your ways first. I choose to forgive my enemies and I choose to pray for them. I know that You will take care of me today and tomorrow. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Wednesday January 8** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 20-22 Matthew 7

Praise the Lord! Let's start off with Matthew 7:7-8 for today, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." This is Jesus inviting us to ask, seek and knock. He is inviting us to pray. He is also helping to motivate us to pray by telling us that when we ask, seek and knock, we will receive, find and things will open up for us.

Now look at what Jesus said later in Matthew 7:24-27, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Jesus is telling us that when we hear His Word and do what it says we will be blessed. We will have a firm foundation for our lives and even when storms come we will make it through them. Isn't this wonderful? Well, I want you to know that the things Jesus said here about hearing His Word and doing what it says applies to what we started with where Jesus told us to pray. When we ask, seek and knock we are doing what He said we should do and He promises we will have strength and stability in our lives. That is being blessed.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for speaking to me about prayer today. I hear what You are saying and I want to be a doer of Your Word. Help me to pray more. I know that You hear my prayers and I know that You answer them. I want my life to be built on the firm foundation that only You can give me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Thursday January 9** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 23-24 Matthew 8

Praise the Lord! I hope you are doing the Scripture Readings I put on here every day. When we spend time in the Word, God can and will speak to us.

Look at Matthew 8:5-7, "When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"" Yesterday, we saw that Jesus told people to ask, seek and knock. I wonder if this man was there to hear those things. Anyway, he came to Jesus and asked for his servant to be healed and Jesus said He would come and heal him.

Now, look at what happened next. "The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have You come under my roof. But just say the Word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."" This man had great faith. Verse 10 says, "When Jesus heard this, He was amazed and said to those following Him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."

I am sure you know how this turned out and we read it in verse 13, "Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment." Praise God! Let this give you faith to believe and to pray. Jesus is still answering prayer today. Ask, seek and knock. Let it be done just as you believed it would.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much. I want to be like this man and I want to believe everything You say. I thank You that You hear and answer my prayers when I am praying for myself and I know that You hear and answer my prayers when I pray for others. Help me to have faith and to pray more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Friday January 10** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 25-26
Matthew 9:1-17

Praise the Lord! Thank God for the Word. Do you know why we have the Word? Do you know why we are able to study it every day? Those things are true because God wants to bless us and He wants to teach us His ways.

Romans 15:4 says, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." Do you know who is included in the "us" referred to in this verse? You are included in that "us"! God had the Word written so that the Word can and will encourage you and give you hope. Are you ready for the Word to encourage you and give you hope?

Matthew 9:9-13, "As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow Me," He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus came to seek and to save sinners. Matthew, the tax collector, and the other sinners in these verses were just the kind of people Jesus came to save. You and I are also just the kind of people Jesus came to save!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for seeking me and thank You for saving me. I am encouraged by this and I have hope. I am so thankful for Your speaking to me from the Word and I am going to take everything in it personally and I am going to let it produce hope in my life. I love You so much! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Saturday January 11** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 27-28
Matthew 9:18-38

Praise the Lord! Well, let's start with Matthew 9:35-36, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Thank God for Jesus! Luke 19:10 says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Wherever Jesus went He would minister to people and help them. He had compassion on them. They weren't perfect but Jesus had compassion on them. He ministers to us because of His compassion too.

Now, look at what He said next in verses 37-38, "Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Jesus was always ready and willing to bless people and He wants His work to continue. He was letting the disciples know that they needed to pray for workers to be sent out into the harvest field. Jesus wants His ministry to continue.

First of all, I want to encourage you to pray. Pray for laborers to be sent into the work of God. Pray and know that God hears your prayer and know that He answers your prayers. Then realize that God wants to use you to spread the good news and to show God's compassion to people. The work of God continues. Pray and be ready to be used in the work God wants done. I have more to say about this tomorrow.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You came to seek and to save the lost and I am glad that You found me and saved me. Help me to pray for laborers to be sent into the harvest and help me to be willing to be used by You in the answers to my prayers. I also know that You will always be with me and helping me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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#### **Sunday January 12**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 29-30 Matthew 10:1-23

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, we covered Matthew 9:37-38, "Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." I believe the disciples prayed just like Jesus told them to. They prayed for God to send labors into the harvest.

Now look at Matthew 10:1, "Jesus called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness." Jesus answered their prayers by sending them as laborers into the harvest. That is what happened to them and it is still God's plan to use us.

Don't miss this part of these verses, "Jesus gave them authority to do what He wanted them to do." He gave them authority and He will give us authority too. Look at what Jesus said in Luke 10:19, "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." Jesus gives us authority over all the power of the enemy.

In Acts 10:38 Peter described the ministry of Jesus and he said, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him." Jesus was anointed and He had authority over all the works of the devil. Now, He promises to anoint us and give us His authority too.

Prayer: Lord, I pray for You to send laborers into the harvest and I know that You will anoint them and give them authority to do what You want them to do. I also want to be willing to do my part in the answer to my prayers. Help me to know that You are always with me and to know that I can do what You call me to do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Monday January 13** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 31-32 Matthew 10:24-42

Praise the Lord! When you were in school did you ever have tests where there were multiple choice with answers to choose from? I liked them because even if I didn't know the answer I had a better chance of getting it right. There were usually three answers to pick from so I figured I had a 1 in 3 chance of getting it right.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20, "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

In these verses it is like God gave us a multiple choice question with only two answers. Then God told us the right answer. What a deal! He also told us the benefits of getting the right answer after He gave us the right answer. We will have life, we will love God and we will live long in the blessings of God. Again, I say, what a deal!

I want you to know that God is for you and He will help you in every area of your life. Look at what Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Jesus came to give us life and life to the full. We could have never earned those things or figured them out on our own. Jesus came to provide life and life in abundance for you and He made sure you knew about it. What a deal!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for all that You have revealed to me. I choose life and I believe You are giving me life and life in abundance. I don't ever want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Tuesday January 14** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 33-35
Matthew 11

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, we saw that God tells us to choose life or death and He even tells us to choose life. I choose life. How about you?

Here is another verse that talks about life and death. Proverbs 18:21 says, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." We need to choose life and we need to speak life. I don't think some people realize how important their words are. Well, we know how important they are because God has shown us and He is even reminding us today. Our words will produce either life or death. By the way, we want to speak words that produce life.

Look at Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." Read that again and take a moment and think about what it is saying to you.

Speak life, speak words that build people up, things that are fitting and things that give grace to those who hear you. Can I tell you a benefit that will come to you when you do these things? You will be liked and people will want to be around you. People will want to be your friend and they will listen to you. Don't you know some people who are negative about everything? Most of the time people don't want to be around them.

Do you want to know how you are doing in this area of your life? Listen to the words you speak and you will know.

Prayer: Lord, I want to speak life. Help me to listen to myself and if I need to work on this please empower me to do better. I know that You always spoke life and I want to be more like You. Thank You for speaking life to me today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Wednesday January 15** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 36-37
Matthew 12:1-21

Praise the Lord! We need to choose life and we need to speak life. Look at 2 Corinthians 4:13, "It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak." We speak what we believe. That is true in positive ways and it is true in negative ways. We need to make sure we believe the truth and then we will speak the truth. We need to make sure we believe the Word and then we will speak the truth of God's Word.

When we know what the Word says and we believe it, many good changes will come about in our lives. For one thing, we will be basing our lives on the Word and Jesus said that will give us stability. Matthew 7:24, "Therefore everyone who hears these Words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Knowing the Word and speaking the Word will also give us Hope. 2 Corinthians 3:12 say, "Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold." Psalms 119:114 says, "You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in Your Word." Put your hope in the Word and keep it there. We will also be an encouragement to others. Romans 1:11-12, "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith."

When we believe the Word and speak what we believe we will be strong and we will be able to strengthen others.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your Word. I believe it and I want to speak what I believe. Help me to use my words to strengthen and to encourage others. I also thank You for the people You have brought into my life to speak the Word to me. Help me to know how to express my appreciation to them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Thursday January 16** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 38-40
Matthew 12:22-50

Praise the Word! Have you given your life to Jesus? When we gave Him our lives, He took them and He gave us eternal life. I am sure we all know that we are in process, but we also need to know and remember that His work is an eternal work.

Look at Romans 8:10-11, "But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit Who lives in you."

There are sure a lot in these verses for us to know and believe. We are in Jesus and the Holy Spirit gives us life because of righteousness. We have life because of Jesus' righteousness and because He has made us righteous in Him. I hope you can grasp this: Our righteousness is based on Jesus and what He has done and not on what we do. We are righteous in Him.

These verses also say this: He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you. What a wonderful promise. Do you know what it means when this refers to our *mortal bodies?* It means our bodies right now in this life. The Holy Spirit is working to give you life in your body right now in this life. We believe in heaven and eternity and thank God that we are going to be in His presence forever and we need to believe and realize that Jesus is working in our lives and in our bodies right now.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for saving me and for making me righteous in You. I also thank You for working in every area of my life including my body. Holy Spirit, I want all the life that You have for me right now in my mortal body. I am thankful for eternal live and I am thankful for all the life that You have for me today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Friday January 17** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 41

Matthew 13:1-32

Praise the Lord! Romans 10:9-10 say, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

We are saved when we do two things. 1. Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and 2. Declare with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord!".

Do you remember when you believed in Jesus for your salvation? Take a moment and think about that time. If someone helped you to know how to be saved say a prayer for them and ask God to bless them. Also, if there is some way you could bless them, be led by God and do what He leads you to do.

How long has it been since you declared that "Jesus is Lord!"? You can do that right now. Go ahead and say, "Jesus is Lord!". I just paused writing and said out loud, "Jesus is Lord!". It felt good. Here's another question for you. How long has it been since you declared that "Jesus is Lord!" to someone else? Let's do that today.

You might be talking to someone who is having a hard time or you might be in a conversation about how things are happening all around us in good ways or bad ways. Would you be bold enough to say something like this, "Well, I know one thing, Jesus is Lord!"

Prayer: Lord, thank You for saving me. I believe and I declare that You are Lord! Help me to remind myself that You are Lord and help me to be bold enough to remind others that You are Lord too. I am going to be bold and speak the truth. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Saturday January 18** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 42-43
Matthew 13:33-58

Praise the Lord! Would you like to start off right now by saying, "Jesus is Lord!"? Go ahead.

I have made the point that as born-again believers we are made righteous in Jesus many times. The verse I often give you in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." I remember when I first started hearing this truth. At first, I was kind of skeptical about it but then I dug into the Word and I found that it is Scriptural. Then I needed to renew my mind to this truth and I am still in that process. You see, I have decided that if what I think contradicts what the Word says, I am the one who needs to change.

One of the things that happens when we renew our minds to the Word is verses that talk about those who are righteous come to life. Let me give you an example of what I am talking about. Proverbs 15:29 says, "The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous." Think about the last part of this verse, He hears the prayer of the righteous. If and when we believe that we have been made the righteousness of God in Jesus, then we will have confidence, based on the Word, that God hears our prayers.

1 John 5:13-15, "I write these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him."

Prayer: Lord, help me to have confidence that You hear and answer my prayers. I always want to pray in line with Your Word and I want to have confidence that You hear and answer my prayers. Help me to continue to renew my mind to Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Sunday January 19** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 44-45
Matthew 14:1-21

Praise the Lord! Psalms 34:19 says, "The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all." This is a wonderful promise and it is for us. If a person is not convinced that they are righteous, in Jesus, then they won't know that it is for them.

2 Corinthians 5:21, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." God is the One who made Jesus to be sin for us so what when we are in Him we are made the righteousness of God. God will help us to believe these things because they are the truth.

Let me give you Psalms 34:19 again, "The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all." Knowing that we are righteous *in Jesus* is vitally important, but it doesn't mean we won't ever go through hard things. But it does mean that The Lord will deliver us from them all. Isn't that good news?

Look at Matthew 7:24-25, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." The rains may come, the streams may rise, the winds may blow and beat against us but we will not fall! The Lord will deliver us from them all because we are righteous in Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for saving me and thank You for making me righteous in You. Help me to renew my mind to Your Word. I believe and I don't ever want to doubt. Help me to know the truth and to hold on to it all the time and especially when I am facing troubles and trials. I know that You will always deliver me from them all. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Monday January 20** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 46-48
Matthew 14:22-36

Praise the Lord! Look at Proverbs 11:23, "The desire of the righteous ends only in good, but the hope of the wicked only in wrath." There are a lot of verses in Proverbs that have two parts. One part is for those who are living like God wants and the other part is for those who don't live like God wants. This verse is an example. The first part is for us. The desire of the righteous ends only in good. We have been talking about the fact that we are the righteous because God makes us righteous so we should read things like this and say, "That's for me!"

Look at the next verse in Proverbs 11, "One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty." As we give we will be blessed. Look at what Jesus said in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." When I share this verse with people I often point out that Jesus said this.

Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." This verse has good news all the way through. We should be givers and we should be generous. God will make sure that our needs are met and He even says we will prosper. "That's for me!" The second part of this verse talks about refreshing others. This may happen through our giving or in other ways. The point is when we refresh and bless others, God's Word says we will reap what we sow.

Prayer: Lord, I know that I often say that I love Your Word and I want to say it agin. Thank You for speaking to me and giving me truth about how I should live and thank You for promising me that I will always end up blessed when I do good, give and bless others. Thank You for blessing me so I can be a blessing more and more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Tuesday January 21** 

Scripture Reading: Genesis 49-50 Matthew 15:1-20

Praise the Lord! Proverbs 11:26-27 say, "People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell. Whoever seeks good finds favor, but evil comes to one who searches for it." These verses are pointing out that some people are blessed and others miss out on the blessings. I am sure every one of you reading this want to be blessed so I am going to emphasize the good parts of these verses.

When people are willing to share and even sell what they have to others this verse says they will have God's blessing. We should be generous and not selfish. Look at what Genesis 12:2 says about Abraham, "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." God promised to bless Abraham and He also told Abraham that God would make him to be a blessing. That means Abraham was blessed to be a blessing. God wants to bless you and he wants to make you to be a blessing. I am sure you know that God has blessed you. Don't be selfish. Bless others.

Verse 27 is saying that people find what they are looking for. Whoever seeks good finds favor. Seek good and you will find and have God's favor on your life. Look at Psalms 5:12, "Surely, Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield." Don't you know that having God's favor surrounding you and protecting you would be a good thing? Well, then live righteously and you will have His favor. Living righteously means knowing what God wants you to do and doing it. So, thank God for His blessings and be willing to bless others. Then know that God's favor will be surrounding you.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You have saved me and I want to live fully for You. Help me to realize how blessed I am and help me to bless others. I want to be blessed to be a blessing. I also thank You so much for Your favor on my life. Help me to recognize Your favor more and help me to be thankful. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Wednesday January 22** 

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1-3

Matthew 15:21-39

Praise the Lord! Look at Proverbs 11:28, "Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf." We need to put our trust in God. Riches may come and go but God is always with us and He will always take care of us.

Look at Psalms 92:12-15, "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him."

These are wonderful promises for us no matter how old we are. I know they refer to *old age*, but believe me these promises are for all of us. When we trust in God we will flourish. I like the way this is stated. We are also told that we will *still bear fruit*. Again, this is for all of us. Young and old need to *flourish* and *bear fruit*.

When our relationship with Jesus is fresh and vibrant we are living like God wants. Our relationship with Him will even be reflected in what we say. "The Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him." The people we are around should know that we love Jesus and they should know that we have our trust in Him. Our words and the things we talk about will reveal our love for Jesus. I know you love Him. Let it show. In the last part of Matthew 12:34 Jesus said, "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." Keep your trust and confidence in Jesus. There are people who need to hear that living for Him is the best way to live.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that Your work in my life will never stop. I know You have been faithful to me so far and I know that it isn't ever going to diminish. I want to flourish and bear fruit my whole life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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#### **Thursday January 23**

**Scripture Reading: Exodus 4-6** 

Matthew 16

Praise the Lord! Proverbs 11:30-31 say, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives. If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!"

Our lives bear fruit. That is true for us who are saved and it is true of those who don't know the Lord. Our lives should bear fruit of life. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 say, "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

When we gave our lives to Jesus, we chose life. Now that we are saved we need to keep choosing life. The life of God brings blessings. We are told to *listen to His voice and to hold fast to Hlm.* 

Look at Hebrews 10:22-23, "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." Draw near to God and hold unswervingly to the hope you have. He will help you. He who promised is faithful. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 says, "So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter." Stand firm

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all You have revealed to me. I am going to stand firm and hold fast. I also want my life to be an example for others to learn from. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Friday January 24

Scripture Reading: Exodus 7-8

Matthew 17

Praise the Lord! Let's start today by looking at Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from Me, declares the Lord."

This is a wonderful verse. There are several things that stood out to me that I want to comment on. If some of these things stand out to you, realize that God is speaking to you from His Word. First, NO weapon forged against you will prevail. Believe this. Next, even when you are in a battle and it seems like it is taking a long time, don't quit. Those things coming against you won't PREVAIL. It might take some time but don't quit.

Don't miss the part that we play in this process: You will refute every tongue that accuses you. We need to believe the truth and we need to speak what we believe. Refute those things with statements like this, "I speak to this weapon that is coming against me in Jesus' Name. I say that You will not prevail over me because I am a servant of Jesus. I declare these things and I am standing on Isaiah 54:17"

This verse also says that this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord. When you turned your life over to Jesus He took your life and gave you new life in Him. Because of those things we have a heritage in the Lord. We have that heritage because we are in Him. Can you say, "Thank You, Jesus!"? I also feel like some of you may be hearing these things so you can share them with someone else. Be ready and willing to share this verse with someone else.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for speaking to me today. I believe Your Word and I believe Isaiah 54:17. I am thankful that You know everything I face and I know that You will help me. I also pray for You to help me to be bold enough to share this with others when I should. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday January 25

Scripture Reading: Exodus 9-10 Matthew 18:1-20

Praise the Lord! This might seem like a strange question but I am going to ask it anyway. How well do you know Jesus? There are some people who would say that they know Jesus but then they seem to be confused about things that I think they should be clear about.

Ok, take a look at Matthew 8:1-2, "When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed Him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before Him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, You can make me clean."" This man came to Jesus for help and that is a good thing. He was making a good choice. He had probably heard about Jesus and maybe he would have said that he knew Jesus, but what he said reveals that he didn't know Jesus very well. Look at what Jesus said in verse 3, "Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy." The man wasn't sure Jesus was willing. Jesus said He was willing and healed him.

I hope you know Jesus well enough to know that He always wants to meet your needs. Matthew 4:24 says, "News about Jesus spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and He healed them." Mark 6:56 says, "And wherever He went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged Him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed." Luke 4:40 says, "At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying His hands on each one, He healed them."

Prayer: I love You and I know that You always want to meet my needs. Help me to renew my mind to all the promises in the Word and help me to receive all that You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Sunday January 26** 

Scripture Reading: Exodus 11-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, I wrote to you about knowing, really knowing, Jesus. When we really know Jesus we won't be confused about some things that others are confused about. We can know Jesus by knowing His Word, believing it and living accordingly.

Ephesians 1:7 says, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Praise God. God forgives our sins. Jesus came and paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross and paying for them. This verse also tells us that all this was in accordance with the riches of God's grace." We are saved and forgiven because of God's grace. We could never be good enough to earn forgiveness. God forgives us because of His grace.

John 1:16 says, "From the fullness of His grace we all receive one blessing after another." When this verse talks about the fullness of of His grace it is letting us know that Jesus is full of grace. Since He is full of grace that is what we will always receive from Him. Now, since we know that Jesus has paid for all our sins we can know He also wants to do even more. Look at this: We all receive one blessing after another. That sure sounds good to me. How about you?

Look at Romans 8:31-32 say, "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?" What do you think is included with all things here?

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that You have revealed Yourself to me. I choose to believe Your Word and all that it reveals to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Monday January 27** 

Scripture Reading: Exodus 13-15
Matthew 19:1-15

Praise the Lord! We are so blessed to be able to study God's Word. Do your best and He will bless your efforts. I have great confidence that You are going to make it because Jesus is going to see you through.

1 John 2:1-2 say, "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

Jesus paid for all our sins. Knowing that is part of what you needed to know to be saved. If we do sin, this verse reminds us that Jesus is our advocate with the Father. He is the atoning sacrifice for all of our sins.

Some people may try to hold your sins against you and you might even try to hold them against yourself but *Jesus paid for them all.* Look at Psalms 103:8-12, "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

Wow. God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love, He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve, He loves us and He removes our sins from us.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for my salvation. Thank You, Jesus, for paying for all my sins on the cross. Help me to renew my mind to how good You are and how You are never going to quit on me. I am so thankful for Your grace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Tuesday January 28** 

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16-18

Matthew 19:16-30

Praise the Lord! Romans 10:9-10 say, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

We were saved when we believed in our hearts and confessed with our mouths that we believe Jesus is Lord. Thank God. This is certainly true about being saved and I believe there are many other ways we need to apply these truths in our lives. You see, we believe and speak what we believe to be saved and we need to believe and speak what we believe as we continue living for Jesus. Let me give you a couple of examples of what I am talking about.

Suppose you are watching tv and some commercial comes on says that people your age or gender or whatever is going to have this disease, sickness or whatever. Don't just sit there and listen to that. Believe the Word and speak what you believe. That's the time for you to believe and speak something like Psalms 103:3, "God forgives all my sins and He heals all my diseases."

Or maybe you hear about someone your age, or even younger, who died. Believe and speak what Palms 91:16 says, "With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Here's something else I do. I can often see what is coming and I hit the "Mute Button" and then I believe the Word and I claim what God's Word says.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for all the promises I have in Your Word. I believed and spoke what I believed to be saved and I want to be better at believing and speaking what I believe about other things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Wednesday January 29** 

Scripture Reading: Exodus 19-21 Matthew 20:1-16

Praise the Lord! Psalms 103:20-21 say, "Praise the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey His word! Praise the Lord, all His heavenly hosts, you His servants who do His will."

Look at what these verses tells us that angels do. They do His bidding, they obey His Word, the praise the Lord and again we are told that they do His will. Also notice what our reaction should be to these truths. We should, **Praise the Lord!** There are angels around us and they are doing all these wonderful things and our reaction should be to **Praise the Lord!** The Lord is the One who deserves all our praise.

Would you like to know how powerful these angels around us are? 2 Kings 19:35 says, "That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!" Oh, don't miss this. One angels killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night. Psalms 91:11-12 say, "For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." Angels are looking out for us in big ways and little ways.

2 Kings 16:6 says, "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Elisha knew he would be safe because there were more of God's angels on his side. Hebrews 1:14 says, "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

Prayer: Lord, thank You for all Your protection. I believe in angels and I believe You send them to protect me even when I can't see them in the natural and I PRAISE YOU FOR THEM. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Thursday January 30** 

Scripture Reading: Exodus 22-24

Matthew 20:17-34

Praise the Lord! We are almost to the end of the month and I want to commend you for being in God's Word this month. You are doing the right thing and I am sure God has spoken to you from His Word. Keep it up.

Look at Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Thank God we are saved by grace and not because of our good works. None of us were ever good enough to deserve salvation.

Look the question in Luke 18:18, "A certain ruler asked Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"" He wanted to know what he needed *to do* to be saved. He could have asked what *good works do I need to do* to be saved.

Thank God that we know we are saved by grace and not good works. If you really know that and believe it you are so blessed. There are a lot of people who haven't settled this truth and they are trying to be good enough and trying to do good works so they can be saved. We know that we are saved by grace and not by works. If it seems like I am saying this over and over it is because we need to to hear it, we need to believe it and we often need to be reminded.

There was a time in John 6 when some people came to Jesus and asked Him what they needed to do. Look at His answer in verses 28-29, "Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent. To be saved we need to believe in Jesus and remember that we are saved by grace.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I am saved by grace. Thank You for reminding me of this eternal truth. I choose to believe it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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**Friday January 31** 

Scripture Reading: Exodus 25-26

Matthew 21:1-22

Praise the Lord! I have some really good advice for you today about how to live for Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-2 say, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Did you notice what I underlined? We should run with perseverance the race marked out for us to run, fixing our eyes on Jesus! Have you ever tried to run while setting your eyes on two different things at the same time? If you haven't ever tried to do that, I would advise you not to try it. Here's a verse that I have given you many times. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Seeking Jesus and His ways first goes right along with fixing your eyes on Him.

The verses I started with in Hebrews 12 also tell us to **throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.** Get rid of things that hinder you and distract you from living like Jesus wants.

How about this part of these verses: **Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter of faith.** He started His good work in your life and He is going to finish it. One more thing and then we will pray. If you ever get distracted and get off track, turn back to Jesus immediately and He will get you back on track. That's good news!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for saving me. Help me to focus on You and Your plan for my life more consistently. I don't ever want to be distracted from You. I also thank You for the promise that when I seek You first, You will help me me with all the other things in my life. Thank You for promising to finish Your good work in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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#### **Up and Coming Events**

#### **BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS**

Every Wednesday morning at 7:30 AM the men meet for coffee and/or breakfast at the Church Office and a time of fellowship. Contact us here at the Church for more information.

#### **WOMEN'S BRUNCH**

The first Saturday of the month, the women of Creative Ministries meet for a carry-in brunch at 12pm. Contact us here at the Church for more information and location.

#### We Have A New Mailing Address!



#### Creative Ministries

PO Box 21930

Cheyenne, WY 82003

Creative@CreativeMinistriesChurch.com www.CreativeMinistriesChurch.com

Please visit our FaceBook page by scanning the QR code to the left or going to:

www.facebook.com/pages/Creative-Ministries-Church/116156001741814

# **Sunday Morning**

Event	Time	Location
Main Service	10 -11:30 A.M.	The CCI building LCCC
Sunday School	10:45-11:30 A.M.	The CCI building LCCC

PLEASE JOIN US THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 9:30 BEFORE CHURCH FOR SOME COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS AND LOTS OF FELLOWSHIP!

Where the GOOD NEWS is:
PREACHED to all who will COME!
LIVED by all who will GROW!
DEMONSTRATED to all who will RECEIVE!