

DISCIPLESHIP PATH

Discipleship Workbook

Reflection, Prayer, and Practical Obedience for All 100 Lessons

Use with the complete Discipleship Path course

MakeSureYouGoToHeaven.com

How to Use This Workbook

Complete one lesson at a time. Read the full lesson, look up the Scripture passages in context, answer the questions in your own words, record the action you will take, and pray for God to help you obey His Word. A mentor, pastor, or mature believer can use your answers to encourage you and help you grow.

Each lesson title and Contents entry links directly to its final online lesson.

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Stage 1: Following Jesus Christ

Lessons 1-10

Lesson 1: What Is a Disciple of Jesus Christ?

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Before reading this lesson, how would you have defined a disciple of Jesus Christ?

- What is the difference between merely knowing about Jesus and actually following Him?

- Why is continuing in the Word of Christ an essential mark of discipleship?

- In what area of your life do you most need to remember that you are not your own?

- Is there any command of Jesus that you know but have delayed obeying?

- What evidence of spiritual growth would you like God to develop more deeply in your life?

- What is one definite step you can take today to follow Jesus more faithfully?

A Prayer to Begin as a Disciple

Lord Jesus Christ, teach me what it truly means to follow You.

Do not let me be satisfied with empty religion, words without obedience, knowledge without surrender, or belief that never changes my life.

Make me teachable. Help me continue in Your Word. Correct me when I am wrong. Give me grace to obey when obedience is difficult.

Change my heart, my desires, my thoughts, my habits, my priorities, and my direction.

I confess that I cannot follow You faithfully in my own strength. I need Your grace, Your truth, and Your Spirit.

Help me deny myself, take up my cross, and follow You. Help me belong to You fully and live for what will matter in eternity.

Make me a faithful and fruitful disciple.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Your Next Step

Before moving to Lesson 2, take a few quiet minutes and pray honestly:

“Lord, show me whether I am truly following You.”

Then write down one area of your life that needs to come more fully under the authority of Jesus Christ.

Do not merely write it down.

Take one definite step of obedience.

Previous: How to Be Saved

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 2: What to Do After You're Saved

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Begin Talking to God in Prayer

A saved person should begin praying.

Prayer is not only for pastors, preachers, or people who know fancy religious words. Prayer is talking to God sincerely from the heart.

You can begin simply.

"Lord, thank You."

"Lord, help me."

"Lord, teach me Your Word."

"Lord, forgive me where I fall short."

"Lord, help me obey You."

"Lord, keep me from sin."

"Lord, guide me today."

"Lord, make me more like Jesus."

Do not think you must impress God with long speeches.

God wants truth in the heart.

Psalm 62:8 says:

"Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah." — Psalm 62:8, KJV

Pour out your heart before Him.

Tell God your need.

Tell Him your weakness.

Tell Him your questions.

Ask for wisdom.

Ask for strength.

Ask for understanding.

Ask for help to walk in the new life He has given you.

Prayer is not a performance.

It is dependence.

A new believer should begin learning to depend on God daily.

Discipleship Questions

- After salvation, why is it important to understand that the Christian life has just begun?

- Which first step do you need to take immediately: prayer, Bible reading, baptism, fellowship, turning from sin, or telling someone?

- What old influence may pull you backward if you do not separate from it?

- Why should a new believer be patient with growth but serious about obedience?

- How can you keep the gospel clear in your mind as you begin growing?

A Prayer for the New Believer

Lord, thank You for saving me.

Thank You for Jesus Christ, who died for sins and rose again. Thank You for mercy, forgiveness, and new life.

Teach me what to do now. Help me not to return to my old life. Give me hunger for Your Word. Teach me to pray. Help me obey what You show me.

Lead me to faithful Christian fellowship. Give me courage to identify with Jesus Christ and not be ashamed of Him.

Help me turn from sin, grow in grace, and walk with You one step at a time.

I cannot do this in my own strength. I need Your help every day.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Today, take one clear first step.

Read a chapter of the Bible.

Pray honestly for five minutes.

Tell someone you have trusted Jesus Christ.

Ask about baptism.

Remove one sinful influence.

Reach out to a faithful believer.

Do not wait until everything is perfect.

Begin walking with Jesus Christ today.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 3: What Is Repentance?

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Before reading this lesson, what did you think repentance meant?

- What is the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow?

- Why is repentance not the same as earning salvation by works?

- Is there any sin you have been excusing, hiding, or blaming on others?

- What fruit should repentance begin producing in a person's life?

A Prayer of Repentance

Lord, I have sinned against You.

I stop defending my sin. I stop making excuses. I stop blaming others. I agree with Your Word.

Have mercy on me through Jesus Christ.

Teach me to hate sin and love what pleases You. Change my heart, my thoughts, my desires, and my direction.

I do not want false repentance. I do not want empty words. I want to turn to You sincerely.

Forgive me. Cleanse me. Lead me in the right way.

I trust in Your mercy through Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Take time today to pray honestly before God.

Ask Him:

"Lord, is there anything I am still defending that You call sin?"

If He brings something to mind, do not excuse it.

Bring it into the light.

Turn from it.

Turn to God.

Trust the mercy of Jesus Christ.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 4: What Is Faith in Christ?

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Before reading this lesson, what did you think faith in Christ meant?

- Why is the object of faith so important?

- What is the difference between knowing facts about Jesus and personally trusting Him?

- Are there any religious works, experiences, or memories you may have trusted instead of Christ Himself?

- How would you explain saving faith to someone who thinks being a good person is enough?

A Prayer of Faith in Christ

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe You are the Son of God.

I believe You died for sins, were buried, and rose again.

I know I cannot save myself. My works cannot save me. My religion cannot save me. My goodness cannot save me.

I turn from trusting myself and trust You.

Have mercy on me. Save me. Forgive me. Make me Yours.

I receive You as Lord and Saviour.

Help me follow You from this day forward.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Take a few quiet minutes and ask yourself:

“Am I truly trusting Jesus Christ, or am I trusting something else?”

If your confidence has been in your works, religion, emotions, or a past moment, bring that honestly before God.

Look to Christ Himself.

Call upon Him.

Trust Him.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 5: Can I Know for Sure I'm Saved?

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Have you ever struggled with assurance of salvation? What caused the struggle?

- Why must assurance rest on God's Word rather than feelings?

- What are some false foundations people use for assurance?

- How does a changed life support assurance without becoming the basis of salvation?

- Are you trusting Jesus Christ Himself, or are you trusting something else?

A Prayer for Assurance

Lord, I do not want false assurance, and I do not want needless fear.

Search my heart.

Show me whether my faith is truly in Jesus Christ. Do not let me trust my works, religion, emotions, baptism, church background, or a past memory instead of Christ Himself.

If I have been deceived, open my eyes and bring me to true repentance and faith.

If I truly belong to You, help me rest in Your promises and stop living in fear.

Thank You that Jesus Christ is able to save. Thank You that Your Word is true. Thank You that eternal life is found in Your Son.

Help me walk in truth, humility, obedience, and confidence in Christ.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Take time today to read 1 John 5:11-13 slowly.

Then ask yourself:

"What does God say about eternal life?"

"Where is eternal life found?"

"Am I believing on the name of the Son of God?"

If your faith is in Christ, thank God for His promise and continue following Jesus.

If you realize your confidence has been in something else, come to Christ today.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 6: Why the Word of God Must Become Your Foundation

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What have you most often built your life on: feelings, opinions, culture, tradition, or the Word of God?

- Why is the Word of God a safer foundation than human wisdom or emotion?

- What does Jesus' picture of the wise man and foolish man teach about hearing His sayings?

- What storms might reveal whether your life is truly built on God's Word?

- What practical step can you take this week to give Scripture a stronger place in your life?

A Prayer for God's Word to Become Your Foundation

Lord, make Your Word the foundation of my life.

Forgive me for building on feelings, opinions, culture, tradition, or my own understanding instead of what You have spoken.

Teach me to trust Your Word when it comforts me and when it corrects me.

Let Scripture shape how I see You, myself, sin, salvation, Jesus Christ, eternity, and the path before me.

Do not let me build on sand.

Build me on the rock of Your truth.

Give me hunger for Your Word and humility to receive it.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

"The Word of God will be my foundation."

Then choose one specific time this week to open the Bible and begin reading with seriousness.

Do not worry about understanding everything at once.

Begin by honoring God's Word as necessary.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 7: How to Build Your Life on Obedience to Jesus Christ

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is obedience not the way we earn salvation, but still necessary in the life of a disciple?

- What is the difference between outward religious activity and obedience from the heart?

- Is there any command of God you have been delaying?

- Where are you most tempted to obey people, fear, comfort, or desire instead of obeying God?

- What one specific step of obedience should you take today?

A Prayer for Obedience

Lord Jesus Christ, teach me to obey You.

Forgive me for the times I have called You Lord while resisting Your commands. Forgive me for delayed obedience, partial obedience, and outward religion without a fully yielded heart.

Give me love for You that shows itself in obedience.

Teach me to obey from the heart, not to impress people, but because You are worthy.
Show me the next right step. Give me strength to do what You have already made clear.
Help me obey in small things, hidden things, costly things, and daily things.
Work in me what is wellpleasing in Your sight.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Do not write something vague like, "I need to do better."
Be specific.
Then pray for grace and take that step today.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 8: Why Every Christian Must Count the Cost

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why do you think Jesus spoke about the cost of discipleship when great multitudes were following Him?

- What is the difference between a crowd around Jesus and a true disciple of Jesus?

- What might following Jesus cost you personally: approval, comfort, possessions, plans, pleasures, or something else?

- Why is the cost of not following Jesus greater than the cost of following Him?

- How does seeing the worth of Christ change the way you view the cost?

A Prayer to Count the Cost

Lord Jesus Christ, help me count the cost honestly.

Do not let me follow You lightly, casually, or only when it is easy.

Show me any rival love that wants to rule above You. Show me anything I am afraid to lose. Show me any comfort, approval, possession, plan, or sinful pleasure that has too much power over my heart.

Help me see that You are worth more.

Give me courage to follow You when it costs. Give me faith to choose the narrow way. Give me strength to continue when others turn back.

I do not want shallow religion.

I want to be Your disciple.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

"What would be hardest for me to lose if following Jesus required it?"

Bring that answer before God.

Do not hide it.

Ask Him to help you see Jesus Christ as more precious than whatever you fear losing.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 9: How to Surrender Your Whole Life to God

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What does it mean to present your body as a living sacrifice to God?

- Which area is hardest for you to surrender: will, body, mind, time, plans, relationships, money, comfort, hidden life, or future?

- Why is partial surrender dangerous?

- How is surrender different from laziness or passivity?

- What specific area of your life is God calling you to yield more fully today?

A Prayer of Surrender

Lord, I surrender my life to You.

By Your mercy, I present myself to You as a living sacrifice.

Take my will. Take my body. Take my mind. Take my time. Take my plans. Take my relationships. Take my possessions. Take my hidden life. Take my future.

Show me any area I have been holding back.

Forgive me for partial surrender, secret idols, and trying to stay in control.

I trust You more than I trust myself.

Teach me to live yielded to You every day.

Use my strengths for Your glory. Help me bring my weaknesses to Your grace.

My life belongs to You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Be honest.

Then pray:

“Lord, this belongs to You.”

Take one practical step today that shows surrender in that area.

Do not keep it as a vague feeling.

Make surrender specific.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 10: How to Keep Your Eyes on Jesus Christ

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What does Hebrews 12:2 mean when it tells believers to look unto Jesus?

- How can excessive attention to yourself weaken your focus on Christ?

- What do Jesus' words, "What is that to thee? follow thou me," teach about comparison?

- Why must changing circumstances never become the measure of Christ's faithfulness?

- What has most often competed for the center of your attention?

A Prayer to Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Lord Jesus Christ,

You are worthy to have first place in my life. Forgive me for allowing myself, other people, circumstances, and distractions to occupy the attention that belongs to You.

Help me recognize when my focus has shifted. Keep me from building my confidence upon myself or any other person.

When I see my weakness, turn my eyes toward Your strength. When circumstances change, remind me that You remain faithful. When I begin comparing my path with someone else's, help me hear Your words: "Follow thou me."

Thank You for enduring the cross, rising from the dead, and reigning at the right hand of God.

Teach me to consider You, trust You, and continue following You.

Keep Jesus Christ at the center of my attention, affection, confidence, and hope.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Identify the one thing that has most often drawn your attention away from Jesus Christ.

Write it down plainly.

Then write one truth about Jesus that answers that distraction.

For example:

"My attention has been controlled by another person's approval. Jesus Christ is my Lord, and I must follow Him."

"My attention has been controlled by my failure. Jesus Christ calls me to respond rightly and continue following Him."

"My attention has been controlled by circumstances. Jesus Christ remains faithful even when circumstances change."

Return to that truth whenever your attention begins drifting again.

Notes and Prayer

Stage 2: Walking With God Every Day

Lessons 11-20

Lesson 11: How to Build a Daily Walk With God

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is a daily walk with God different from relying upon occasional spiritual experiences?

- What does Daniel's practice "as he did aforetime" teach about consistency?

- Why should an intentional time with God continue into ordinary responsibilities?

- What usually prevents you from maintaining a faithful daily pattern?

- What realistic pattern can you begin or strengthen this week?

A Prayer for a Daily Walk With God

Father,

Thank You for giving me another day in which to follow Jesus Christ.

Teach me not to live on occasional spiritual moments while neglecting You in everyday life.

Help me establish a sincere and faithful pattern of seeking You.

At the beginning of the day, turn my heart toward You.

As I fulfill my responsibilities, help me remember that I live before You.

When my attention wanders, teach me to return.

When my plans are interrupted, keep me from giving up.

Protect me from empty routine, carelessness, and spiritual pride.

Help me start realistically, continue faithfully, and grow steadily.

Let my private life, ordinary duties, words, and choices show that I am walking with You.

Order my steps and keep me following Jesus Christ one day at a time.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Write down a simple daily framework that fits your present responsibilities.

Choose:

- a regular time to turn toward God;
- a manageable portion of Scripture;
- a brief way to return to Him during the day;
- and a simple evening review.

Practice that framework consistently for the next seven days.

Do not attempt to impress anyone.

Do not abandon it because one day is imperfect.

Take the next faithful step.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 12: How to Pray According to the Bible

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Prayer Is Coming Before God

Prayer is more than reciting religious words.

It is deliberately turning toward God and speaking to Him with faith, reverence, dependence, and sincerity.

When you pray, you are not speaking into empty space.

You are coming before the living God.

The One who hears prayer is the Creator of heaven and earth. He knows every thought, sees every motive, understands every need, and possesses all wisdom and power.

That truth should produce both reverence and confidence.

God is too holy to be approached carelessly.

Yet through Jesus Christ, believers are invited to come near.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” — Hebrews 4:16, KJV

Notice both sides of that invitation.

It is a throne , because God is King.

It is a throne of grace , because mercy and help are available through Jesus Christ.

We do not come proudly, as though God owes us something.

We do not stay away fearfully, as though there is no mercy for those who belong to Christ.

We come reverently and confidently because Jesus has opened the way.

Jesus Gave Us a Pattern for Prayer

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He gave what is commonly called the Lord’s Prayer:

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” — Matthew 6:9–13, KJV

Jesus said, “After this manner therefore pray ye.”

He gave His disciples a pattern that teaches the order and spirit of prayer.

The words may certainly be prayed sincerely. But they should not become an empty recitation that the heart repeats without thought.

This prayer teaches us to begin with God, submit to His will, depend upon Him, seek mercy, ask for protection, and end with confidence in His kingdom, power, and glory.

Let us examine that pattern carefully.

A Simple Biblical Prayer Pattern

The following pattern is not a formula that must be followed mechanically. It is a guide based upon the prayer Jesus taught.

1. Approach the Father Through Jesus Christ

Remember that your access rests upon Christ, not your merit.

“Father, I come to You through Jesus Christ.”

2. Honor God for Who He Is

Recognize His holiness, faithfulness, wisdom, mercy, and authority.

“Father, You are holy, good, and worthy of my trust.”

3. Submit to His Kingdom and Will

Ask God to rule your heart and accomplish what pleases Him.

“Let Your will be done in me and through me.”

4. Bring Your Needs

Ask for what is necessary with honesty and dependence.

“Please provide what I need and help me fulfill my responsibilities.”

5. Walk Honestly Before Him

Acknowledge known sin instead of hiding or excusing it.

“Father, I was wrong. Have mercy upon me and help me obey.”

6. Ask for Help Against Spiritual Danger

Recognize your need for protection and guidance.

“Keep me from deception, temptation, and evil.”

7. Remember Others

Bring the needs of family, fellow believers, leaders, suffering people, and others before God without allowing your prayer to revolve entirely around yourself.

“Father, please work in the lives of those You have placed around me.”

Specific instruction about praying for lost souls will come in Lesson 67.

8. End With Trust

Entrust the request and outcome to God.

“Your kingdom, power, and glory are greater than this need. Your will be done.”

Discipleship Questions

- Why can believers approach God confidently without approaching Him carelessly?

- What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?

- What priorities are revealed in the prayer Jesus taught His disciples?

- Why is “Thy will be done” an expression of faith rather than unbelief?

- What has most often made prayer difficult for you?

A Prayer for Learning to Pray

Father in heaven,

Thank You for allowing me to come before You through Jesus Christ.

Teach me to pray according to Your Word.

Keep me from empty words, pride, carelessness, and selfish demands.

Help me remember that You are holy, wise, merciful, faithful, and worthy of all honor.

Let Your kingdom rule my heart, and let Your will be done in my life.

Provide what I need to fulfill the responsibilities You have given me.

Help me walk honestly before You and depend upon Your mercy.

Keep me from temptation, deception, and evil.

Teach me to remember the needs of others and not to pray only for myself.

When I do not know what to say, help me come sincerely.

When I do not know what You will do, help me trust Your wisdom.

May my prayers honor You and draw me into deeper dependence upon Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Use the simple biblical prayer pattern for the next seven days.

Each day:

- Approach the Father through Jesus Christ.
- Honor God for who He is.
- Submit yourself to His kingdom and will.
- Bring your daily needs.
- Walk honestly before Him.
- Ask for protection from spiritual danger.
- Remember at least one other person.
- End by entrusting the outcome to God.

Do not concentrate on making the prayer long.

Concentrate on making it sincere.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 13: How to Read the Bible With Faith and Understanding

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why should the Bible be approached differently from an ordinary book?

- How can reading the verses before and after a statement protect you from misunderstanding it?

- Why should you ask what a passage says before asking what it means for you personally?

- What should you do when you reach a passage you do not understand?

- Which book of the Bible will you begin reading steadily?

A Prayer for Understanding the Bible

Father,

Thank You for giving us Your written Word.

Help me approach Scripture with faith, reverence, and humility.

Keep me from careless reading, pride, distraction, and impatience.

Open my understanding so that I may see what You have written.

Teach me to follow the passage carefully instead of forcing my own ideas into it.

Show me what Your Word reveals about Your character, Your works, Your will, and Your Son, Jesus Christ.

When I reach something difficult, keep me from discouragement and error. Give me patience to read again, wisdom to ask for help, and humility to admit what I do not yet understand.

Protect me from depending upon human teachers more than upon Your Word, but also protect me from the pride that refuses faithful instruction.

Give me a growing hunger for Scripture and help me continue reading throughout my life.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one book of the Bible to begin reading.

The Gospel of John is a helpful starting place.

For the next seven days:

- Pray briefly before reading.
- Read one manageable passage.
- Identify who is speaking and what is happening.
- State the main point in one or two sentences.
- Write down one truth about God or Jesus Christ.
- Record any question you need to investigate later.

Do not measure success by how many chapters you finish.

Measure it by whether you read attentively and continue faithfully.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 14: How to Hear, Believe, and Obey the Word of God

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between physically hearing Scripture and hearing it with the heart?

- Why must the Word be received as God's Word rather than merely as human advice?

- How does faith respond differently to a promise, warning, command, or correction?

- What is the danger of delaying obedience after Scripture has made something clear?

- What truth has God already shown you that now requires a specific response?

A Prayer to Hear, Believe, and Obey

Father,

Thank You for giving me Your Word.

Give me ears to hear what You have spoken.

Protect me from distraction, pride, defensiveness, and a hard heart.

Help me receive Scripture as Your Word and not merely as human opinion.

When You reveal truth, help me believe You.

When You give a promise, help me trust You.

When You warn me, help me take the warning seriously.

When You command me, help me obey without unnecessary delay.

Keep me from applying every message to other people while avoiding what You are showing me.

Do not let me confuse agreement, emotion, or good intentions with obedience.

Show me the specific response Your truth requires.

Give me grace to take the first faithful step and patience to continue until Your Word bears fruit in my life.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Return to the passage you read most recently.

Write down four answers:

- What did God's Word say?
- What should I believe?
- What response does it require?
- What first step will I take today?

Keep the response specific.

Do not attempt to correct ten areas at once.

Act faithfully upon the clearest truth God has placed before you.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 15: How to Meditate on Scripture Day and Night

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Turn Meditation Into Prayer

Prayer and meditation support one another.

When you understand a verse, you can respond to God concerning what He has said.

If the verse reveals God's faithfulness, thank Him.

If it gives a command, ask for grace to obey.

If it reveals your need, admit that need.

If it contains a promise, ask God to help you trust Him.

If it reveals Jesus Christ, praise Him.

For example, after reading:

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." — Psalm 119:18, KJV

You may pray:

"Father, open my understanding. Help me see what You have placed in Your Word."

This is not a second full lesson on prayer. Lesson 12 already established the biblical foundation of prayer.

The point here is that meditation should not remain a cold mental exercise.

Speak to the God whose Word you are considering.

Discipleship Questions

- How is biblical meditation different from attempting to empty the mind?

- Why should meditation begin with the correct meaning of a passage?

- What does it mean to meditate on Scripture “day and night”?

- How can speaking or writing a verse help you remember it?

- What clearly understood truth from Scripture will you carry today?

A Prayer for Biblical Meditation

Father,

Thank You for giving me Your Word.

Help me not to read it carelessly and forget it immediately.

Teach me to slow down and give careful attention to what You have spoken.

Protect me from empty spiritual practices, uncontrolled imagination, and interpretations that do not agree with the passage.

Help me understand Your Word correctly and remain with its truth.

Teach me to notice what Scripture reveals about Your character, works, commands, promises, and ways.

Give me a growing delight in Your Word.

Help me carry one clear truth through the day, return to it when my attention wanders, and remember it when the Bible is no longer open before me.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in me richly.

May the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one verse from today's Bible reading.

For the rest of the day:

- Read it slowly three times.
- State its meaning in one sentence.
- Write the verse and reference down.
- Identify what it reveals about God.
- Pray briefly over its truth.
- Return to it at least three times.
- Review it before going to sleep.

Tomorrow, repeat the practice with another clearly understood verse.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 16: How to Worship God in Spirit and in Truth

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is sincerity alone insufficient to make worship true?

- What does it mean to worship God in spirit?

- How does Scripture protect worship from becoming false or self-centered?

- Why must true Christian worship honor Jesus Christ?

- What most often distracts your attention from God when you attempt to worship?

A Prayer to Worship God in Spirit and in Truth

Father,

You alone are worthy of glory, honor, and praise.

You created all things, and every good thing comes from You.

Forgive me for the times I have approached worship carelessly, thought mainly about myself, or spoken words while my heart was far away.

Teach me to worship You in spirit.

Turn my mind, heart, will, and affections sincerely toward You.

Teach me to worship You in truth.

Protect me from false ideas, empty emotion, pride, and religious performance.

Let Your Word shape my understanding of who You are.

Help me approach You with reverence and joy.

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ.

He is the Lamb who was slain, the risen Lord, and the only Mediator between God and men.

Let Jesus Christ be honored in my worship.

When my heart feels cold, awaken it with truth.

When I am distracted, turn my attention back to You.

When I am tempted to seek human approval, remind me that all glory belongs to Your name.

Make me one of the true worshipers whom You seek.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Set aside ten undistracted minutes today for worship.

Do not begin with a list of requests.

Instead:

- Read Psalm 96 or Revelation 5.
- Write down three truths the passage reveals about God or Jesus Christ.
- Thank God for each truth.
- Speak or sing praise based upon what the passage says.
- End with the words:

“Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory.”

Do not concentrate on producing a strong emotion.

Concentrate on honoring God sincerely and truthfully.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 17: How to Walk With God When You Do Not Feel Strong

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is admitting weakness different from surrendering to it?

- How can you distinguish weakness caused by known sin from ordinary human limitation?

- Why should weakness lead you toward Christ rather than away from Him?

- What does it mean to simplify a weak day without abandoning God?

- What is the next faithful step presently in front of you?

A Prayer for Weak Days

Father,

You know my frame and remember that I am dust.

Thank You that I do not need to pretend before You.

When my body is tired, my thoughts are scattered, or my emotions feel heavy, help me turn toward You instead of withdrawing.

Show me honestly whether anything needs to be corrected.

Keep me from excusing sin, but also keep me from accusing myself merely because I feel weak.

Thank You for Jesus Christ, my compassionate High Priest.

Help me come to Your throne of grace and receive mercy and help in my time of need.

Teach me to walk by faith when my feelings are weak.

Give me grace for the next faithful step.

Help me simplify without quitting, rest without drifting, and continue without trusting my own strength.

Keep me from making hopeless conclusions based upon one difficult day.

Remind me that Your compassion does not fail and that Your mercy is new every morning.

Order my steps in Your Word and keep me following Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

When you experience a weak day, write down four short statements:

"I feel tired and unfocused."

- What I am experiencing:

"Jesus Christ remains faithful, and I may come for grace."

- What remains true:

"I will read Psalm 73 slowly and complete the responsibility directly before me."

- My next faithful step:

"I will not attempt to carry tomorrow today."

- What I will leave with God:

Do not wait until you feel powerful.

Turn toward God with the strength you presently have.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 18: How to Confess Sin and Return to God Quickly

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does sin often make people want to hide from God?

- What does it mean to agree with God about your sin?

- Why should confession be specific rather than deliberately vague?

- Why is Jesus Christ—not the strength of your sorrow—the basis of forgiveness?

- Is there any known sin you have delayed confessing or any clear responsibility you need to address?

A Prayer of Confession and Return

Father,

You already know everything about me.

Nothing I have done, said, thought, or desired is hidden from Your sight.

Forgive me for the ways I have attempted to excuse, minimize, or hide my sin.

Help me agree with You fully.

What You call sin, let me call sin.

Give me humility to take responsibility without blaming other people or my circumstances.

Thank You for Jesus Christ the righteous, my Advocate with the Father.

I cannot cleanse myself.

My sorrow, promises, and self-punishment cannot pay for sin.

I come through the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Please forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

Give me a sincere heart that is willing to turn from what displeases You.

Show me any clear responsibility I must address.

Keep me from delaying, hardening my heart, or allowing one fall to become continued rebellion.

Help me receive Your mercy humbly and resume following Jesus faithfully.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Become quiet before God and ask:

“Lord, is there any known sin I am presently hiding, defending, or delaying?”

When something clear comes to mind:

- Name it specifically.
- Agree with God about it.
- Ask for forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
- Identify whether any clear action must follow.
- Take the next obedient step today.

Do not remain hidden because you feel ashamed.

Return quickly.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 19: How to Keep a Clean Conscience Before God

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is the conscience important even though it is not the final authority?

- How can Scripture correct both an insensitive conscience and an overly fearful conscience?

- What is the difference between a tender conscience and a constantly condemning conscience?

- Why does Paul speak of a conscience void of offense toward both God and people?

- Is there any clear matter your conscience has been warning you not to ignore?

A Prayer for a Clean Conscience

Father,

Thank You that nothing about me is hidden from You.

Teach me to live honestly before Your sight.

Give me a tender conscience that responds when Your Word shows me that something is wrong.

Keep me from ignoring conviction, defending disobedience, or becoming comfortable with sin.

Train my conscience through Scripture.

Correct me when I feel peaceful about something You condemn.

Comfort and instruct me when I feel guilty about something You have not forbidden.

Help me maintain a conscience void of offense toward You and toward other people.

Show me any clear responsibility I have delayed.

Give me humility to correct what is wrong and wisdom to act rightly.

Thank You that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses the conscience.

Keep me from attempting to replace His finished work with self-punishment.

Protect me from both carelessness and false condemnation.

Help me walk in truth, receive light, and continue following Jesus Christ with an honest heart.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Set aside a few quiet minutes and ask four questions:

- Is there any known offense toward God that I am still protecting?
- Is there any clear wrong toward another person that I have refused to address?
- Is my guilt supported by Scripture, or am I carrying a burden God has not placed upon me?
- What specific response is required today?

Respond to what is clear.

Do not invent what is not clear.

Then entrust your conscience to God and continue walking faithfully.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 20: How to Stay Close to God Every Day

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does spiritual nearness refer to fellowship rather than physical distance?

- How can religious activity continue while the heart becomes distant from God?

- What is the difference between emotional quietness and genuine spiritual drift?

- Why is it important to respond to the first signs of distance?

- What currently appears to be drawing your heart nearer to God—or farther away?

A Prayer to Stay Close to God

Father,

Thank You for inviting me to draw near through Jesus Christ.

Forgive me for the times I have performed religious activities while my heart remained distracted or distant.

Help me understand that nearness to You is good.

Teach me to value Your presence more than temporary pleasure, distraction, human approval, or self-rule.

Show me honestly whether my heart is drawing near or drifting.

Expose the earliest signs of distance before they become deeply established.

Keep me from measuring my walk only by feelings.

Keep me from attempting to earn Your favor through religious performance.

Thank You that my access rests upon the blood of Jesus Christ.

Help me seek You and not only the things I want You to give me.

Teach me to abide in Christ, walk in the light, and remain dependent upon Your grace.

When my attention wanders, turn it back.

When my love grows cold, awaken it.

When I recognize drift, help me return without delay.

Let me walk near You in ordinary moments and not only during dramatic experiences.

Keep my heart true before You today.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Set aside ten quiet minutes and complete these three statements:

The clearest sign that I am drawing near to God is:

The earliest sign that I may be drifting is:

The specific step I will take today is:

Do not choose ten steps.

Identify the clearest one.

Then act upon it today.

Notes and Prayer

Stage 3: Standing on the Word of God

Lessons 21-30

Lesson 21: Why the Bible Must Be Your Final Authority

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What does it mean for the Bible to be the final authority rather than merely one helpful voice?

- Why does Scripture possess authority independently of human approval?

- Which competing voice most often challenges Scripture in your life?

- Why must teachers, traditions, experiences, and personal reasoning remain beneath God's Word?

- Is there any biblical truth you have resisted because it conflicts with something you strongly desire or have long believed?

A Prayer of Submission to God's Word

Father,

Thank You for giving me Your written Word.

You know all things, You cannot lie, and Your truth endures forever.

Forgive me for the times I have treated my feelings, desires, opinions, traditions, or experiences as though they were greater than what You have spoken.

Give me a humble and teachable heart.

Help me receive faithful instruction without following any human voice blindly.

Teach me to test every belief under Scripture.

Protect me from adding human commands to Your Word or removing truths that make me uncomfortable.

When my reasoning is limited, help me trust Your wisdom.

When culture pressures me, help me remain faithful.

When desire pulls me, help me bow before Your truth.

When an experience seems powerful, help me ask whether it agrees with what You have written.

Keep me from using the Bible dishonestly to defend what I already want.

Let Your Word examine me, correct me, and rule me.

I settle this before You:

Your Word must have the final authority in my life.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Write down the voice that most often competes with Scripture in your life:

The voice most likely to overrule Scripture for me is:

Then write:

When that voice disagrees with God's Word, I will:

Choose one biblical subject where you feel uncertain or resistant.

Do not search merely for a verse that supports your present opinion.

Begin gathering what Scripture actually says.

Approach the subject with this prayer:

"Speak, Lord. Your Word will have the final ruling."

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 22: How to Let Scripture Correct Your Thinking

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why should you not accept every thought merely because it feels convincing?

- What is the difference between a fact and your interpretation of that fact?

- Why must the context of Scripture be considered when correcting a thought?

- How can feelings reveal what you believe without becoming the final authority?

- What recurring thought in your life most needs to be examined under Scripture?

A Prayer for Corrected Thinking

Father,

You know every thought, assumption, motive, and interpretation within me.

Forgive me for the times I have trusted my own understanding without bringing it beneath Your Word.

Give me humility to admit that my first conclusion may be wrong.

Help me identify what I am truly thinking.

Show me where I have confused feelings with facts, possibilities with certainties, and assumptions with knowledge.

Let the entrance of Your Word give light.

Protect me from using isolated verses dishonestly or searching Scripture only for support for what I already want to believe.

Correct thoughts shaped by pride, fear, hurt, desire, culture, or incomplete information.

Help me receive correction without becoming defensive.

Teach me to say clearly what is true and to respond according to truth.

Where I do not yet understand, keep me humble, patient, and willing to learn.

Bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one thought that has repeatedly troubled or directed you.

Write four statements:

The thought:

What I actually know:

What I have assumed:

What Scripture says that corrects or clarifies it:

Then write one final sentence:

The truthful response I will follow is:

Do not attempt to correct every thought at once.

Begin with one.

Bring it under the light of God's Word.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 23: How to Use Scripture When You Are Tempted

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is it important to identify the message contained within a temptation?

- What do Jesus' words, "It is written," teach about responding to temptation?

- Why must Scripture be understood correctly rather than merely quoted?

- How can preparing a small number of relevant passages help before temptation comes?

- What recurring temptation in your life needs a clearer biblical answer?

A Prayer for Using Scripture During Temptation

Father,

Thank You for giving me Your written Word.

You know the temptations I face and the false messages they present.

Help me recognize the lie rather than being carried away by its promise.

Teach me to find Scripture that directly and truthfully answers the pressure before me.

Protect me from quoting verses carelessly or removing them from their proper meaning.

Help me hide Your Word in my heart before temptation comes.

When pressure begins, bring the needed truth to my remembrance.

Keep me from delaying while the lie grows stronger.

Help me say with faith, "It is written."

Teach me to pray Your Word and act upon what it commands.

Keep me from trusting memory, knowledge, or willpower apart from You.

Thank You that Jesus Christ was tempted without sin and that I may come to Him for mercy and help.

Make me attentive, prepared, and obedient.

Let Your truth expose every false promise of sin.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one recurring temptation and complete these statements:

The temptation is:

The message it presents is:

The Scripture that answers it is:

That passage teaches:

The immediate action it requires is:

Read the complete passage today.

Write the key verse somewhere accessible.

Review it each day for the next week so that the Word is ready before the next moment of pressure.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 24: How to Study the Bible Without Twisting It

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is it dangerous to begin Bible study with the conclusion you already want to prove?

- How does reading the surrounding context protect the meaning of a verse?

- Why must we distinguish between what Scripture describes and what it commands?

- What is the difference between interpretation and imagination?

- What passage will you study using the ten-step pattern in this lesson?

A Prayer for Faithful Bible Study

Father,

Thank You for giving me Your written Word.

Help me handle it with reverence, humility, and honesty.

Forgive me for the times I have searched for support for what I already wanted to believe.

Keep me from twisting Scripture to defend my desires, traditions, opinions, or pride.

Open my eyes so that I may understand what You have written.

Teach me to read the context, follow the writer's thought, recognize the kind of passage, and identify its main point.

Protect me from confusing imagination with revelation.

Help me speak clearly where Your Word is clear and humbly where I do not yet understand.

Give me wisdom when using teachers and study tools. Let them help me see Scripture rather than replace it.

Keep me from adding to Your words or taking away from them.

Make me a workman who handles the Word of truth faithfully and seeks Your approval above human admiration.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one paragraph from the Gospel of John or one section from a New Testament letter.

Write down:

- Who is speaking or writing?
- Who is being addressed?
- What subject is being discussed?
- What comes immediately before and after?
- What type of writing is this?
- What is the passage's main point?
- What does it reveal about God or Jesus Christ?
- What response flows honestly from its meaning?
- What questions remain?
- What must you avoid adding to the passage?

Do not rush to complete the study.

Remain with the passage until you can explain its central meaning simply and honestly.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 25: How to Build Your Decisions on the Word of God

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why should the heart seek God's Word before settling upon a preferred decision?

- What is the difference between a direct command, a biblical principle, and a personal preference?

- Why should an option that requires sin be removed immediately?

- How can a person wrongly turn his own application of a principle into a command for everyone else?

- What current decision needs to be placed through the Scripture-first decision pattern?

A Prayer for Scripture-Governed Decisions

Father,

Thank You for giving me Your Word to order my steps.

Forgive me for the times I have chosen what I wanted first and asked You to approve it afterward.

Give me a surrendered and teachable heart.

Where You have commanded, help me obey without delay.

Where You have forbidden something, keep me from studying its advantages as though sin could become wise.

Teach me to recognize the principles that truly apply when the exact situation is not named in Scripture.

Protect me from twisting verses to support my preference.

Examine my motives.

Show me where pride, fear, comfort, envy, approval, or ambition is influencing my judgment.

Help me consider my present responsibilities and the likely fruit of each choice.

Keep me from treating every open door as Your command or demanding a sign when Your Word is already sufficient.

Where You permit more than one faithful choice, give me freedom to choose humbly without inventing a command You did not give.

Order my steps in Your Word.

Let my decisions honor Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Take one real decision and write down:

The decision:

The available options:

What Scripture directly commands or forbids:

The biblical principles that apply:

My motive:

The responsibilities and likely fruit affected:

Whether more than one faithful option remains:

The next faithful step:

Do not begin with the answer you want.

Begin with the Word of God.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 26: Why Doctrine Matters for Every Christian

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is the claim “Doctrine does not matter” itself a doctrinal statement?

- What is the difference between possessing religious information and receiving sound doctrine?

- How does doctrine affect worship, conduct, and spiritual stability?

- Why should greater doctrinal knowledge produce humility rather than pride?

- What important Christian belief have you accepted without carefully examining where it came from?

A Prayer for Sound Doctrine

Father,

Thank You for giving me truth in Your Word.

Forgive me for the beliefs I have accepted carelessly without examining whether they came from Scripture.

Help me understand that doctrine is not only for pastors, teachers, or scholars.

Teach me what is true about You, Your Son, the gospel, salvation, holiness, judgment, and eternal life.

Protect me from building beliefs upon feelings, traditions, personalities, experiences, or isolated verses.

Give me patience to learn and humility to admit when I have been wrong.

Keep me from being carried about by every new teaching.

Let sound doctrine produce godliness, worship, obedience, stability, and love.

Protect me from pride as my knowledge grows.

Help me hold truth firmly without treating people harshly.

Keep Jesus Christ at the center of everything I believe.

Make me faithful to receive, live, and pass on the truth You have given.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one central Christian belief:

- who Jesus Christ is;
- what the gospel is;
- how sinners are saved;
- what Scripture is;
- or who God is.

Write down:

What I presently believe:

Where I learned it:

The clearest passages that establish it:

What those passages actually teach:

Why this doctrine matters to my life:

Do not attempt to study every doctrine at once.

Begin with one central truth and make sure your belief is built upon the Word of God.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 27: How to Recognize False Teaching

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why can false teaching be dangerous even when it contains some truth and quotes Scripture?

- What is the difference between an honest mistake and a settled pattern of false teaching?

- Why must every teaching be tested first by what it says about Jesus Christ and the gospel?

- How do godliness and spiritual fruit help reveal the direction of a teaching?

- Is there any teacher or message you have trusted mainly because of personality, popularity, experience, or emotion rather than careful biblical examination?

A Prayer for Protection From False Teaching

Father,

Thank You for giving me truth in Your Word.

Protect me from false teaching, spiritual pride, and careless judgment.

Keep me from accepting a message merely because it sounds encouraging, uses Christian words, quotes verses, or comes from a popular personality.

Help me test every teaching honestly.

Teach me to recognize and honor the true Jesus Christ.

Keep the biblical gospel clear in my heart.

Give me wisdom to see when Scripture is being removed from its context or used to support a human agenda.

Help me recognize whether a message leads toward godliness or makes sin appear safe.

Give me patience to examine fruit without demanding perfection from human teachers.

Keep me from calling every disagreement heresy, but do not let me treat serious error as harmless.

When clarification is needed, help me listen carefully.

When teaching is clearly false, give me courage to reject it.

Protect me from becoming suspicious, proud, harsh, or unteachable.

Let me love truth, pray for those who are deceived, and keep my eyes upon Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one sermon, video, article, book chapter, or religious claim you recently encountered.

Write down:

The central claim:

The Scripture used:

The Christ test:

The gospel test:

The Scripture test:

The godliness test:

The fruit test:

My conclusion and next faithful response:

Represent the teaching accurately.

Read the biblical passage in context.

Do not approve or condemn it merely because of the teacher's personality.
Let the Word of God decide.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 28: How to Grow in Wisdom and Discernment

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between biblical knowledge, wisdom, and discernment?

- Why must the fear of the Lord be the beginning of wisdom?

- What does Hebrews mean when it says discernment grows “by reason of use”?

- How is biblical discernment different from suspicion or constant distrust?

- In what area of your life do you most need to slow down, examine direction, and ask God for wisdom?

A Prayer for Wisdom and Discernment

Father,

You are the source of all true wisdom.

I confess that my understanding is limited and that I do not always see situations clearly.

Teach me to fear You and take Your Word seriously.

Give me wisdom generously, as You have promised.

Help me seek understanding rather than assuming that my first conclusion is right.

Train my senses through Your Word so that I may distinguish good from evil, truth from error, and wisdom from impulse.

Keep me from being gullible.

Keep me also from becoming suspicious, harsh, proud, or impossible to correct.

Teach me to pause when pressure and emotion are strong.

Help me see beyond appearance and consider the direction and fruit of a path.

Give me humility to receive correction and patience to grow gradually.

Let wisdom produce meekness, purity, peace, mercy, and good fruit in my life.

Help me use what You teach me until discernment becomes stronger through faithful practice.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one situation that presently requires discernment.

Write down:

What I know for certain:

What I may only be assuming:

What important distinction I need to make:

The Scripture that applies:

The direction this appears to be leading:

The fruit already becoming visible:

The correction or additional understanding I may need:

The next humble and faithful response:

Do not attempt to appear wise.

Ask God to make you wise.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 29: Why You Must Be a Doer of the Word

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why can frequent exposure to Scripture create a false sense of spiritual progress?

- What does James' picture of the mirror teach about hearing without doing?

- How is Lesson 29 different from Lesson 14's instruction about immediate response?

- Why should a biblical truth be turned into a clear and continuing practice?

- What truth have you heard repeatedly but have not yet practiced consistently?

A Prayer to Become a Doer of the Word

Next Step

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 30: How to Let God's Word Renew Your Mind

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between correcting an individual thought and renewing an established pattern of thinking?

- Why can a long-held belief feel natural even when it is unbiblical?

- What does it mean to let the Word of Christ dwell richly within you?

- Why must false thinking be replaced with biblical truth rather than merely suppressed?

- What recurring pattern of thought presently needs the sustained renewing work of God's Word?

A Prayer for a Renewed Mind

Father,

Thank You for giving me Your truth.

You know every pattern of thought I have carried from the world, my past, my experiences, and my own sinful understanding.

Show me where familiar thinking has become more authoritative to me than Your Word.

Forgive me for accepting assumptions without examining them under Scripture.

Help me receive the engrafted Word with meekness.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in me richly.

Expose recurring reactions and the beliefs beneath them.

Teach me to replace falsehood with truth rather than merely suppressing uncomfortable thoughts.

Help me return to Your Word repeatedly until its truth becomes more familiar and influential than the old pattern.

Give me strength to practice what You teach me.

Keep me from confusing renewal with empty positive thinking or human mental techniques.

Sanctify me through Your truth.

Teach me good judgment and knowledge.

When change seems slow, keep me faithful.

Renew my inward man day by day.

Transform the way I understand and respond to life so that my mind increasingly agrees with You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one recurring pattern of thought and complete these statements:

The situation that usually activates the pattern:

My usual thought or reaction:

The deeper belief beneath it:

The Scripture that addresses that belief:

The renewed biblical understanding:

The action that agrees with this truth:

When I will review this Scripture each day:

Work with one recurring pattern rather than attempting to renovate every area at once.

Let God's Word dwell there until truth begins forming a new path.

Notes and Prayer

Stage 4: Growing in Holiness and Christlike Character

Lessons 31-40

Lesson 31: What Does It Mean to Be Holy?

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why must every biblical understanding of holiness begin with God Himself?

- What does it mean to be separated unto God rather than merely separated from certain activities?

- How can believers already be called saints while still being commanded to pursue holiness?

- What is the difference between biblical holiness, legalism, and self-righteousness?

- What area of your life are you most tempted to treat as your own rather than God's possession?

A Prayer for Holiness

Holy Father,

You are pure, righteous, glorious, and completely separate from all evil.

Forgive me for treating holiness lightly or defining it by human comparison.

Thank You for calling me to belong to You through Jesus Christ.

Help me understand that my life is not my own private possession.

Every part belongs beneath Your authority.

Show me where I have protected sin, excused compromise, or cared more about outward appearance than inward truth.

Keep me from legalism, human traditions, and self-righteous pride.

Do not let my fear of false religion become an excuse for rejecting true holiness.

Sanctify me wholly.

Give me grace to pursue what You command.

Teach me to separate from sin while drawing nearer to You.

Let holiness make me humble, sincere, compassionate, and prepared for Your use.

Show me the first area I must place under Your ownership today.

Make my life increasingly agree with the holy name I confess.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

Holiness means that I belong to:

The area I have been treating as my own is:

What Scripture makes clear about that area is:

The first act of surrender and obedience is:

The help I need from God is:

Do not begin by creating a long list of human rules.

Begin by acknowledging:

"Lord, I am Yours."

Then bring the identified area beneath His holy authority.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 32: Why Grace Does Not Give Permission to Sin

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does the cross prove that grace does not make sin unimportant?

- What is the difference between legalism and using grace as permission for lawlessness?

- According to Titus 2:11–14, what does saving grace teach believers?

- How is struggling against sin different from settling into sin and defending it?

- Is there an area where you have relied upon future forgiveness instead of present obedience?

A Prayer to Receive Grace Truthfully

Father,

Thank You for the grace You have shown me through Jesus Christ.

I could never earn forgiveness, erase my guilt, or save myself.

Thank You that justification is given freely through the redemption found in Christ.

Forgive me for every time I have misunderstood or misused Your grace.

Keep me from legalism, pride, and confidence in my own works.

Keep me also from using forgiveness as permission to continue in sin.

Help me remember what my redemption cost.

Teach me to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

Show me where I have used liberty as a covering for disobedience.

Teach me to seek grace for help before I fall, not merely speak of grace afterward.

When I struggle, strengthen me.

When I fail, bring me to honest confession rather than excuses or despair.

Let the love of Christ direct my life so that I no longer live unto myself, but unto Him who died for me and rose again.

May Your grace never be received in vain.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements:

The area where I am most tempted to misuse grace is:

The excuse I commonly make is:

What biblical grace actually teaches me is:

The obedient response is:

The help I need to seek from God is:

Read Titus 2:11–14 each day for the next week.

Pay particular attention to the words:

“The grace of God... teaching us.”

Ask daily:

“What is grace teaching me to deny, and how is grace teaching me to live?”

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 33: How to Put Off the Old Man and Put On the New

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What does the Bible mean by the old man and the former manner of life?

- Why is stopping an old action without putting on a biblical replacement often incomplete?

- How does renewal of the mind connect putting off the old with putting on the new?

- Why might a new and obedient response initially feel less natural than the old pattern?

- What specific old pattern must you put off, and what must be practiced in its place?

A Prayer to Put Off the Old and Put On the New

Father,

Thank You for giving me new life through Jesus Christ.

Show me what still belongs to the former manner of life.

Expose the habits, reactions, desires, motives, and excuses I have continued to protect.

Forgive me for treating an old pattern as my permanent identity.

Help me remember that the old man was crucified with Christ so that I should no longer serve sin.

Give me courage to put off what You expose.

Reveal the deceitful message beneath it.

Renew me in the spirit of my mind through Your truth.

Show me the righteous quality or action that must take its place.

Help me practice the new response even when it feels unfamiliar.

Keep me from hiding old conduct beneath religious language.

Teach me to put on the new man, created after You in righteousness and true holiness.

Work within me both to will and to do of Your good pleasure.

When I fail, bring me to honest confession and faithful return.

Let the remaining time of my life be lived according to Your will rather than the former lusts.

Help me put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete this pattern with one specific area:

The old pattern I must put off:

The excuse or respectable name I have given it:

The false promise beneath it:

The Scripture that corrects it:

The new quality or action I must put on:

The situation in which I will practice it:

The provision I must remove:

Do not choose ten old patterns.

Begin with one.

Put it off.

Renew your understanding through truth.

Then deliberately put on the new response.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 34: How to Flee Fornication and Keep Your Body Pure

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does Scripture say the believer's body is for the Lord rather than for fornication?

- What does the example of Joseph teach about the practical meaning of fleeing?

- Why is remaining near sexual temptation an expression of pride rather than strength?

- How can sexual sin wrong more people than the two directly involved?

- What physical access point, opportunity, or secret door must you remove in order to obey God?

A Prayer for Sexual Purity

Father,

Thank You for creating my body and redeeming me through Jesus Christ.

Forgive me for every way I have treated my body as though it belonged only to me.

Your Word says that the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord.

Help me believe and obey that truth.

Show me every relationship, opportunity, place, routine, or secret door that is drawing me toward sexual sin.

Give me courage to leave rather than negotiate.

Keep me from trusting myself near temptation.

Teach me from Joseph's example to recognize sexual sin as sin against You and to flee immediately.

Help me honor marriage and refuse to use another person's body for sin.

Keep me from calling lust love or secrecy freedom.

Where I have sinned, bring me to honest confession, true forsaking, and mercy through Jesus Christ.

Give me humility to seek trustworthy help when needed.

Teach me to possess my body in sanctification and honor.

Let my hands, strength, time, and physical life become instruments of righteousness unto You.

I am not my own.

I was bought with a price.

Help me glorify You in my body and in my spirit.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The sexual sin or danger I must flee is:

The main physical access point is:

The secret door I have kept open is:

The action I will take today to create distance is:

The trustworthy person I can contact for help is:

The righteous activity or responsibility I will pursue instead is:

Do not write merely:

"I will try harder."

Identify an actual doorway.

Then move away from it today.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 35: How to Guard Your Eyes and Thoughts

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between seeing something unexpectedly and deliberately looking in order to feed desire?

- Why did Job connect a covenant with his eyes to what he would think about?

- How can imagination become a private place where outwardly avoided sin is still inwardly welcomed?

- Why must guarding the eyes include both external boundaries and honest examination of the heart?

- What repeated visual source or thought pattern requires a specific boundary today?

A Prayer to Guard My Eyes and Thoughts

Father,

You see what my eyes seek and what my mind entertains.

Forgive me for every time I have deliberately looked in order to awaken lust, envy, pride, or another sinful desire.

Forgive me for placing wickedness before my eyes and then blaming temptation for what I willingly chose.

Help me make a covenant with my eyes.

Teach me to recognize the difference between unexpected exposure and deliberate looking.

Give me prompt obedience when I need to turn away.

Keep me from using people as objects within my thoughts.

Show me where imagination, memory, or fantasy has become a hiding place for sin.

Let the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight.

Turn my eyes away from vanity and quicken me in Your way.

Show me the boundaries I need to establish around devices, entertainment, communication, and private access.

Keep me from pridefully standing near what I should avoid.

When unwanted thoughts appear, help me reject them without panic and redirect my attention toward truth, prayer, and faithful responsibility.

Where I have failed, bring me to honest confession and renewed watchfulness.

My eyes, mind, body, and private life belong to You.

Help me honor Jesus Christ in what I see and in what I willingly continue to think.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The visual source I most need to guard is:

The moment when seeing becomes deliberate looking is:

The thought or imagination it normally produces is:

The boundary I will establish today is:

The Scripture or faithful subject I will redirect toward is:

The person I can contact if secrecy continues strengthening the struggle is:

Do not write only:

“I will guard my eyes better.”

Identify the gate.

Establish the boundary.

Prepare the redirection.

Then begin today.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 36: How to Keep Your Heart From Loving the World

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What does Scripture mean by “the world” when it commands believers not to love it?

- How is living responsibly in the world different from adopting the world’s values?

- Why can respectable ambition, comfort, possessions, or approval become forms of worldliness?

- What does the example of Demas teach about the danger of loving the present world?

- What worldly reward or value currently has the strongest competing claim upon your heart?

A Prayer for a Heart That Loves God

Father,

You know every affection, desire, ambition, and attachment within me.

Show me where I have begun loving the world.

Expose the approval, pleasure, comfort, possession, recognition, or security that has competed with my love for You.

Forgive me for admiring what opposes Your will.

Forgive me for measuring success by the standards of people who do not submit to You.

Incline my heart unto Your testimonies and not to covetousness.

Keep the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things from choking Your Word within me.

Help me live faithfully in the world without becoming shaped by its rebellion.

Teach me to use earthly things without allowing them to rule me.

Give me faith like Moses to esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than temporary treasure.

Let the cross destroy my boasting in worldly status and accomplishment.

Set my affection upon things above.

Become the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Help me love people compassionately while refusing the values that draw them away from You.

Keep me unspotted from the world.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The worldly reward or value most competing for my heart is:

It promises that it will give me:

What Scripture reveals about that promise is:

The repeated influence feeding this love is:

The boundary or reduction I will establish is:

The way I will deliberately turn my affection toward God is:

Do not write only:

"I will love the world less."

Identify the attachment.

Identify what feeds it.

Then turn your heart deliberately toward the greater treasure.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 37: How to Control Your Tongue

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does James compare the tongue to a bit, a ship's helm, and a fire?

- How do words reveal what has been filling the heart?

- Why can silence and delayed speech sometimes demonstrate greater strength than an immediate answer?

- What is the difference between speech that ministers grace and flattering or merely pleasant speech?

- What recurring situation most often causes you to lose control of your tongue?

A Prayer for a Controlled Tongue

Father,

You hear every word I speak and know the heart from which it comes.

Forgive me for careless, destructive, proud, mocking, unnecessary, and ungracious speech.

Forgive me for repeating matters that did not belong to me.

Forgive me for speaking before listening and for using words merely to release anger, pressure, or wounded pride.

Set a watch before my mouth.

Keep the door of my lips.

Teach me to pause before I speak.

Show me what is filling my heart when harmful words come out.

Help me listen fully and understand before answering.

Keep me from gossip, whispering, ridicule, humiliation, and unnecessary exposure of others.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of my mouth.

Teach me to speak what is good for edification and what ministers grace to the hearer.

Give me wisdom concerning timing, setting, tone, and silence.

When I have spoken wrongly, give me humility to confess it plainly and correct the harm where possible.

Let my words bless You and honor people made in Your image.

Bring my tongue beneath the lordship of Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The situation in which I most often lose control of my tongue is:

The heart attitude usually beneath my words is:

The kind of harmful speech I must put off is:

The words or silence I should put on instead are:

The sentence I will use to create a pause is:

Examples include:

"I need a moment before I answer."

"Help me understand what you mean."

"I should not repeat that."

"I need to pray before continuing this conversation."

The person to whom I may need to apologize is:

Do not settle for saying:

“I need to talk less.”

Identify the trigger.

Examine the heart.

Prepare the pause.

Then place the door of your lips beneath God’s guard.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 38: How to Overcome Anger, Bitterness, and Unforgiveness

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why can anger begin with a real wrong and still develop into a sinful response?

- What does Cain's example teach about addressing anger before it enters and rules?

- How does repeatedly rehearsing an offense feed bitterness?

- What is the difference between seeking appropriate justice and seeking personal vengeance?

- What offense are you presently tempted to preserve as a grudge or repeatedly reopen within your thoughts?

A Prayer to Overcome Anger and Bitterness

Father,

You know every offense, injustice, wound, and disappointment I have experienced.

You also know every sinful response within me.

Forgive me for allowing anger to become wrath, resentment, bitterness, evil speaking, or a desire for revenge.

Show me where my anger concerns a real wrong and where it has been mixed with wounded pride, selfish desire, or false assumptions.

Keep me from acting while anger is ruling me.

Help me cease from anger before it produces evil.

Teach me to rule my spirit.

Expose every offense I have repeatedly rehearsed in order to keep resentment alive.

Protect other people from being defiled by bitterness spreading through me.

Where an offense can be passed over, give me grace to release it truly.

Where serious action is necessary, help me seek truth, protection, and justice without malice.

I surrender personal vengeance to You.

You are the righteous Judge.

Keep me from punishing people through silence, humiliation, gossip, withdrawal, or hatred.

Put away bitterness from my heart.

Make me kind, tenderhearted, and willing to forgive because of the mercy You have shown me through Jesus Christ.

When anger returns, help me refuse to rebuild the case and surrender the matter again.

Do not allow evil done against me to rule what I become.

Help me overcome evil with good.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The offense I continue rehearsing is:

What actually happened, without exaggeration, is:

What my anger wants me to do is:

The part of my response that is sinful is:

Whether this matter should be passed over or addressed is:

The appropriate righteous action, if any, is:

The personal vengeance I must surrender to God is:

The person to whom I have spread bitterness or harmful speech is:

Do not write only:

"I need to stop being angry."

Name the offense.

Separate truth from exaggeration.

Refuse personal vengeance.

Then stop feeding the root.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 39: How to Live Honestly Before God and Men

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does biblical honesty begin with speaking truth within the heart?

- How can a statement be technically true while still being intentionally deceptive?

- What is the difference between legitimate privacy and dishonest concealment?

- Why may correcting a lie require more than privately asking God for forgiveness?

- Who presently believes something false or incomplete because of your words, silence, or actions?

A Prayer for Truth and Integrity

Father,

You are the God who cannot lie.

You see every word, motive, omission, false impression, and hidden act.

Forgive me for every form of dishonesty.

Forgive me for direct lies, half-truths, exaggeration, concealment, misleading silence, false promises, and religious appearances that did not agree with reality.

You desire truth in the inward parts.

Expose the false stories I tell myself in order to avoid responsibility.

Give me humility to admit when I am wrong, uncertain, unable, or unfaithful.

Keep me from using technically accurate words to create a false belief.

Help me distinguish legitimate privacy from dishonest concealment.

Make my yes dependable and my no honest.

Give me courage to keep my word when doing so becomes costly.

Keep me honest in work, money, records, relationships, ministry, and every private area.

Help me handle Your Word truthfully and never use spiritual language to manipulate people.

Show me who believes something false because of me.

Give me courage to correct the record plainly, repair what I damaged, and surrender every advantage gained through deception.

Let me walk uprightly before You and people.

Make truthfulness the ordinary pattern of my life.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The lie, omission, exaggeration, or false impression I need to correct is:

The person who presently believes something false or incomplete is:

The motive beneath my dishonesty was:

The exact truth I need to state is:

The advantage or harm that must be repaired is:

The commitment I need to keep or honestly renegotiate is:

The truthful response I will prepare for the next similar situation is:

Do not write only:

"I need to be more honest."

Identify the false impression.

Correct it.

Repair what can be repaired.

Then begin walking in truth.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 40: How to Walk Worthy of the Lord

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does walking worthy of the Lord not mean earning salvation?

- What is the difference between one isolated act of obedience and a continuing Christian walk?

- How can a believer's conduct either adorn or contradict the gospel he professes?

- Why must knowledge of God, good works, dependence, patience, and thanksgiving remain together?

- What area of your present life most clearly fails to agree with the calling you have received?

A Prayer to Walk Worthy of the Lord

Father,

Thank You for calling me through Jesus Christ into Your kingdom and glory.

I know that I cannot earn salvation or repay the grace You have shown me.

Still, I desire to live in a way that agrees with the Lord who saved me.

Show me where my conduct contradicts my confession.

Expose every divided area of my life.

Forgive me for seeking human approval more than Your pleasure.

Forgive me for public appearances that did not agree with private reality.

Teach me how I ought to walk and please You.

Make me fruitful in every good work.

Help me increase in the knowledge of You.

Keep truth and conduct joined together in my life.

Strengthen me according to Your power.

Give me patience and faithful continuance when obedience becomes difficult or unnoticed.

Protect me from pride, comparison, perfectionism, and spiritual passivity.

Help me receive correction without abandoning the path.

Work within me what is well pleasing in Your sight through Jesus Christ.

Let my conduct adorn the truth I profess.

May my home, work, speech, relationships, body, thoughts, and private choices all come beneath Your rule.

Help me walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The area of my life least consistent with my Christian calling is:

What Scripture reveals about that area is:

The person or approval I have been trying most to please is:

The next obedient step that would please the Lord is:

The good work or responsibility I have been neglecting is:

The help I need to ask from God is:

The way I will continue this step beyond one day is:

Do not attempt to repair every area at once.

Choose the clearest inconsistency.

Bring it under the Lord's authority.

Take one obedient step.

Then continue walking.

Notes and Prayer

Stage 5: Walking in the Spirit and Fighting the Good Fight

Lessons 41-50

Lesson 41: Who Is the Holy Ghost and How Does He Help the Believer?

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

The Holy Ghost Helps in Prayer

Believers sometimes know that they need to pray but do not know what to ask.

Pain, confusion, weakness, or limited understanding may make prayer difficult.

Paul writes:

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” — Romans 8:26–27, KJV

The Spirit helps our infirmities.

He understands what human words cannot fully express.

He intercedes according to God’s will.

This does not remove the responsibility to pray.

It gives encouragement when prayer feels weak.

The effectiveness of prayer does not depend upon eloquence.

The Holy Ghost knows the heart and helps the believer pray according to God’s will.

The Holy Ghost Strengthens the Inner Man

Paul prayed:

“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;” — Ephesians 3:16, KJV

Believers need inward strength.

Outward circumstances may not change immediately.

The pressure may remain.

The responsibility may continue.

The weakness may still be felt.

But the Holy Ghost strengthens the inner man.

He strengthens believers to trust, obey, endure, pray, resist compromise, and continue following Christ.

Lesson 79 will later teach finding strength in weakness more fully.

The foundation here is that spiritual strength is supplied by God's Spirit, not produced by pretending that weakness does not exist.

Discipleship Questions

- What biblical evidence shows that the Holy Ghost is a Person rather than an impersonal force?

- How does Acts 5:3–4 demonstrate that the Holy Ghost is God?

- Why does the Holy Ghost's ministry always direct attention toward Jesus Christ and agree with Scripture?

- What are several specific ways the Holy Ghost helps believers?

- In what area are you presently relying mainly upon human strength instead of consciously depending upon the Spirit's help?

A Prayer for the Holy Ghost's Help

Father,

Thank You for sending the Holy Ghost to dwell within those who belong to Jesus Christ.

Help me understand and honor Him according to Your Word.

Keep me from treating Him as an impersonal force, emotional sensation, or power that I can control.

Thank You that He is the Comforter who abides with believers.

Thank You that He teaches truth, glorifies Christ, helps in prayer, strengthens the inner man, and bears witness that Your people belong to You.

Forgive me for every way I have grieved the Holy Ghost through sin, bitterness, dishonesty, impurity, pride, or disobedience.

Forgive me for the times I have quenched His work by resisting truth that You made clear.

Help me depend upon His strength rather than my own determination.

Teach me to recognize His work through its agreement with Scripture, its holiness, and its exaltation of Jesus Christ.

Protect me from claiming divine guidance for my own preferences and emotions.

When I do not know how to pray, help me remember that the Spirit helps my infirmities.

When I feel inwardly weak, strengthen me by Your Spirit in the inner man.

When I read Scripture, help me understand and receive what You have truly said.

Let the Holy Ghost work freely within my life so that Jesus Christ is increasingly honored.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements prayerfully:

The truth about the Holy Ghost I most needed to understand is:

The area where I have relied mainly upon human strength is:

The truth or command I may have been resisting is:

The conduct that may be grieving the Holy Ghost is:

The help I need from the Spirit today is:

The Scripture I will use to remember His help is:

Do not seek merely to experience something unusual.

Recognize who the Holy Ghost is.

Believe what Scripture says about His presence.

Ask for His help.

Then obey the truth already before you.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 42: What It Means to Walk in the Spirit

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is walking in the Spirit more than a single emotional or spiritual experience?

- What does Galatians 5:17 teach about the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit?

- How do Scripture, prayer, and prompt obedience work together in a Spirit-led daily walk?

- Why does dependence upon the Holy Ghost not remove personal responsibility?

- What repeated daily choice would most strengthen your present walk in the Spirit?

A Prayer to Walk in the Spirit

Father,

Thank You for giving the Holy Ghost to those who belong to Jesus Christ.

I confess that I cannot live the Christian life faithfully through human strength alone.

Forgive me for relying upon willpower, emotion, habit, and self-confidence instead of depending upon You.

Help me walk in the Spirit today.

I surrender my body, mind, words, plans, desires, relationships, and private life to You.

Give me light through Your Word.

Help me set my mind upon the things of the Spirit rather than the things of the flesh.

Teach me to watch and pray before temptation becomes strong.

Bring truth to my remembrance when I am under pressure.

Show me where I am resisting a command that is already clear.

Give me grace to obey promptly.

Keep me from chasing spiritual experiences while neglecting ordinary faithfulness.

Help me sow toward the Spirit through the small choices of each day.

When I fail, bring me quickly to confession, cleansing, and renewed obedience.

Keep me humble.

Let every faithful step bring glory to Jesus Christ rather than attention to me.

Produce within my life increasing evidence of Your holy work.

Teach me to walk in the Spirit continually.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements prayerfully:

The area where I rely most upon human strength is:

The fleshly direction that most often competes for control is:

The Scripture that should guide my next step is:

The clear act of obedience I have been delaying is:

The repeated choice through which I have been sowing to the flesh is:

The new repeated choice through which I will sow to the Spirit is:

The times during the day when I will pause and pray are:

Do not settle for saying:

“I need to be more spiritual.”

Begin with one daily pattern.

Surrender.

Read.

Pray.

Obey.

Return when necessary.

Then continue walking.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 43: How to Be Led by the Spirit Without Being Deceived

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does Scripture command believers both to be led by the Spirit and to test every spirit?

- Why can a strong feeling, peaceful sensation, open door, dream, or coincidence never override Scripture?

- What is dangerous about using the words “God told me” carelessly?

- How can personal desire and false urgency imitate spiritual guidance?

- What present impression or decision do you need to test more carefully and humbly?

A Prayer for Spirit-Led Discernment

Father,

Thank You for giving the Holy Ghost to lead Your people in truth.

I do not want to live independently of You.

Neither do I want to be deceived by my own desires, emotions, fears, imagination, or the claims of other people.

Teach me to test every impression beneath Your Word.

Keep me from calling something Your leading when it contradicts Scripture.

Forgive me for every time I have used spiritual language to protect my own will.

Search my heart.

Expose pride, ambition, fear, attraction, resentment, and every motive that could distort my judgment.

Help me distinguish Your revealed commands from personal impressions.

Give me humility to seek counsel and receive correction.

Keep me from following signs, dreams, open doors, closed doors, peace, fear, or urgency without testing them.

Help me honor existing responsibilities.

Do not let me claim more certainty than You have given.

Where Your will is clear, give me courage to obey.

Where the decision requires wisdom, help me act responsibly and humbly.

Let every genuine leading glorify Jesus Christ, agree with truth, produce holiness, and serve Your purposes.

Lead me by Your good Spirit in the way everlasting.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one present impression, opportunity, or decision and complete this examination:

The direction I believe I may be receiving is:

The Scripture that governs it is:

The personal desire or fear that may influence me is:

The facts I still need to understand are:

The wise person from whom I should seek counsel is:

The responsibility this decision may affect is:

Whether I can pursue it for God's glory is:

The claim I can make honestly without overstating certainty is:

Do not begin by asking only:

“What do I feel?”

Begin with:

“What has God said?”

Then test the impression carefully and walk humbly.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 44: How to Overcome the Flesh

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What does Scripture mean by the flesh when it describes the flesh as opposed to the Spirit?

- Why is the believer no longer a debtor to obey the flesh?

- How does making provision for a sinful desire strengthen its control?

- Why must discipline and practical boundaries remain joined to dependence upon the Holy Ghost?

- What fleshly desire are you presently feeding, and what provision must be removed?

A Prayer to Overcome the Flesh

Father,

Thank You that I no longer owe obedience to the flesh.

Through Jesus Christ, I belong to You.

Show me where fleshly desire is still exercising practical control in my life.

Expose every appetite, motive, reaction, and habit I have excused because it feels natural or familiar.

Forgive me for feeding desires that war against my soul.

Forgive me for making provision for the flesh while asking You for victory.

Show me the access, routine, relationship, thought, or excuse that must be removed.

Help me stop negotiating with what You command me to mortify.

Keep me from trusting willpower, discipline, or religious appearance without depending upon the Holy Ghost.

Through Your Spirit, help me put to death the deeds of the body.

Order my steps in Your Word.

Let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Teach me to yield my body, mind, words, time, and strength as instruments of righteousness unto You.

When the flesh demands immediate satisfaction, remind me that I owe it nothing.

When it complains because it is denied, strengthen me to continue.

When I fall, bring me quickly to confession, correction, and renewed obedience.

Help me rise and continue walking in the light.

Let Jesus Christ rule every appetite and every part of my life.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The fleshly desire presently seeking the most control is:

It promises that it will give me:

What Scripture reveals about that promise is:

The provision that keeps feeding it is:

The action I will take to remove that provision is:

The opposite act of obedience I must practice is:

The time or situation in which I most need the Holy Ghost's help is:

Do not write only:

"I need more self-control."

Name the appetite.

Identify the provision.

Remove the fuel.

Yield yourself to God.

Then take the next obedient step through the Spirit.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 45: How to Resist the Devil

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between the flesh within and the devil as a spiritual adversary?

- Why must submission to God come before effective resistance to the devil?

- How can protected sin or bitterness give the devil practical opportunity?

- Why is steadfast ordinary obedience a genuine form of spiritual resistance?

- What lie, opening, or divisive influence must you presently resist?

A Prayer to Resist the Devil

Father,

Thank You that You are sovereign over every spiritual power.

Thank You that Jesus Christ has triumphed through the cross and resurrection.

Help me take the devil seriously without fearing him as though he were equal to You.

Make me sober and vigilant.

Show me where I have believed his lies, cooperated with division, protected bitterness, excused secret sin, or given him an opening.

I submit myself to You.

Bring every part of my life beneath Your authority.

Expose every lie about Your character, Your Word, sin, obedience, and my identity in Christ.

Help me stand upon truth.

Keep me from blaming the devil for choices for which I must accept responsibility.

Keep me from prideful spiritual language, fascination with darkness, and self-confidence.

Teach me to resist through ordinary steadfast faithfulness.

When the enemy intimidates me, remind me that greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world.

When I fail, remind me that Jesus prayed for Peter and restored him.

When the battle continues, keep me from surrendering through discouragement.

Close every opening I have given the enemy.

Strengthen me to forgive, tell the truth, refuse temptation, receive correction, and continue obeying You.

You are the God of all grace.

Establish me.

Strengthen me.

Settle me.

And let Jesus Christ receive all the glory.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The area in which I may be giving the devil an opening is:

The strategy being used appears to be:

The lie I am being tempted to believe is:

What God's Word reveals instead is:

The act of submission God requires is:

The opening I must close is:

The ordinary faithful action through which I will resist is:

Do not write only:

"I rebuke the devil."

Submit the area to God.

Name the lie.

Close the opening.

Stand upon truth.

Then continue resisting steadfastly in the faith.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 46: How to Put On the Whole Armour of God

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Pray With All Prayer

There are different kinds of prayer:

worship;

confession;

thanksgiving;

requests;

intercession;

and urgent supplication.

The believer should bring the whole conflict before God.

Pray before pressure.

During pressure.

After victory.

After failure.

For yourself.

For other believers.

The armour is not designed to produce isolated self-sufficiency.

It should lead to deeper dependence upon God.

Pray in the Spirit

Praying in the Spirit means praying under the Holy Ghost's help and in agreement with God's truth and will.

It does not mean attempting to force emotion.

It means remaining yielded to God.

Let Scripture guide the request.

Let the Spirit expose selfish motives.

Ask for what advances holiness, faithfulness, truth, and Christ's glory.

The believer does not command God to support his own will.

He brings his will beneath God.

Watch With Perseverance

Paul joins prayer with watchfulness:

“...watching thereunto with all perseverance...”

Prayer should not become careless repetition disconnected from life.

Watch for the answer.

Watch for temptation.

Watch for changes in your own heart.

Watch for opportunities to obey.

Watch for other believers who need prayer.

Colossians says:

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;” — Colossians 4:2, KJV

Continue.

Watch.

Give thanks.

Do not pray once and then abandon the matter because nothing changed immediately.

Pray for All Saints

Paul says:

“...supplication for all saints.”

Spiritual warfare is not merely individual.

Other believers are standing in difficult places.

Some face persecution.

Some face temptation.

Some are discouraged.

Some carry heavy responsibilities.

Some are serving where opposition is intense.

Pray beyond your own crisis.

Lesson 51 will teach the local church fully.

Here, remember that the armour is worn within the larger family of God.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does Paul command believers to be strong in the Lord rather than in themselves?

- Why must believers put on the whole armour rather than choosing only the pieces they prefer?

- How do truth and practical righteousness work together to protect the believer?

- What is the difference between owning a Bible and actively using the sword of the Spirit?

- Which piece of the armour are you presently neglecting most seriously?

A Prayer to Put On the Whole Armour of God

Father,

Thank You that You have not left me unprotected in spiritual conflict.

Teach me to be strong in You and in the power of Your might rather than trusting myself.

Help me put on the whole armour of God.

Gird me with truth.

Correct every false belief and every dishonest practice in my life.

Help me stand in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and turn from conduct that wounds my conscience.

Establish my feet in the gospel of peace.

Remind me that I have peace with You through Jesus Christ, and make me ready to obey and represent Him.

Help me take the shield of faith.

When fiery darts come, teach me to trust Your character, Your Word, and Your promises.

Protect my mind with the hope of salvation.

Do not let failure, emotion, fear, or human rejection redefine who I am in Christ.

Place the sword of the Spirit in my heart.

Help me read, understand, remember, and apply Your Word accurately.

Teach me to pray always.

Keep me watchful, thankful, and persevering.

Help me pray not only for myself but for other believers who are standing in spiritual conflict.

Forgive me for every piece of the armour I have neglected.

Expose any compromise that is weakening my stand.

Keep me from fighting people with pride, cruelty, or self-righteousness.

Remind me that the true conflict is spiritual.

Having done all, help me stand faithfully until Jesus Christ is glorified.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete this armour examination honestly:

The present spiritual pressure I am facing is:

The lie that truth must answer is:

The unrighteous practice or compromise that must be removed is:

The gospel truth upon which I need to stand is:

The fiery dart I must answer through faith is:

The salvation truth I need to remember is:

The Scripture I will learn and apply is:

The person or situation for which I will pray perseveringly is:

Do not merely say:

“I need the armour of God.”

Identify the neglected piece.

Put its truth into practice.

Then continue standing.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 47: How to Win the Battle in Your Mind

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is the arrival of an unwanted thought not identical to welcoming or obeying it?

- How can repeated false reasoning develop into a mental stronghold?

- What does it mean practically to bring a thought into captivity to Christ?

- How can a believer distinguish specific conviction from hopeless condemnation?

- What recurring thought in your mind most needs to be tested and replaced with biblical truth?

A Prayer for Victory in the Mind

Father,

You know every thought, imagination, fear, memory, and accusation within me.

Show me the thoughts I have accepted without testing.

Expose every lie that has become a stronghold.

Forgive me for feeding impure imaginations, bitterness, pride, fear, hopelessness, or false conclusions.

Teach me to distinguish an unwanted thought from one I deliberately welcome and develop.

Help me bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ.

When my feelings are strong, remind me that they are not the final authority.

When accusation speaks, help me distinguish it from the truthful conviction of the Holy Ghost.

When I have sinned, lead me to honest confession and repentance.

When sin has been confessed, keep me from living under condemnation that Christ has removed.

Give me the mind of Christ.

Help me think upon what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, virtuous, and worthy of praise.

Bring Scripture to my remembrance.

Establish my thoughts as I commit my actions to You.

Let truth govern my imagination, interpretation, emotions, decisions, and conduct.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one recurring thought—not several—and complete this response:

The thought says:

The lie or false conclusion is:

The specific Scripture that answers it is:

The truth stated in my own words is:

The obedient action I will take is:

Write the truth somewhere accessible.

When the thought returns, do not merely say:

“I must stop thinking this.”

Name the lie.

Answer it with Scripture.

Take the obedient step.

Then repeat the process until truth becomes the established pattern.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 48: How to Stand Strong When Temptation Comes

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is being tempted not identical to consenting to sin?

- How does James 1:14–15 describe temptation developing into sin?

- Why is confidence in God different from confidence in your own ability to stand?

- Why may the way of escape require action before the sinful desire disappears?

- What recurring temptation do you need to interrupt earlier than you have been?

A Prayer for Strength in Temptation

Father,

You are faithful.

Thank You that temptation does not remove Your presence, truth, or help.

Forgive me for the times I have blamed You, trusted myself, ignored warnings, entertained desire, or refused the escape You provided.

Help me recognize temptation early.

Show me what desire is being drawn away and enticed.

Expose the false promise and the consequence it hides.

Keep me from confusing temptation with consent, but also keep me from treating temptation carelessly.

Teach me to watch and pray.

Help me settle obedience before pressure arrives.

Give me humility to avoid the path, remove access, flee when necessary, and seek help before secrecy grows.

Bring the right Scripture to my remembrance.

Give me grace not only to quote it, but to obey it.

When desire remains after I take the escape, strengthen me to bear the pressure without returning.

Thank You that Jesus Christ was tempted without sin and is able to help those who are tempted.

When I fail, lead me quickly to confession, correction, and renewed obedience.

Let no desire bring me under its power.

Help me stand strong through Your faithfulness.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one recurring temptation and write a response plan before it returns:

When this temptation usually begins:

The first warning sign:

The Scripture I will use:

The immediate escape I will take:

The access or provision I will remove:

The person I will contact if pressure remains:

Do not prepare only to resist the final act.

Prepare to interrupt the first step.

Recognize.

Reject.

Escape.

Pray.

Then continue standing.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 49: How to Endure Spiritual Dry Seasons

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is the absence of strong spiritual emotion not proof that God has abandoned the believer?

- How can a believer examine possible sin without assuming that every dry season is divine punishment?

- What does Isaiah 50:10 command someone to do while walking in darkness without light?

- Why must Scripture, prayer, worship, and obedience continue even when they feel less rewarding?

- What faithful practice are you most tempted to abandon during spiritual dryness?

A Prayer for Spiritual Dry Seasons

Father,

You know when my heart feels dry and when Your nearness seems difficult to perceive.

Forgive me for every time I have judged Your faithfulness by my emotions.

Search me and reveal any sin, neglect, distraction, or disobedience that must be corrected.

Help me respond honestly without inventing accusations against myself.

When I walk in darkness and have no light, teach me to trust in Your name and stay upon You.

When I cannot perceive Your hand, remind me that You know the way I take.

Keep me praying when words feel weak.

Keep me reading Your Word when emotion is limited.

Keep me obeying what You have already made clear.

Protect me from chasing counterfeit experiences or returning to sin for relief.

Help me remember Your works, Your mercy, the cross of Jesus Christ, His resurrection, and every evidence of Your faithfulness.

Do not let dryness turn into isolation, bitterness, carelessness, or unbelief.

Teach me to desire You rather than merely the feeling of Your nearness.

You have promised never to leave or forsake Your people.

Help me walk by faith and not by sight until light returns.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Establish a seven-day faithfulness plan:

The possible sin, neglect, or distraction I must examine is:

The promise of God I will hold during this season is:

The short prayer I will continue praying is:

The portion of Scripture I will read each day is:

The clear responsibility I will continue obeying is:

The past work of God I need to remember is:

The sinful or distracting substitute I must refuse is:

The mature believer with whom I will remain connected is:

Do not wait seven days to see whether strong emotion returns.

Measure the week by faithfulness.

Trust.

Pray.

Read.

Obey.

Remember.

Remain.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 50: How to Keep Fighting the Good Fight of Faith

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is the good fight of faith different from fleshly conflict with other people?

- Why must fleeing sin be joined with actively following righteousness and godliness?

- How can neglecting a good conscience eventually damage a person's faith?

- What is the difference between appropriate rest and spiritual retreat?

- Where have you become weary, entangled, careless, or passive in the fight of faith?

A Prayer to Keep Fighting the Good Fight

Father,

Thank You for calling me through Jesus Christ and giving me eternal life in Him.

Help me fight the good fight of faith.

Keep me from confusing spiritual warfare with pride, anger, argument, or hostility toward people.

Show me what I must flee and what I must actively follow.

Help me hold faith and a good conscience together.

Expose any protected sin, dishonesty, or ignored conviction that is weakening me.

Forgive me for spiritual carelessness, passivity, and delay.

Show me every earthly entanglement that has gained too much control over my attention.

Teach me to endure difficulty without abandoning obedience.

Keep me from using sinful methods while claiming to defend a righteous cause.

Help me take heed to my life and doctrine and continue in both.

When I become weary, remind me that faithful labor in You is not in vain.

When I fall, help me confess, rise, and return to the fight.

Keep me from defining myself by failure.

Strengthen me through the Holy Ghost.

Help me remember that ordinary faithfulness matters before You.

Let me live for what will endure rather than spend my life building only what will perish.

Keep my eyes upon Jesus Christ, whom I desire to please.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete this good-fight examination:

The area where I am becoming weary or passive is:

What I need to flee is:

The righteous practice I need to pursue is:

The matter troubling my conscience is:

The earthly entanglement weakening my attention is:

The faithful action I will resume today is:

The Scripture I will use when weariness returns is:

Do not write only:

“I need to keep fighting.”

Name the battle.

Remove the entanglement.

Correct the conscience.

Resume the faithful action.

Then continue.

Notes and Prayer

Stage 6: Faithfulness in the Local Church and Christian Life

Lessons 51-60

Lesson 51: Why Every Christian Needs the Local Church

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is Christianity personal without being intended as an isolated life?

- What practices marked the church in Acts 2:41-42?

- Why can no believer rightly say that he has no need of the other members of Christ's body?

- What is the difference between attending a service and participating meaningfully in a local church?

- What specific step should you take toward faithful church commitment?

A Prayer for Faithfulness in the Local Church

Father,

Thank You for saving people through Jesus Christ and joining them to His body.

Forgive me for every way I have treated the church as unnecessary, optional, or existing only to serve me.

Give me a biblical understanding of the local church.

Help me value doctrine, fellowship, prayer, worship, the ordinances, encouragement, accountability, and service.

Show me whether inconvenience, pride, fear, disappointment, or past hurt has caused me to remain isolated.

Where I have been genuinely wounded, give me wisdom, healing, protection, and courage to seek sound fellowship again.

Lead me to a church that honors Scripture, preaches Jesus Christ faithfully, teaches the gospel clearly, and takes holiness seriously.

Keep me from searching for a perfect congregation while ignoring my own need for growth.

Also keep me from remaining where false teaching, manipulation, or serious unrepentant wrongdoing is protected.

Help me attend faithfully when I am able.

Teach me to listen humbly, become known honestly, encourage others, carry burdens, pray, give, and serve.

Keep me from becoming only a consumer.

Use my life to strengthen other believers.

Let the church become more faithful, loving, holy, and useful because each member is submitted to Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete this examination:

The church or fellowship with which I am presently connected is:

My present level of participation is:

The main reason I remain distant or inconsistent is:

The mature believer or leader I should speak with is:

The person I can encourage is:

The practical way I can begin serving is:

The next gathering I will make a priority is:

Do not write only:

“I need to attend church more.”

Choose a specific step.

Attend.

Introduce yourself.

Speak with a leader.

Join a Bible study.

Encourage someone.

Begin becoming part of the body rather than remaining at its edge.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 52: How to Choose Fellowship Wisely

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why should the true gospel be the first standard when choosing fellowship?

- What does the example of the Bereans teach about receiving teaching and testing it?

- Why are charisma, emotional power, growth, and popularity insufficient measures of spiritual health?

- How can a believer distinguish ordinary church imperfection from serious spiritual danger?

- What aspect of your present fellowship most needs honest biblical evaluation?

A Prayer for Wisdom in Choosing Fellowship

Father,

Thank You for the church that Jesus Christ is building.

Give me wisdom to choose fellowship according to Your Word.

Keep me from being deceived by charisma, popularity, emotional excitement, impressive buildings, or human pressure.

Help me recognize the true gospel and reject every message that changes it.

Teach me to test all teaching through Scripture as the Bereans did.

Give me discernment concerning doctrine, leadership, worship, money, spiritual fruit, accountability, and the treatment of sin.

Protect me from both extremes:

rejecting sound fellowship because people are imperfect;

and remaining in dangerous fellowship because I fear leaving.

Expose every personal preference I have treated as though it were a command from You.

Also expose every serious warning I have minimized because the fellowship felt comfortable.

Lead me toward believers who will strengthen faith, truth, holiness, love, and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Give me courage to ask honest questions.

Give me humility to receive sound teaching and necessary correction.

Protect wounded and vulnerable people from manipulation and concealed wrongdoing.

Help me commit faithfully when You lead me to sound fellowship.

Let Jesus Christ—not personality, tradition, or organization—remain first.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Evaluate your present or prospective fellowship:

How clearly is the gospel taught?

How is Scripture used and explained?

What essential doctrines are taught?

What fruit is consistently visible?

How are leaders held accountable?

How are serious sin and safety concerns handled?

What may be merely a personal preference?

What may be a genuine biblical concern?

The wise next step I should take is:

Do not decide through one emotional reaction.

Examine.

Pray.

Ask.

Observe.

Then choose fellowship where truth, holiness, and faithful discipleship can grow.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 53: Why God Commands Believers to Love One Another

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is Christ's love—not another person's worthiness—the foundation of Christian love?

- How is love evidence of spiritual life without becoming the means by which salvation is earned?

- Why must Christian love move beyond words and become practical?

- What is the difference between seeking someone's true good and merely giving that person everything requested?

- Which believer do you most need to love through a specific action?

A Prayer to Love Other Believers

Father,

Thank You for loving me and sending Jesus Christ to be the propitiation for my sins.

I did not earn Your love.

You showed it through the sacrifice of Your Son.

Teach me to love other believers as Christ has loved me.

Forgive me for selfishness, coldness, jealousy, partiality, gossip, contempt, and empty words.

Show me where I have loved only those who are similar, useful, or easy to understand.

Help me see every believer as someone who belongs to Jesus Christ.

Let my love be sincere.

Keep me from seeking attention, influence, control, or praise through acts of kindness.

Teach me to notice needs, listen carefully, pray faithfully, give wisely, and act when I am able to help.

Help me rejoice when another believer is honored and suffer compassionately when another member hurts.

Keep love and truth together in my life.

Do not let me excuse sin in the name of love or use truth as permission for cruelty.

Show me one person whom I should encourage, contact, help, honor, or pray for today.

Let the love among Your people show the world that we belong to Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one believer and complete this plan:

The person is:

The need, burden, or encouragement I have noticed is:

The selfish reason I may have avoided responding is:

The practical action I can take is:

The prayer I will pray for this person is:

When I will follow through is:

Do not write only:

"I should love people more."

Choose a person.

Choose an action.

Then follow through without seeking recognition.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 54: How to Receive Correction With Humility

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does receiving correction reveal whether a person is wise and teachable?

- What are the two wrong responses to God's correction described in Hebrews 12?

- Why should the truth of a correction be examined separately from the tone in which it was delivered?

- What is the difference between humility and accepting every accusation as true?

- What correction have you resisted that now deserves honest reconsideration?

A Prayer for Humility Under Correction

Father,

You know every blind spot, motive, weakness, and sinful pattern within me.

Give me a teachable heart.

Forgive me for pride, defensiveness, anger, excuses, counterattacks, and resistance to correction.

Help me listen before answering.

Show me when I am protecting my reputation rather than pursuing truth.

Keep me from despising Your correction or collapsing into hopeless shame.

Remind me that You correct Your children for their profit so that they may share in holiness.

Give me discernment to distinguish biblical correction from false accusation, personal control, and manipulation.

When correction is true, help me receive it even if the delivery was imperfect.

When it is partly true, help me acknowledge the accurate part.

When it is false, help me answer calmly and honestly without bitterness.

Give me courage to confess specifically, repair what I damaged, and establish real change.

Place faithful believers in my life who will love me enough to tell me the truth.

Do not let me harden my neck.

Make me wiser, more obedient, and more like Jesus Christ through every correction You permit.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one correction you have resisted:

The correction was:

The reason I resisted it was:

What is true about it is:

What Scripture requires is:

The person to whom I need to respond is:

The change or repair I will make is:

The person who may ask me about my progress is:

Do not write only:

“I need to be more humble.”

Return to the actual correction.

Receive the truth.

Respond honestly.

Then change what must be changed.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 55: How to Restore a Fallen Brother

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why must a believer examine himself before attempting to restore someone else?

- What is the difference between biblical meekness and weakness toward sin?

- Why should correction normally begin privately, and when may broader involvement be necessary immediately?

- Why are forgiveness, restored fellowship, restored trust, and restored leadership not always identical?

- Is there a fallen or struggling believer whom you need to approach, pray for, support, or place under appropriate boundaries?

A Prayer for Biblical Restoration

Father,

Thank You for the mercy You have shown me through Jesus Christ.

Give me wisdom when another believer falls.

Keep me from gossip, pride, revenge, cowardice, harshness, and false mercy.

Help me examine myself before approaching another person.

Give me discernment to establish facts and distinguish actual sin from rumor, weakness, misunderstanding, or personal preference.

Teach me to speak truth in the spirit of meekness.

Help me care more about the person's restoration than about winning an argument or protecting appearances.

Give the fallen believer genuine repentance and godly sorrow.

Help him confess honestly, forsake the sin, repair what can be repaired, and accept necessary boundaries.

Protect everyone who has been harmed.

Give church leaders courage to address serious wrongdoing truthfully and involve proper authorities when safety or criminal conduct requires it.

Keep us from concealing darkness in the name of protecting ministry.

When repentance is genuine, help us comfort the person and confirm our love without becoming careless about trust, responsibility, or future access.

Give us patience through the restoration process.

Remind us that Jesus Christ alone is the Saviour.

Make Your church a place where sin is taken seriously, wounded people are protected, repentance is welcomed, and grace produces real change.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose the response that fits your situation:

If you possess only rumor:

Stop repeating it and establish the facts.

If you observed a private fault:

Pray, examine yourself, and arrange a private conversation.

If the person has admitted the sin:

Help develop a specific repentance and restoration plan.

If the person refuses correction:

Seek help from mature believers or appropriate church leadership.

If abuse, danger, or criminal conduct is involved:

Prioritize safety and involve appropriate authorities and qualified help.

If genuine repentance has occurred:

Confirm love while maintaining whatever boundaries remain necessary.

Write your immediate action:

Do not merely say:

“Someone should help.”

Determine what faithful role God has actually given you.

Then act through truth, meekness, wisdom, and love.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 56: How to Forgive Others as Christ Forgave You

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why must forgiveness begin with remembering how God forgave us through Jesus Christ?

- What is the difference between forgiveness, reconciliation, trust, and removed consequences?

- Why does releasing personal vengeance not mean that justice no longer matters?

- How should a believer respond when the offender refuses repentance?

- Whom do you need to release into God's hands instead of continuing to hold the debt personally?

A Prayer for Grace to Forgive

Father,

Thank You for forgiving me through Jesus Christ.

I could not pay my debt or cleanse my own sin.

You showed mercy because of Christ.

Help me extend mercy to those who have wronged me.

You know exactly what happened.

You know the truth, the pain, the loss, and the continuing consequences.

Keep me from minimizing the evil or pretending I was not hurt.

Also keep me from bitterness, revenge, evil speaking, and malice.

I place this person and this matter into Your hands.

You are the righteous Judge.

Show me any lawful action, truthful conversation, wise boundary, or protective step I should take.

Keep me from confusing forgiveness with immediate trust, automatic reconciliation, or unsafe access.

When repentance is genuine, help me forgive without demanding endless payment.

When repentance is absent, help me refuse hatred while continuing in truth and wisdom.

When the memory returns, help me reaffirm my decision not to take vengeance back into my hands.

Heal what has been wounded.

Purify my heart.

Do not allow another person's sin to produce continuing sin within me.

Make me tenderhearted without making me careless.

Help me forgive as I have been forgiven through Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one unresolved offense and complete this response:

The wrong I need to name honestly is:

What I need to surrender to God is:

The sinful response I must put away is:

The boundary or consequence that should remain is:

The person from whom I may need wise counsel is:

The prayer I will pray for the offender is:

Do not write only:

"I forgive."

Identify what you are releasing.

Identify what wisdom still requires.

Then place personal vengeance into God's hands and refuse to take it back.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 57: How to Serve Without Seeking Attention

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between visible service and service performed specifically to be seen?

- Why should the believer serve the Lord Christ rather than depend upon human recognition?

- How can service become a way of controlling people or making them feel indebted?

- Why does serving without seeking attention still permit honest communication, healthy limits, rest, and appropriate appreciation?

- What act of useful service could you perform without drawing unnecessary attention to yourself?

A Prayer for a Servant's Heart

Father,

Thank You for Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life for many.

Teach me to follow His example.

Forgive me for serving to gain praise, visibility, titles, influence, control, repayment, or human approval.

Expose every place where I work only while people are watching.

Help me serve heartily as unto the Lord.

Teach me to value ordinary duties, hidden labor, and small responsibilities.

Keep me from despising work that receives little attention.

When people overlook my service, remind me that You see.

When people thank me, help me receive their kindness without feeding pride.

Keep me from using service to make others indebted to me.

Give me wisdom to distinguish sacrificial service from people-pleasing, manipulation, and unhealthy overcommitment.

Help me communicate real needs and maintain responsible boundaries without seeking sympathy or admiration.

Purify my motives when they are mixed.

Let my service flow from love for You and genuine concern for others.

May Jesus Christ receive the honor from everything I do.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one meaningful act of service that does not require public recognition:

The person or need is:

The practical service I will provide is:

The attention or repayment I must not seek is:

The time I will complete it is:

The reason I am offering it to Christ is:

Do the service well.

Do not announce it unnecessarily.

Do not watch to see who notices.

Leave the work before the Father who sees in secret.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 58: How to Use Your Gifts for the Glory of God

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why are spiritual gifts described as grace and stewardship rather than personal possessions?

- Why does God give different gifts to different members of the body?

- What is the difference between possessing ability and being spiritually mature?

- How can a believer begin recognizing and developing a gift without depending upon self-promotion or a questionnaire?

- What present opportunity do you have to use a God-given ability for another person's good?

A Prayer to Use Your Gifts for God's Glory

Father,

Thank You for every grace, ability, opportunity, and spiritual gift You have entrusted to Your people.

Show me what You have given me and how it should be used.

Forgive me for pride, envy, comparison, fear, laziness, self-promotion, and neglect.

Keep me from thinking too highly of myself.

Also keep me from false humility that refuses to use what You have provided.

Help me recognize real needs and serve people rather than seek a title or platform.

Give me wisdom to distinguish natural ambition from Your direction.

Confirm my usefulness through Scripture, godly fruit, faithful service, and the counsel of mature believers.

Teach me to study, practice, prepare, and receive correction.

Keep every gift beneath the authority of Your Word.

Do not allow me to use spiritual ability for control, attention, greed, or personal glory.

Help me serve through love and in proper order.

Remind me that I am a steward rather than the owner.

Supply the strength required for every assignment.

Let other believers be strengthened.

Let Jesus Christ be exalted.

And let God receive all the glory.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one ability, burden, or opportunity you believe God may have entrusted to you:

The ability or burden is:

The need it could help meet is:

The mature believer from whom I will seek counsel is:

The training or preparation I need is:

The practical service I will begin or continue is:

The pride, fear, or comparison I must surrender is:

Do not wait only for a title.

Serve one person.

Meet one real need.

Develop the ability.

Receive correction.

Then continue using what God has given for the good of others and the glory of Jesus Christ.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 59: How to Submit to Biblical Leadership Without Following Error

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does Scripture command believers to submit to leaders while also keeping Jesus Christ as the final Head of the church?

- What is the difference between biblical submission and blind obedience?

- How can a believer distinguish personal disagreement from genuine doctrinal or moral error?

- Why must accusations against leaders be examined carefully while proven leadership sin is addressed impartially?

- Is your greater present danger rebellious resistance to faithful leadership or unhealthy dependence upon human authority?

A Prayer for Biblical Submission and Discernment

Father,

Thank You for faithful pastors, elders, teachers, and leaders who labor in Your Word and care for Your people.

Teach me to honor them, pray for them, receive sound instruction, and cooperate with biblical church order.

Forgive me for pride, needless resistance, gossip, criticism, and refusal to receive correction.

Also protect me from fear, blind loyalty, and unhealthy dependence upon human authority.

Keep Jesus Christ first as the Head of the church.

Let Your Word remain my final authority.

Give leaders humility, purity, courage, wisdom, and accountability.

Help them feed the flock rather than use it.

Expose false teaching, exploitation, abuse, and concealed sin.

Protect vulnerable people.

Give churches courage to examine accusations fairly and address proven wrongdoing without partiality.

When I disagree with a leader, help me distinguish preference from genuine biblical concern.

Teach me to ask respectful questions, establish facts, search Scripture, and seek wise counsel.

If I must remain, help me remain without bitterness.

If I must appeal, help me speak truth without pride.

If I must leave, help me leave without revenge or needless destruction.

Keep me faithful to Jesus Christ above every human personality, institution, and tradition.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one present leadership issue and complete this response:

The leader or decision involved is:

The concern is:

The biblical category is:

Preference / Wisdom / Doctrine / Sin / Command to disobey God

The Scripture I need to study is:

The respectful question I will ask is:

The mature counsel I will seek is:

The act of cooperation, appeal, protection, or departure required is:

Do not respond merely through emotion.

Do not surrender conscience merely through fear.

Identify the issue.

Search Scripture.

Establish truth.

Then act with humility, courage, and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 60: How to Be Faithful When Others Are Not

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does another believer's failure not change the truthfulness or faithfulness of God?

- What does Jesus' command, "What is that to thee? follow thou me," teach about personal responsibility?

- How can a believer establish boundaries without allowing disappointment to become bitterness or permanent isolation?

- What is the difference between remaining faithful and carrying every responsibility another person abandons?

- Whose unfaithfulness has begun influencing your own obedience, and what must you do differently?

A Prayer for Faithfulness When Others Fail

Father,

You remain faithful even when people are not.

You know every disappointment, betrayal, abandoned responsibility, broken promise, and failure that has affected me.

Help me face the truth without becoming bitter, proud, cynical, or dishonest.

Forgive me for every way I have used another person's sin to excuse my own disobedience.

Keep me from transferring human failure onto Your character.

Let God be true even when people prove false.

Show me what responsibility still belongs to me.

Give me courage to speak truth, establish wise boundaries, protect others, and leave an unfaithful situation when obedience requires it.

Keep me from enabling sin or carrying responsibilities You have not assigned to me.

Protect me from permanent isolation.

Lead me toward sound and faithful fellowship.

Help me pray for those who have failed without trying to control the outcome.

Keep my heart from becoming cold.

Teach me through their failure, and show me where I need stronger accountability and watchfulness.

When human support disappears, remind me that the Lord stood with Paul and strengthened him.

Keep my eyes upon Jesus Christ.

Whether others continue or turn back, help me remain faithful to You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one situation in which another person's conduct has begun affecting your faithfulness:

The failure or disappointment was:

The sinful or unwise response it has produced in me is:

The boundary or truthful action required is:

The responsibility that still belongs to me is:

The faithful believer from whom I should seek support is:

The next act of obedience I will complete is:

Do not wait for the other person to change first.

Correct your own response.

Take the faithful step.

Then continue following Jesus Christ.

Notes and Prayer

Stage 7: Caring for Lost Souls and Making Disciples

Lessons 61-70

Lesson 61: Why Every Christian Should Care About Lost Souls

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What does Scripture mean when it describes a person without Christ as lost?

- How should Christ's compassion toward spiritually scattered people shape the believer's attitude?

- Why should remembering our own need for mercy prevent pride in evangelism?

- What is the difference between genuine concern for a person's soul and attempting to manipulate that person into a religious response?

- Which specific person has God placed near you whose salvation you should begin caring about more deliberately?

A Prayer for Concern for Lost Souls

Father,

Thank You for seeking me when I was lost and showing me mercy through Jesus Christ.

Forgive me for indifference toward people who remain without Him.

Forgive me for selfishness, fear, pride, prejudice, contempt, and spiritual laziness.

Teach me to see people as Jesus saw the multitudes.

Give me compassion for those who are spiritually scattered, blinded, deceived, or without hope.

Help me remember that I did not save myself.

I needed Your grace, Your truth, and the gospel.

Place specific people upon my heart.

Help me pray for them faithfully.

Let my conduct before them honor Jesus Christ rather than contradict the message.

Give me wisdom to listen, courage to speak, and humility to admit when I do not know an answer.

Keep me from manipulation, quarrelling, panic, and self-righteousness.

Teach me the gospel so clearly that I can point others faithfully toward Christ.

Open doors for truthful conversations.

Open blinded minds to the light of the glorious gospel.

Remind me that only Jesus Christ saves.

Use my life, words, prayers, resources, and opportunities for the salvation of others and the glory of Your name.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Write the names of three people who may not know Jesus Christ:

Person 1:

Person 2:

Person 3:

For each person, identify:

What I know about his or her spiritual condition:

How I can begin praying:

What opportunity I should watch for:

Do not attempt to force a conversation.

Begin by seeing the person differently.

Pray.

Care.

Listen.

And prepare yourself to explain the gospel clearly when the opportunity comes.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 62: How to Share the Gospel Clearly

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why must a gospel explanation include both the problem of sin and God's provision through Jesus Christ?

- What is the difference between good advice and the good news of what Christ accomplished?

- Why are repentance and faith necessary without becoming works that earn salvation?

- Why should a Christian avoid pressuring someone to repeat a prayer before the person understands the gospel?

- Could you explain the gospel clearly in two or three minutes using your own words?

A Prayer for Gospel Clarity

Father,

Thank You for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank You that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.

Help me understand this message accurately and explain it clearly.

Forgive me for fear, confusion, careless wording, pride, and dependence upon human ability.

Keep me from weakening the truth about sin or hiding the need for repentance.

Keep me from presenting salvation as something people can earn.

Help me explain grace, faith, the cross, and the resurrection faithfully.

Give me wisdom to listen and recognize misunderstanding.

Keep me from manipulation, argument, false promises, and pressure.

Help me invite people to respond honestly without treating a repeated prayer as a magical formula.

Let Jesus Christ remain the center of every conversation.

Open hearts to the truth.

Use Your Word to bring conviction, repentance, faith, and salvation.

And remind me that only You can save.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Write a gospel explanation in your own words using these headings:

God:

Sin:

The consequence of sin:

Who Jesus Christ is:

What Jesus accomplished:

Grace:

Repentance:

Faith:

The call to respond:

Read your explanation aloud.

Remove unnecessary religious language.

Add any essential truth you omitted.

Then practice explaining it naturally in two or three minutes without changing the message.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 63: How to Give Your Testimony Without Exalting Yourself

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between sharing a personal testimony and preaching the gospel?

- Why should a believer avoid exaggerating, glamorizing, or describing former sin in unnecessary detail?

- How can someone with a quiet or less dramatic conversion still give a meaningful testimony?

- What does it mean to describe real change without claiming sinless perfection?

- After hearing your testimony, what would a listener remember most—your past, your personality, or Jesus Christ?

A Prayer for a Christ-Centered Testimony

Father,

Thank You for the mercy You have shown me through Jesus Christ.

Thank You for every person, Scripture, circumstance, and act of grace You used to bring the gospel to me.

Teach me to tell what You have done truthfully and humbly.

Forgive me for pride, exaggeration, self-promotion, and the desire to impress people.

Keep me from glorifying my former sin or using painful events for attention.

Give me wisdom concerning what details should be shared and what should remain private.

Help me protect other people while still speaking truthfully.

Let my testimony explain my need for Christ, His death for my sins, His resurrection, and the repentance and faith to which You called me.

Help me describe genuine change without pretending that I have reached perfection.

Remind me that every good change is the result of Your grace.

Do not let people leave mainly impressed with me.

Let them see the mercy, truth, patience, and power of Jesus Christ.

Use my testimony to open conversations, encourage believers, and point lost people toward the gospel.

Let all glory belong to You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Prepare your testimony under these three headings:

Before I Trusted Christ

What was my true spiritual condition?

What was I trusting instead of Christ?

How I Came to Trust Christ

What truth did God use to awaken me?

What did I understand about Jesus Christ?

How did I respond through repentance and faith?

What Christ Has Done and Is Continuing to Do

What genuine changes have occurred?

What is Christ still teaching or changing in me?

How can I connect my story clearly to the gospel?

Now reduce the testimony to approximately three minutes.

Remove:

unnecessary details;

self-praise;

exaggeration;

and anything that draws attention away from Christ.

End by explaining who Jesus Christ is and why the listener also needs Him.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 64: How to Answer Basic Objections to the Bible

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why must Christians listen and clarify before attempting to answer an objection?

- What is the difference between admitting that a passage is difficult and admitting that Scripture is contradictory?

- Why is saying “I do not know, but I will study it” sometimes a stronger answer than giving an immediate response?

- How can a believer defend Scripture firmly while maintaining meekness and respect?

- Which two common objections do you most need to prepare to answer?

A Prayer for Wisdom in Answering Objections

Father,

Thank You for giving us Your Word and revealing Jesus Christ through the Scriptures.

Help me become ready to give an answer for the hope that is in me.

Forgive me for fear, pride, impatience, bluffing, carelessness, and the desire merely to win arguments.

Teach me to listen before answering.

Help me understand what a person is truly asking.

Give me humility to admit when I do not know.

Lead me to study carefully, read passages in context, and seek faithful guidance.

Protect me from repeating weak claims or exaggerated evidence.

Help me answer firmly without becoming quarrelsome.

Give me meekness, patience, wisdom, and love for the person before me.

When someone has been wounded by religious hypocrisy, help me listen compassionately and never defend what Your Word condemns.

When questions are sincere, help me respond thoughtfully.

When arguments become fruitless, give me wisdom to stop without anger.

Above all, keep Jesus Christ central.

Use every honest conversation to remove confusion, reveal truth, and point people toward the crucified and risen Saviour.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose two objections you have heard personally.

For each one:

- Write the objection exactly.
- Ask what the person may mean.
- Locate the biblical passages involved.
- Prepare a two-minute answer.
- Mark anything requiring further study.
- Practice answering without hostility or unnecessary detail.
- End by connecting the question to Jesus Christ.

Do not attempt to memorize an argument merely to sound intelligent.

Understand the issue.

Speak honestly.

And remain ready to say:

“I do not know yet, but I will take your question seriously.”

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 65: How to Warn People About Judgment With Love

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is silence about judgment not always an expression of love?

- How does remembering our own need for mercy change the way we warn others?

- What is the difference between biblical urgency and emotional manipulation?

- Why must a warning about judgment always point toward Jesus Christ and the way of salvation?

- Is your greater danger presently avoiding the warning or delivering it without enough compassion?

A Prayer for Truth and Compassion

Father,

You are holy, righteous, merciful, and true.

Thank You for warning sinners and providing salvation through Jesus Christ.

Forgive me for every time I have hidden the truth because I feared people.

Forgive me also for every time I have spoken harshly, proudly, angrily, or without compassion.

Keep me from delighting in the thought of anyone's condemnation.

Remind me that I also deserved judgment and was saved only by grace.

Teach me to speak soberly about sin, death, hell, and the coming judgment.

Keep me from exaggeration, speculation, date-setting, manipulation, and personal threats.

Help me use Scripture accurately.

Give me wisdom to understand the person before me.

Show me when compassion should be especially gentle and when the warning must be especially direct.

Let me never warn without presenting the mercy available through Jesus Christ.

Give the hearer understanding, conviction, repentance, and faith.

Keep me faithful when the warning is unwelcome.

And let everything I say reflect both Your perfect justice and Your great mercy.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one person with whom you may need to speak more honestly about eternity:

The person is:

What I know about his or her spiritual understanding is:

The warning I have been avoiding is:

The Scriptures I should use are:

How I can express compassion is:

How I will explain the hope found in Jesus Christ is:

Before speaking, examine your motive.

Pray.

Prepare a clear warning that can be given in two or three minutes.

Make sure it contains:

the reality of sin;

the certainty of judgment;

the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ;

and the call to repentance and faith.

Then speak when God gives the appropriate opportunity.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 66: How to Speak the Truth Without Fear

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between feeling afraid and allowing fear to rule your obedience?

- How does fear of human approval become a snare?

- Why must biblical boldness remain governed by love, wisdom, and a sound mind?

- How can preparation and honest admission of what you do not know reduce the fear of speaking?

- Which specific person or situation has fear repeatedly prevented you from addressing?

A Prayer for Courage to Speak

Father,

You know every person, reaction, and consequence I fear.

Forgive me for the times I have allowed human approval, embarrassment, comfort, or reputation to control my obedience.

Help me distinguish wise silence from fearful silence.

Keep me from speaking recklessly, harshly, proudly, or without love.

Give me power, love, and a sound mind.

Help me prepare the gospel clearly.

Give me wisdom for each person and situation.

When I do not know an answer, give me humility to admit it.

When an opportunity comes, help me open my mouth.

Keep me from being ashamed of Jesus Christ and His gospel.

Remind me that I serve You rather than human opinion.

Let concern for the soul become greater than concern for my image.

Fill me with the Holy Ghost and grant me boldness to speak Your Word.

Protect me from manipulation, needless conflict, and self-promotion.

Help me speak truthfully, gently, and courageously.

Then teach me to leave the result in Your hands.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one specific person or setting in which fear has repeatedly silenced you.

The person or setting is:

My greatest fear is:

The truth I need to communicate is:

The Scripture I should be prepared to use is:

The respectful opening I can use is:

The believer I will ask to pray for me is:

The next appropriate opportunity may be:

Do not promise yourself that you will never feel nervous again.

Prepare.

Pray.

Watch for the opportunity.

Then obey God even if your voice is not perfectly steady.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 67: How to Pray for the Lost

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Prayer Confesses That Only God Can Save

Christians can explain the gospel.

They cannot regenerate a heart.

We can present evidence.

We cannot force spiritual sight.

We can reason from Scripture.

We cannot create repentance or saving faith through personality, pressure, or eloquence.

Jesus said:

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...” — John 6:44, KJV

Prayer acknowledges our complete dependence upon God.

It says:

“Lord, I can speak, but You must work.”

“I can plant truth, but You must give spiritual life.”

“I can appeal to the conscience, but You know the heart.”

Prayer Is Not a Substitute for Witnessing

Some believers pray for a person for years but never speak to him about Christ.

They say:

“I am waiting for God to save him.”

But God often answers prayer by opening an opportunity for the person praying to speak.

Paul asked believers to pray:

“that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ...” — Colossians 4:3, KJV

The prayer concerned both an open door and actual speech.

Do not pray for someone to hear the gospel while refusing every opportunity to explain it.

Pray.

Watch.

Prepare.

Then obey when God opens the door.

Witnessing Is Not a Substitute for Prayer

The opposite error is also common.

A believer speaks repeatedly but rarely prays.

He depends upon:

arguments;

memorized presentations;

emotional pressure;

or the strength of his personality.

He begins acting as though the right wording can produce conversion.

Prayer keeps evangelism dependent upon God.

Do not only:

post truth;

send messages;

invite people;

debate objections;

or issue warnings.

Pray for the people receiving those words.

Pray Because God Commands Intercession

Paul writes:

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;” — 1 Timothy 2:1, KJV

He continues:

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” — 1 Timothy 2:3–4, KJV

Intercession is not reserved for pastors or unusually mature Christians.

Believers should pray for others.

God's revealed concern that people be saved and know the truth should shape the church's prayers.

Keep a Prayer List Without Making It Mechanical

A written list can help you remain consistent.

Record:

the person's name;

what you know about his spiritual beliefs;

specific current requests;

opportunities that arise;

and answers or changes you observe.

The list is a tool, not a ritual.

Do not rush through names merely to finish.

Pause.

Remember the person.

Pray thoughtfully.

Let Prayer Change Your Attitude

You may begin praying for someone who irritates you.

Over time, God may expose your own pride, impatience, or lack of love.

Prayer brings the person before God and also brings your heart under examination.

You may begin asking:

"How can I serve this person?"

"Do I need to apologize?"

"Have I listened?"

"Am I presenting Christ or merely trying to win?"

Prayer for the lost should make the witness more compassionate and humble.

Let Prayer Lead to Readiness

After praying, remain prepared to act.

You may need to:

invite the person to church;

share a lesson or Gospel passage;

answer a question;

offer practical help;

give your testimony;

or explain the gospel clearly.

Prayer does not remove responsibility.

It prepares you to fulfil it under God's direction.

Do Not Carry the Burden as Though You Are the Saviour

Concern for someone's soul can become emotionally crushing when the Christian assumes responsibility that belongs to God.

You cannot save:

your child;

your spouse;

your parent;

your friend;

or anyone else.

You are responsible to love, pray, speak, and live faithfully.

You are not the Holy Ghost.

You cannot force conviction or repentance.

Carry the person to God.

Do not attempt to carry God's responsibility yourself.

A Biblical Prayer Pattern for the Lost

1. Pray for Spiritual Light

Ask God to expose blindness and make Christ clear.

2. Pray for the Word to Be Heard

Ask that the person encounter faithful Scripture and gospel witness.

3. Pray for Understanding

Ask that religious confusion and false assumptions be removed.

4. Pray for Conviction

Ask God to reveal sin and personal guilt truthfully.

5. Pray for Repentance

Ask that the person turn from rebellion toward God.

6. Pray for Faith

Ask that he trust Jesus Christ rather than himself.

7. Pray for Laborers

Ask God to send faithful believers.

8. Pray for an Open Door

Ask for a suitable opportunity to speak.

9. Pray for Clarity and Courage

Ask God to help the messenger speak properly.

10. Pray Persistently and Submit the Result

Continue without manipulation, presumption, or despair.

A Lost-Souls Prayer List

Person's name:

What I presently know about his or her spiritual beliefs:

The misunderstanding or deception that may need to be removed:

The Scripture or gospel truth this person needs to hear:

The open door I am asking God to provide:

The faithful action I may need to take:

The believers I can ask to pray responsibly:

Discipleship Questions

- Why should prayer for the lost accompany rather than replace personal gospel witness?

-
-
- What specific spiritual needs should believers bring before God when praying for someone's salvation?

-
-
- What is the difference between praying in faith and claiming certainty God has not revealed?

-
-
- How can persistent prayer remain hopeful without making the Christian feel personally responsible for producing conversion?

-
-
- Which three people will you begin bringing before God consistently?
-

A Prayer for People Without Christ

Father,

Thank You for showing me mercy and bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ into my life.

You know every person I love who may still remain without Christ.

You know the true condition of each heart.

Shine the light of the glorious gospel into darkness.

Expose every lie, false religion, proud confidence, distraction, and deception that keeps people from seeing Jesus Christ clearly.

Bring Your Word across their path.

Send faithful laborers.

Open doors for honest conversations.

Help the gospel be explained accurately and plainly.

Convict them of sin.

Show them that good works and religion cannot erase guilt.

Grant repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.

Draw them toward Jesus Christ.

Help them understand His death for sins, His burial, and His resurrection.

Bring them to genuine faith in Him alone.

Protect them from false teachers and distorted gospels.

Use righteous circumstances to awaken them, but show mercy.

Give me courage when You provide an opportunity to speak.

Keep my conduct from contradicting the message.

Forgive my fear, impatience, pride, and attempts to control the outcome.

Help me pray persistently without despair.

Remind me that I am not the Saviour.

I place these souls into Your hands.

Do what only You can do, and make me faithful in whatever part You give me.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Write the names of three people for whom you will pray consistently:

Person One

Name:

Specific prayer:

Possible faithful action:

Person Two

Name:

Specific prayer:

Possible faithful action:

Person Three

Name:

Specific prayer:

Possible faithful action:

Choose a regular time to pray for them.

Review the list weekly.

Watch for open doors.

Record meaningful developments without assuming that outward interest equals conversion.

Then continue praying and remain ready to speak.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 68: How to Be a Light in a Dark World

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is Jesus Christ—not the believer—the original source of spiritual light?

- What is the difference between visible good works and religious performance for human praise?

- Why can a godly life support the gospel but never replace the words of the gospel?

- How can Christians remain separated from sin without becoming completely isolated from unbelievers?

- In which setting does your conduct most need to reflect Christ more clearly?

A Prayer to Shine for Jesus Christ

Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

I once walked in spiritual darkness and needed Your mercy.

Help me now walk as a child of light.

Expose every part of my life that contradicts the truth I profess.

Forgive me for hypocrisy, fear, compromise, dishonesty, harshness, impurity, and concern for human praise.

Help me remain separate from sin without becoming indifferent or isolated from people who need Christ.

Let my conduct at home, at work, at church, in public, and online honor You.

Teach me to work honestly, speak graciously, keep promises, show compassion, and respond to wrongdoing without personal revenge.

When I fail, help me repent quickly rather than protect my image.

Keep me from performing good works merely to be noticed.

Let others see what Your grace can produce.

Give me courage to explain that every good change comes through Jesus Christ.

Help me hold forth the Word of life and not depend upon conduct alone.

Make my life a clear witness without making me proud.

Let Jesus Christ be seen.

Let the gospel be heard.

And let my Father in heaven receive the glory.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one setting where your witness needs greater consistency:

Home / Work / Church / Friendships / Online / Community

The conduct presently weakening my witness is:

The obedience God requires is:

The apology, correction, or boundary I need to make is:

The visible good I can begin doing is:

The person before whom I need to live more consistently is:

The opportunity I should watch for to speak about Christ is:

Do not attempt to create a spiritual image.

Correct the actual conduct.

Take one visible step of obedience.

Then remain ready to explain that Jesus Christ is the source of the light.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 69: How to Plant Seeds When People Reject the Message

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Do Not Force a Prayer

After someone rejects or hesitates, the Christian may become desperate to secure a result.

He may say:

“Just repeat this prayer after me.”

A person can repeat every word without understanding, repentance, or faith.

Prayer may express genuine trust in Christ.

It is not a device for overcoming someone’s refusal.

Do not manufacture a decision so that you can feel successful.

Distinguish Questions From Resistance

A person who asks difficult questions is not necessarily rejecting the gospel.

He may be:

thinking;

testing whether the message is true;

or trying to understand language unfamiliar to him.

Listen carefully.

Answer what you can.

Admit what you do not know.

Do not label every question unbelief merely because it slows the conversation.

At the same time, recognize when questions become a method of endless avoidance.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between planting, watering, and the increase that only God gives?

- Why does rejection not automatically prove that the messenger failed?

- How can a Christian examine his own conduct without accepting false responsibility for another person's unbelief?

- When may it be wise to end a gospel conversation and move on?

- What clear seed of Scripture or gospel truth can you leave with someone who is not presently willing to believe?

A Prayer After Rejection

Father,

Thank You for entrusting the gospel of Jesus Christ to Your people.

You know the person who rejected, postponed, ignored, or mocked the message.

Examine my heart and conduct.

Show me if I spoke inaccurately, proudly, carelessly, harshly, or without listening.

Help me correct what was wrong without carrying guilt that does not belong to me.

Keep me from anger, bitterness, embarrassment, and the desire to force a response.

Protect me from changing the gospel to gain approval.

Also protect me from adding needless offense in the name of boldness.

Let the truth that was spoken remain in the person's mind.

Bring Scripture back to remembrance.

Send other faithful believers to water what was planted.

Use circumstances, conscience, and Your Word to reveal Jesus Christ.

Give the person repentance and faith.

Help me respect any boundary that has been clearly expressed.

Show me whether to continue the relationship, speak again later, or move on.

Do not let one rejection silence my future witness.

Remind me that I am a servant.

I may plant or water, but You alone give the increase.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one person who has rejected or avoided a gospel conversation.

The person is:

What was clearly communicated is:

What may still be misunderstood is:

The one Scripture, question, or resource I can leave is:

The boundary I must respect is:

How I will continue praying is:

The next faithful opportunity I will not avoid is:

Do not restart the entire argument.

Leave one clear seed.

Treat the person with genuine respect.

Then trust God and continue sowing elsewhere.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 70: How to Stay Burdened for Souls Without Becoming Discouraged

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between a biblical burden for souls and an unhealthy attempt to carry God's responsibility?

- Why should visible results never become the final measurement of a believer's worth or faithfulness?

- How can a Christian rest and attend to ordinary responsibilities without becoming indifferent toward eternity?

- When limited fruit is visible, what should be evaluated, and what must never be changed?

- What specific responsibility do you need to return to God so you can continue serving without despair?

A Prayer for Enduring Concern

Father,

Thank You for saving me through Jesus Christ and allowing me to take part in making Him known.

You know the people for whom I have prayed.

You know the conversations that appeared fruitless.

You know the rejection, delay, and silence that have discouraged me.

Keep my heart tender.

Do not let disappointment turn into bitterness, cynicism, or indifference.

Forgive me for measuring myself through numbers, attention, praise, or visible results.

Forgive me for comparing my work with the work of others.

Show me where my methods, words, conduct, or priorities need correction.

Help me receive correction without losing heart.

Keep me from changing the gospel to gain acceptance.

Remind me that Jesus Christ is the Saviour.

I cannot open hearts, create repentance, or give spiritual life.

Teach me to fulfil my responsibility and return the outcome to You.

Help me pray faithfully, speak clearly, rest appropriately, love my family, serve the church, and attend to every duty You have given me.

Give me joy in Christ that does not depend upon visible success.

Let me sow even when I sow with tears.

Let me rejoice whenever another servant sees fruit.

Keep me steadfast and unmoveable.

And assure my heart that faithful labor in the Lord is never vain.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one area where evangelistic discouragement has begun weakening your faithfulness.

The discouragement is:

The visible result I have been demanding is:

The responsibility that belongs to God is:

The responsibility that belongs to me is:

One method I should improve is:

One faithful action I should continue is:

One form of rest or support I should receive is:

One person I will continue bringing before God is:

Take the next faithful step.

Do not attempt to produce the harvest yourself.

Continue sowing precious seed, and trust the Lord of the harvest.

Notes and Prayer

Stage 8: Enduring Trials and Remaining Faithful

Lessons 71-80

Lesson 71: Why God Allows Trials in the Believer's Life

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is it dangerous to assume that every trial is punishment for a particular personal sin?

- What is the difference between God testing a believer's faith and tempting someone to commit evil?

- How can God overrule the sinful actions of others without approving or excusing those actions?

- According to Romans 8:28–29, what is the higher good toward which God is working in believers?

- What is one present trial revealing about your trust, priorities, character, or need for God?

A Prayer During Trials

Father,

You know the trial I am facing and every part of it that I do not understand.

Thank You that nothing is hidden from You.

Keep me from assuming that suffering means You have abandoned me.

Protect me from false guilt, careless explanations, bitterness, unbelief, and despair.

Show me any known sin I need to confess.

Show me any foolish decision I need to correct.

Give me courage to establish necessary boundaries and seek appropriate medical, legal, pastoral, or practical help.

Do not let me excuse another person's wrongdoing in the name of faith.

Help me distinguish Your holy testing from the temptation to sin.

Expose every false dependence within me.

Humble me without crushing me.

Correct me without allowing me to forget the grace of Jesus Christ.

Prune what limits spiritual fruit.

Teach me to trust You rather than myself.

Use Your comfort to prepare me to comfort others.

Make me more holy, compassionate, faithful, and like Jesus Christ.

Where You have not revealed the reason, keep me from inventing one.

Give me grace to obey what is clear today.

Work through this trial for the good You have purposed and for the glory of Your Son.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Take one present trial and divide it into four parts:

What I Know

Write only established facts.

What I Do Not Know

List unanswered questions without inventing explanations.

What God Has Clearly Given Me to Do

Include repentance, boundaries, seeking help, prayer, work, rest, or another act of obedience.

What I Must Place Into God's Hands

Name the outcome, timing, explanation, or person you cannot control.

Do not attempt to solve the entire trial today.

Correct what is yours to correct.

Seek the help that is available.

Take the next faithful step.

Then continue into Lesson 72 to learn how to trust God when full understanding remains beyond your reach.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 72: How to Trust God When You Do Not Understand

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between using understanding wisely and leaning upon your own understanding?

- How does Deuteronomy 29:29 help believers separate their responsibility from matters that belong to God?

- Why can honest questions and lament exist alongside genuine trust?

- What is the danger of attaching faith to a particular earthly outcome rather than to God Himself?

- What clear act of obedience can you take even though you do not yet understand the whole situation?

A Prayer When You Do Not Understand

Father,

You understand everything that I cannot see.

You know why this happened, what is occurring now, and what the final outcome will be.

I confess that my knowledge is limited.

Forgive me for leaning upon my own understanding, demanding explanations, and allowing assumptions to become conclusions.

Forgive me for attempting to interpret every event as though I possessed Your complete wisdom.

Help me separate what You have revealed from what remains secret.

Keep me from inventing spiritual explanations or trusting another person's unsupported claims.

Teach me to ask honest questions without accusing You of evil.

Help me lament without turning away from You.

Remind me of Your holiness, justice, mercy, wisdom, and faithfulness.

Fix my confidence upon Jesus Christ rather than upon the outcome I prefer.

Show me the next clear act of obedience.

Give me wisdom to seek appropriate counsel, protection, treatment, or practical help.

Keep me from passivity and from impulsive decisions made merely to escape uncertainty.

Quiet my soul before You.

When the question returns, teach me to surrender it again.

Where understanding will come later, help me wait for it.

Where understanding will not come in this life, help me trust You without it.

Hold me, guide me with Your counsel, and make Your presence more precious to me than an immediate explanation.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Take one matter you do not understand and divide it into four parts:

What God Has Revealed

Write the Scriptures and truths you know with certainty.

What Remains Hidden

Write the questions for which you do not presently have an answer.

What God Has Given You to Do

Write the next honest, wise, and obedient action.

What You Must Release

Write the person, timing, explanation, or outcome you cannot control.

Pray through all four sections.

Do not require the hidden section to become clear before obeying the revealed section.

Take the next faithful step and place the unexplained future into God's hands.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 73: How to Rejoice in Tribulation

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between rejoicing in the Lord and rejoicing in the painful event itself?

- How can sorrow and genuine Christian joy exist within the same person?

- Why does James tell believers to count trials as joy rather than pretend that trials feel enjoyable?

- How can thanksgiving remain honest without calling evil good or minimizing suffering?

- What unchanging truth about Jesus Christ gives you reason to rejoice within your present trial?

A Prayer for Joy During Tribulation

Father,

You see the trial I am facing and the pain it has brought.

I do not want to pretend that suffering feels pleasant.

Help me speak truthfully about grief without surrendering to hopelessness.

Forgive me for judging Your character only by my changing circumstances.

Remind me that I have peace with You through Jesus Christ and stand in grace.

Help me rejoice in You even when I cannot rejoice in what has happened.

Use this trial to test and strengthen my faith.

Produce patience, proven character, and hope.

Expose sin, pride, fear, and false dependence.

Do not let suffering make me bitter, dishonest, or hard.

Teach me to give thanks within the trial without calling evil good.

Give me eyes to recognize present mercies.

Help me worship You because You are worthy, not because I am trying to control the outcome.

Protect me from forced positivity and from performing strength before others.

Give me humility to seek medical, pastoral, legal, emotional, or practical help where it is needed.

Keep me safe from sinful escape.

Fix my eyes upon Jesus Christ, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him.

Remind me that resurrection is coming and sorrow will not have the final word.

Let the joy of the Lord become my strength.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Take one present trial and complete these statements:

I Am Grieving

Name the pain without minimizing it.

Yet God Remains

Write three truths about God that the trial cannot change.

I Still Possess

Write what remains yours through Jesus Christ.

God Can Produce

Write the patience, maturity, humility, compassion, or hope that may grow through this trial.

I Can Give Thanks For

Name three genuine mercies without pretending the painful event is good.

I Need Help With

Write the practical, medical, pastoral, legal, or relational support you should seek.

I Will Rejoice In

Complete the sentence:

“Even though _ _ _ _ , yet I will rejoice in the Lord because _ _ _ _ .”

Read that statement before God.

Do not force an emotion.

Speak the truth.

Return to it whenever sorrow becomes heavy.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 74: How to Handle Persecution for Christ

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What distinguishes persecution for Christ from ordinary hardship or deserved consequences?

- Why must Christian boldness remain joined with wisdom, harmlessness, and legitimate safety?

- How can a believer seek lawful protection or justice without pursuing personal vengeance?

- What does Christ's response to reviling teach us about answering unjust treatment?

- What conviction must you settle now so that pressure will not determine your loyalty later?

A Prayer for Faithfulness Under Persecution

Father,

Thank You for Jesus Christ, who remained faithful through rejection, false accusation, suffering, and death.

Prepare me to follow Him when obedience becomes costly.

Give me discernment to distinguish genuine persecution from correction, consequences, and needless conflict.

Show me any pride, harshness, dishonesty, or irresponsibility I need to correct.

Keep me from seeking opposition or acting recklessly.

Make me wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove.

When danger comes, guide me concerning whether to remain, speak, flee, report wrongdoing, or seek lawful protection.

Help me protect my family and every vulnerable person entrusted to me.

Give me courage never to deny Jesus Christ or participate in sin to preserve approval.

Keep bitterness, hatred, and revenge from ruling my heart.

Help me bless and pray for those who oppose me while still speaking truth and seeking righteous protection.

Give me a clean conscience.

Let my conduct under pressure honor the gospel.

Strengthen believers who face threats, imprisonment, violence, separation from family, or loss because they belong to Christ.

Teach the church to remember and support them wisely.

Do not let persecution silence Your Word.

Use even opposition to advance the gospel.

And whether You deliver me quickly or sustain me through a long trial, help me commit my soul to You as my faithful Creator.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Examine one situation in which you believe you are facing opposition for your faith.

What Happened?

Write the facts without exaggeration.

Why Do I Believe It Is Connected to Christ?

Identify the specific biblical conviction or witness involved.

Is Any Part of the Conflict My Responsibility?

Write any conduct, wording, timing, or attitude that needs correction.

What Does Faithfulness Require?

State the truth you must not deny and the action God clearly requires.

What Does Wisdom Require?

List any safety measure, counsel, documentation, boundary, legal advice, or practical protection needed.

What Must I Surrender?

Name any fear, bitterness, desire for revenge, or demand for a particular outcome.

Take the next faithful and wise step.

Do not act merely to appear courageous.

Do not remain silent merely to remain comfortable.

Honor Jesus Christ with both your conviction and your conduct.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 75: How to Fight Discouragement With Scripture

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between feeling discouraged and allowing discouragement to become your authority?

- Why must Scripture be read in context rather than used to guarantee the outcome you prefer?

- How did recalling truth change Jeremiah's response to affliction in Lamentations 3?

- Why may biblical help for discouragement include fellowship, rest, medical care, and practical action in addition to reading Scripture?

- What specific discouraging message do you presently need to answer with God's Word?

A Prayer Against Discouragement

Father,

You know the heaviness within my heart.

You know the disappointment, exhaustion, grief, failure, or opposition that has discouraged me.

Help me speak honestly without allowing my feelings to become the final authority.

Show me what discouragement has been saying.

Expose every exaggeration, false conclusion, accusation, and hopeless prediction.

Bring Your Word to my remembrance.

Help me recall Your mercy, compassion, faithfulness, and truth.

Forgive any sin, pride, comparison, unbelief, or unrealistic expectation contributing to my discouragement.

Strengthen me according to Your Word.

Correct me where I am wrong.

Comfort me where I am wounded.

Give me humility to receive encouragement, rest, medical care, counsel, or practical help.

Protect me from isolation and impulsive decisions.

Remind me that being cast down does not mean I am destroyed.

Fix my hope upon Jesus Christ.

Give me grace to take the next faithful step even before my emotions change.

And whenever discouragement returns, teach me again to answer my soul:

“Hope thou in God.”

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Take one discouraging thought and write it exactly:

Discouragement says:

Then complete the following:

The facts are:

The unsupported conclusion is:

God's Word says:

Therefore, I will believe:

The help I will seek is:

The next faithful action I will take is:

Read the chosen Scripture in context.

Pray it.

Speak it to your soul.

Then take the action before discouragement has another opportunity to decide for you.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 76: How to Wait on the Lord

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between actively waiting upon the Lord and passively neglecting responsibility?

- How can impatience tempt a believer to use sinful or manipulative methods to obtain a good desire?

- Why must personal desires be distinguished from outcomes God has specifically promised?

- What can the examples of Simeon, Anna, and the disciples teach us about serving and praying while waiting?

- What present act of obedience have you been neglecting because your attention is fixed upon a future outcome?

A Prayer While Waiting

Father,

You know what I am waiting for and how deeply I desire an answer.

Forgive me for impatience, fretting, comparison, manipulation, and attempting to control what belongs to You.

Show me whether I have turned a personal desire into a promise You never gave.

Protect me from sinful shortcuts.

Do not let pressure persuade me to disobey Your Word.

Teach me to trust You and continue doing good.

Help me delight in You rather than making the desired outcome the center of my life.

Show me my present responsibilities.

Give me discipline to prepare faithfully, courage to take necessary action, and humility to receive counsel.

Keep me from using waiting as an excuse for fear, avoidance, or laziness.

Also keep me from forcing doors that You have not opened.

Give me wisdom to seek medical, legal, financial, pastoral, or practical help when needed.

Help me serve You during this season rather than postponing my life.

Renew my strength when I grow tired.

Quiet my heart when I begin to fret.

Make me watchful without becoming obsessed with signs.

I place the timing, the people involved, and the final outcome into Your hands.

Whether You fulfil my desire as I expect or redirect my path, help me remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Write down the main matter for which you are waiting.

Then divide it into four sections:

What God Has Promised

Write only what Scripture clearly guarantees.

What I Desire

State the requested outcome honestly without calling it a promise.

What I Must Do Now

List present responsibilities, preparation, wise action, and necessary help.

What I Cannot Control

Name the timing, other people, open doors, and final outcome you must release.

Choose one present responsibility and complete it.

Choose one sinful shortcut and reject it.

Choose one useful preparation and begin it.

Then pray Psalm 27:14 and continue walking faithfully while you wait.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 77: How to Stay Faithful When Prayers Seem Unanswered

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Jesus Repeated His Prayer

Matthew records:

“And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.” — Matthew 26:44, KJV

Repeated prayer is not automatically vain repetition.

Jesus had warned against empty, mechanical phrases spoken as though many words could manipulate God.

But He Himself repeated a sincere request.

Persistence becomes wrong when it tries to control God through:

formulas;

volume;

promises;

bargaining;

or endless words without yielded faith.

Repeated prayer offered honestly and submissively is biblical.

Speak Honestly When God Seems Silent

David prayed:

“How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily?” — Psalm 13:1–2, KJV

David felt forgotten.

He did not hide the feeling.

He brought it to God.

The psalm does not teach that God had literally forgotten David.

It records how divine silence felt from David's limited perspective.

Believers may speak honestly without turning emotion into doctrine.

You may say:

“Lord, I feel forgotten.”

But do not conclude:

“Therefore, God has abandoned me.”

Strengthened Prayer May Be an Answer

The psalmist said:

“In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.” — Psalm 138:3, KJV

The verse emphasizes inward strengthening.

The believer may look only for external change and overlook the grace that has already preserved him.

Ask:

“Has God given strength I did not possess before?”

“Has He kept me from abandoning faith?”

“Has He sent people to help?”

“Has His Word become clearer?”

“Has He exposed something that needed correction?”

These mercies do not prove the full request will eventually be granted.

They may reveal that God has not been inactive.

Examine Your Heart Without Condemning Yourself

When prayer seems unanswered, it is appropriate to examine the heart.

Scripture says:

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” — Psalm 66:18, KJV

To regard iniquity means cherishing and holding onto known sin.

James also warns:

*“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”
— James 4:3, KJV*

Ask:

“Am I refusing a command God has made clear?”

“Is my request controlled by pride, greed, revenge, or selfish pleasure?”

“Do I want God’s glory or merely my preferred comfort?”

If sin is exposed, confess and turn from it.

Persistent Prayer Forms the Believer

Prayer seeks God’s action.

It also brings the believer repeatedly beneath God’s authority.

Through continued prayer:

motives may be purified;

desires may be surrendered;

patience may grow;

pride may weaken;

and dependence may deepen.

This does not mean the external request is unimportant.

It means God may be working within the person praying while the outward situation remains unresolved.

Hannah Entrusted Deep Sorrow to God

Hannah prayed through years of grief because she had no child.

Scripture says she was:

“in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.” — 1 Samuel 1:10, KJV

She spoke honestly.

She was misunderstood by Eli.

After explaining her sorrow and receiving his blessing, she left and ate, and her countenance was no longer sad.

God later gave her Samuel.

We should not use Hannah’s experience to promise every childless person the same earthly outcome.

The principle is that deep sorrow can be poured out before God until the burden is consciously entrusted to Him.

A Biblical Pattern for Apparently Unanswered Prayer

1. State the Request Honestly

Do not hide how deeply it matters.

2. Submit It to God's Will

Ask boldly without demanding control.

3. Examine Your Heart

Confess known sin and allow motives to be tested.

4. Reject False Condemnation

Do not assume every delay proves weak faith or secret wickedness.

5. Obey What Is Already Clear

Prayer must not replace responsibility.

6. Use Appropriate Means

Receive medical, legal, pastoral, relational, and practical help.

7. Remain Open to a Different Answer

God may remove, redirect, sustain, or change the request.

8. Continue Praying Without Manipulation

Persistence is dependence, not pressure upon God.

9. Stay Faithful in the Present

Do not suspend worship, holiness, service, and ordinary duties.

10. Rest the Outcome in God

Your faithfulness must not depend upon obtaining one earthly result.

An Unanswered-Prayer Examination

The request I have been bringing to God is:

The answer I hoped to receive is:

What has actually occurred so far is:

Any known sin or wrong motive I need to address is:

The false guilt or accusation I need to reject is:

The action God has already made clear is:

The practical help or means I should use is:

A different form the answer might take is:

The outcome I must surrender is:

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between persistent prayer and attempting to manipulate God through repetition?

- Why should believers examine their motives without assuming every delayed answer proves hidden sin or insufficient faith?

- What can Paul's thorn teach us about answers that provide grace rather than removal?

- How can a Christian continue using practical means and fulfilling ordinary duties while praying for God to act?

- What desired outcome have you been tempted to make a condition of your continued faithfulness?

A Prayer During an Apparently Unanswered Season

Father,

You know the request I have brought before You and how long I have carried it.

You know the answer I desire.

You also know what is best, what is hidden from me, and what will bring glory to Jesus Christ.

Forgive me for impatience, bitterness, unbelief, manipulation, and trying to control Your timing.

Search my heart.

Expose any known sin, selfish motive, disobedience, or pride that I need to confess.

Also protect me from false condemnation and from assuming that every delay means You have rejected me.

Teach me to pray persistently without vain repetition.

Help me submit honestly:

“Not my will, but thine, be done.”

Show me any responsibility I have neglected.

Give me wisdom to use the medical, legal, pastoral, relational, or practical help You have provided.

Keep me from remaining in danger or passivity while calling it faith.

When I do not know how to pray, let the Holy Ghost help my weakness.

If Your answer is removal, I will thank You.

If Your answer is redirection, help me follow.

If Your answer is sufficient grace within the burden, keep me from despising that grace.

If the full answer belongs to eternity, hold me faithful until I see Jesus Christ.

Do not let this one request consume my entire relationship with You.

Help me worship, give thanks, serve others, obey Your Word, and fulfil today's responsibilities.

I bring the request again.

I also place the outcome into Your hands.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one prayer that has seemed unanswered and divide it into five parts:

My Honest Request

What am I asking God to do?

My Submitted Request

How can I express the same desire while yielding the outcome to God?

My Present Responsibility

What obedience, action, boundary, treatment, counsel, or practical step is already clear?

My Continuing Prayer

What simple words can I pray consistently without manipulation?

My Surrendered Outcome

What timing, method, person, or result must I place into God's hands?

Set a sustainable time to continue praying.

Then complete one responsibility that does not require the final answer to arrive.

Do not make obedience wait upon the outcome.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 78: How to Overcome Fear With Faith

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between feeling fear and allowing fear to rule your conduct?

- Why does biblical faith not require pretending that danger or painful outcomes are impossible?

- How can prayer, appropriate precautions, and professional help work together rather than contradict one another?

- What did the disciples' fear cause them to conclude falsely about Jesus during the storm?

- What obedient action do you need to take without waiting for every fearful feeling to disappear?

A Prayer for Faith Over Fear

Father,

You know every fear within me.

You know which dangers are real, which possibilities are uncertain, and which conclusions my imagination has added.

Help me speak honestly about fear without allowing it to become my master.

Forgive me for the times fear has led me to disobey, hide, lie, control, compromise, or refuse responsibility.

Give me power, love, and a sound mind.

Help me separate present facts from imagined outcomes.

Show me any real danger that requires safety, medical care, lawful protection, or practical action.

Keep me from recklessness and presumption.

Teach me to pray and set a watch.

Help me cast upon You every outcome I cannot control.

Remind me that You are present even when the storm is not immediately calmed.

Fix my eyes upon Jesus Christ.

Thank You that He died, rose again, and has broken the final authority of death.

When fear returns, teach me to trust You again.

Give me courage to perform the next obedient action while my emotions are still unsettled.

Send trustworthy people to support me.

Give me humility to receive qualified care where it is needed.

Establish my heart in Your Word.

Let fear no longer direct my life.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose the fear that is affecting your decisions most strongly.

Then complete these statements:

I Am Afraid That

The Present Facts Are

Fear Is Assuming

God's Word Says

Wisdom Requires

Obedience Requires

The Outcome I Must Release Is

Take the necessary safety precaution.

Ask for the needed help.

Then perform one obedient action without requiring fear to disappear first.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 79: How to Find Strength in Weakness

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between acknowledging weakness and using weakness as an excuse for disobedience?

- Why does Christ sometimes provide sufficient grace instead of removing the limitation immediately?

- How can rest, treatment, assistance, and adjusted responsibilities demonstrate dependence rather than failure?

- What does Paul mean when he says, “When I am weak, then am I strong”?

- What responsibility are you trying to carry through self-sufficiency rather than through the ability God supplies?

A Prayer for Strength in Weakness

Father,

You know my frame and remember that I am dust.

You know the weakness I can describe and the weakness I do not fully understand.

Forgive me for pride, self-sufficiency, shame, despair, and pretending to possess strength I do not have.

Keep me from using weakness as an excuse for sin, neglect, or disobedience.

Show me where I need greater watchfulness.

Give me humility to seek medical care, counseling, rest, safety, and practical help where they are needed.

Teach me to receive support from the body of Christ.

Show me which responsibilities You have truly assigned and which burdens I have taken upon myself through guilt, ambition, or fear of people.

I ask You to remove the weakness where that is Your will.

Where it remains, let Your grace be sufficient.

Let the power of Christ rest upon me.

Strengthen me to tell the truth, resist sin, receive correction, serve faithfully, and complete the next responsibility.

Keep me from measuring usefulness by visibility, speed, physical ability, or comparison with others.

Let the treasure of the gospel shine through this earthen vessel.

And when anything of eternal value is accomplished, make it clear that the excellence of the power belongs to You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one limitation that is presently affecting your obedience or service.

Complete these statements:

My Real Limitation Is

I Have Been Pretending

I Have Been Excusing

Appropriate Help Includes

God Has Actually Assigned Me

I Need to Release

Christ's Sufficient Grace Enables Me to

Ask one trustworthy person for the help you need.

Make one wise adjustment.

Then complete one act of obedience through the strength God supplies.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 80: How to Endure Unto the End

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Continue in Prayer

Prayer keeps the heart dependent.

A person who slowly abandons prayer may continue appearing strong for a time.

Inward dependence is weakening.

Pray when words flow easily.

Pray when prayer feels dry.

Pray when you need forgiveness.

Pray when afraid.

Pray when thankful.

Prayer is not a performance that proves spiritual strength.

It is the expression of continuing need for God.

Continue in Obedience

Endurance is revealed through repeated choices.

A person does not usually abandon faithfulness through one dramatic decision without earlier compromises.

Drift may begin through:

one tolerated sin;

one neglected duty;

one dishonest excuse;

or one relationship that continually pulls away from God.

Small obedience matters.

Tell the truth today.

Resist temptation today.

Forgive today.

Complete the responsibility before you today.

A faithful life is built through many present acts of obedience.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between enduring unto the end and attempting to earn salvation through human effort?

- Why must biblical assurance produce dependence and obedience rather than spiritual carelessness?

- How can a believer stumble without allowing the fall to become final abandonment?

- What role do Scripture, prayer, fellowship, correction, and rest play in long-term faithfulness?

- What present compromise, weight, or isolation could gradually weaken your endurance if it remains unaddressed?

A Prayer for Endurance

Father,

Thank You for saving sinners through Jesus Christ and calling us to follow Him.

I confess that I cannot endure through my own strength.

Keep me from pride, presumption, despair, and careless confidence in a past profession while neglecting present obedience.

Ground me firmly in the gospel.

Let Your Word remain in me.

Strengthen my prayer life and keep me connected to faithful believers.

Show me every sin and unnecessary weight that is hindering my race.

Give me humility to receive correction, assistance, rest, treatment, protection, and wise adjustment where they are needed.

When I stumble, lead me quickly into confession and restoration.

Do not let shame persuade me to hide from You.

When others turn back, keep my eyes upon Jesus Christ.

When trials continue, keep my love from growing cold.

When false teaching spreads, keep me grounded and settled in truth.

When temporary relief requires compromise, help me choose obedience.

Work in me both to will and to do of Your good pleasure.

Keep me by Your power through faith.

Give me grace for today rather than fear about every future trial.

And when my earthly course reaches its end, let me be found still trusting, loving, obeying, and following Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

The Greatest Threat to My Endurance Is

The Truth I Must Continue Believing Is

The Sin or Weight I Must Lay Aside Is

The Fellowship or Help I Need Is

The Daily Practice I Need to Strengthen Is

The Present Act of Obedience Is

My Confidence Is Not in Myself but in

Do not attempt to create enough strength today for every future year.

Remove one hindrance.

Strengthen one means of grace.

Complete one act of obedience.

Then rise tomorrow and continue following Jesus Christ again.

Notes and Prayer

Stage 9: Maturing, Serving, and Finishing With Joy

Lessons 81-90

Lesson 81: What Spiritual Growth Should Look Like

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why are knowledge, gifts, church activity, emotion, and position insufficient measurements of spiritual maturity?

- How can a believer struggle with temptation or weakness while still showing evidence of genuine growth?

- What does Hebrews 5:14 teach about the relationship between practice and discernment?

- Why should spiritual maturity produce greater dependence upon Christ rather than greater confidence in self?

- What specific response in your present life most clearly reveals an area where further growth is needed?

A Prayer for Spiritual Growth

Father,

Thank You for giving new life through Jesus Christ.

I know that spiritual growth cannot save me and that I cannot earn Your grace.

My hope rests in Jesus Christ, who died for sins and rose again.

But I do not want to remain immature.

Grow me in grace and in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour.

Forgive me for confusing knowledge, activity, emotion, giftedness, personality, or position with maturity.

Expose every area where outward appearance is hiding inward weakness.

Make me teachable.

Help me receive correction without defensiveness.

Give me hunger for Your Word and grace to practice what I learn.

Shorten the distance between hearing and obeying.

Help me repent quickly when I sin.

Make me stable in truth, useful to others, faithful in private, and steady under pressure.

Keep me from comparing myself with other believers.

Help me evaluate my life soberly beneath Scripture.

Thank You for every area where Your grace has already produced change.

Keep me from pride concerning that progress.

Show me where I remain childish, selfish, unstable, or resistant.

Help me remain close to Jesus Christ, because apart from Him I can do nothing.

Let my progress become visible, not for my glory, but so that others may see the transforming grace of God.

Continue Your work in me until the day of Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these four statements:

God Has Helped Me Grow In

I Know This Because

I Still Respond Immaturely When

My Next Practice of Growth Will Be

Choose one Scripture addressing the immature response.

Read it in context.

Tell one mature believer what you are working to change.

Then practice one specific act of obedience this week.

Do not attempt to appear mature.

Submit to the process through which God produces real maturity.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 82: How to Bear the Fruit of the Spirit

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is the fruit of the Spirit different from natural personality, outward politeness, or spiritual gifts?

- How can believers be responsible to cultivate spiritual fruit when the Holy Ghost is its true source?

- Why must the works of the flesh be crucified rather than merely managed within acceptable limits?

- In what ways do relationships and pressure reveal whether spiritual fruit is actually developing?

- Which fruit quality is most needed in the area where your flesh presently reacts most strongly?

A Prayer for the Fruit of the Spirit

Father,

Thank You for giving the Holy Ghost to those who belong to Jesus Christ.

I confess that I cannot produce true spiritual fruit through outward appearance or human willpower alone.

Search my heart.

Expose every work of the flesh that I have excused, protected, or attempted to manage instead of crucify.

Show me where anger, envy, impurity, pride, selfishness, division, or lack of control is hindering Your work.

Help me remain in Jesus Christ.

Give me hunger for Scripture, faithfulness in prayer, humility under correction, and courage to obey.

Teach me to sow to the Spirit rather than continually feeding the flesh.

Forgive me for grieving or quenching the Holy Ghost through delayed obedience and defended sin.

Produce love where I am selfish.

Joy where I am controlled by circumstances.

Peace where I create or feed turmoil.

Longsuffering where I become impatient.

Gentleness where I am unnecessarily harsh.

Goodness where I have remained passive.

Faith where I am unstable or unreliable.

Meekness where pride demands control.

Temperance where appetite and emotion attempt to rule me.

Let this fruit appear at home, at church, at work, online, and in the hidden places of my life.

Keep me from performing character for human praise.

Fill me with fruits of righteousness through Jesus Christ unto Your glory and praise.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one recurring situation in which the works of the flesh become visible.

Then complete these statements:

When This Happens

My Flesh Usually Responds With

The Fruit of the Spirit Would Respond With

God's Word Says

I Must Stop Sowing

I Must Begin Sowing

My Next Spirit-Directed Response Will Be

Tell one mature believer what you are working to change.

Remove one influence that strengthens the flesh.

Practice one deliberate act consistent with the fruit of the Spirit the next time the situation occurs.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 83: How to Grow in Humility

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between biblical humility and self-hatred, insecurity, or denial of God-given abilities?

- Why can pride appear through defensiveness, self-pity, comparison, refusal of help, and false modesty—not merely through open boasting?

- How does Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet show that secure identity and humble service belong together?

- Why does humility require both receiving true correction and refusing false accusations?

- Which response in your life most clearly reveals that pride is still seeking control, recognition, or protection?

A Prayer for Humility

Father,

You are the Creator, Lord, and giver of every good gift.

Forgive me for pride, self-exaltation, defensiveness, envy, comparison, self-pity, and the desire to control.

Forgive me for taking credit for what I received from You.

Show me where false humility has become another way of seeking attention.

Teach me to think soberly about myself.

Keep me from both exaggerating and denying the abilities You have entrusted to me.

Give me the mind of Jesus Christ.

Help me serve without needing recognition.

Help me receive correction without anger.

Give me courage to reject false accusations without becoming proud.

Teach me to confess specifically and apologize without excuses.

Help me rejoice when others are honored, gifted, or used by You.

Give me humility to receive help, admit limitations, and say when I do not know.

Protect me from confusing humility with weakness, silence, or remaining in harm.

Teach me to stand for truth without self-importance.

Help me submit my plans, preferences, reputation, and future to You.

When ministry or service bears fruit, let me give You the glory.

When I am overlooked, keep me faithful.

When I am praised, keep me grateful.

When I am corrected, keep me teachable.

When I am given responsibility, keep me a servant.

I humble myself under Your mighty hand.

Exalt me only where, when, and how it serves Your will.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one recent situation in which pride affected your response.

Complete these statements:

What Happened

Pride Wanted Me to Protect

Humility Requires Me to Admit

The Person I Need to Hear, Thank, Apologize to, or Serve Is

The Recognition or Control I Need to Release Is

The Truth About God's Grace Is

Take one humble action without announcing it for praise.

Confess specifically.

Listen without interrupting.

Celebrate another person.

Receive needed help.

Or complete an unnoticed act of service.

Then give God the glory for every grace that enabled you to do it.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 84: How to Grow in Love Without Compromising Truth

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why can neither approval nor pleasant feelings serve as the final definition of love?

- What is the difference between mercy and enabling, or between a boundary and revenge?

- How can a statement be true while still being delivered in an unloving or unwise manner?

- Why does biblical love sometimes require correction, warning, separation, or reporting serious wrongdoing?

- In which relationship are you most tempted either to compromise truth to preserve peace or to speak truth without sufficient love?

A Prayer for Love and Truth

Father,

You are the source of all true love, and Your Word is truth.

Forgive me for the times I have confused love with approval, affection, avoidance, flattery, or emotional attachment.

Forgive me for compromising truth because I wanted acceptance or feared conflict.

Also forgive me for using truth proudly, harshly, carelessly, or without compassion.

Fill me with the love of Jesus Christ.

Let my love abound in knowledge and judgment.

Teach me to distinguish mercy from enabling, patience from compromise, correction from control, and boundaries from revenge.

Help me listen before speaking.

Give me accurate understanding, wise timing, gracious words, and a humble spirit.

Keep me from excusing sin.

Keep me from treating sinners with contempt.

Give me courage to warn when warning is needed and restraint when a matter should be covered in love.

Protect vulnerable people through truthful and responsible action.

Do not let me conceal abuse, crime, exploitation, or danger under religious language.

Help me forgive personal offenses while preserving necessary truth, accountability, and safety.

Teach me to love enemies, pray for those who oppose me, and refuse personal vengeance.

Let my love become visible through sacrifice, service, honesty, and practical help.

Make me willing to receive correction as well as give it.

Form in me the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one relationship in which love and truth have become unbalanced.

Complete these statements:

I Have Been Tempted to Compromise By

Or I Have Been Unloving Through

God's Truth Requires

Genuine Love Requires

Wisdom and Safety Require

My Next Action Will Be

Before acting, pray for the person.

Verify the facts.

Examine your motive.

Then take one truthful and loving step—whether that means listening, serving, warning, apologizing, establishing a boundary, reporting danger, or speaking a necessary word with grace.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 85: How to Grow in Patience and Longsuffering

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Patience and Prayer Belong Together

Paul writes:

“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;” — Romans 12:12, KJV

Patience is sustained through hope and prayer.

When pressure rises, pray before reacting.

Prayer reminds the believer:

God is present;

the present feeling is not lord;

and grace is available for the next response.

Do Not Demand Lifetime Patience All at Once

You may think:

“How can I continue with this for years?”

God has not asked you to carry every future day at once.

Ask for grace for the present conversation, delay, responsibility, or season.

Tomorrow will require fresh dependence.

Longsuffering is formed through many present acts of patience.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between biblical patience and passive failure to address sin, danger, or responsibility?

- How do pride, fear, exhaustion, and the desire for control contribute to impatience?

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- Why does First Thessalonians 5:14 command different responses to the unruly, discouraged, and weak while requiring patience toward all?
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- How does remembering God's longsuffering toward us change the way we respond to another person's slow growth?
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-
-

- What unspoken demand most often lies beneath your impatient reactions?
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-
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A Prayer for Patience and Longsuffering

Father,

You are merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Thank You for Your patience with me.

Forgive me for pride, haste, anger, control, complaining, and harsh words.

Forgive me for expecting other people to grow more quickly than I did.

Show me the demands hiding beneath my impatience.

Teach me to be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.

Give me wisdom to distinguish weakness, immaturity, rebellion, danger, and personal preference.

Help me comfort those who are discouraged, support those who are weak, warn those who are unruly, and remain patient toward all.

Keep me from confusing patience with passivity.

Give me courage to establish boundaries, report danger, and take necessary action without hatred or revenge.

Help me continue doing what is right when results are slow.

Teach me to respond truthfully without contempt.

When I fail, help me confess quickly and repair the harm I caused.

Care for my body and mind when exhaustion is weakening my responses.

Remind me that the people who test my patience are human beings made in Your image and in need of grace.

Produce longsuffering in me through the Holy Ghost.

Let my home, church, work, and private life display the patience of Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one recurring situation that exposes impatience.

Complete these statements:

When This Happens

I Demand That

My Usual Reaction Is

God's Word Requires

The Wise Boundary or Action Is

The Patient Words I Will Use Are

Before the situation occurs again, pray over your planned response.

When it happens, pause before speaking.

Listen.

Choose the appropriate action.

Then evaluate afterward whether your response was both patient and truthful.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 86: How to Grow in Self-Control

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between biblical self-control and independent human willpower?

- Why can a legitimate desire such as food, rest, work, recreation, or technology still become spiritually controlling?

- What does it mean to make provision for the flesh, and what provision might need to be removed from your life?

- Why should self-control include both fleeing the wrong desire and pursuing a righteous replacement?

- Which area of your life most clearly demonstrates that knowing what is right is not yet the same as consistently practicing it?

A Prayer for Self-Control

Father,

My life, body, mind, words, appetites, emotions, money, time, and habits belong to You.

Forgive me for the desires and impulses I have allowed to rule me.

Forgive me for making provision for the flesh while asking You for victory.

Show me where I have confused freedom with lack of restraint.

Teach me through Your grace to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

Produce temperance in me through the Holy Ghost.

Give me wisdom to recognize triggers, patterns, and vulnerable moments.

Give me courage to remove access and establish honest boundaries.

Help me flee sinful desires and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace.

Keep me from harsh self-punishment, prideful willpower, secrecy, and despair.

Give me humility to seek accountability, medical care, counseling, structured treatment, or practical support when needed.

Teach me to govern my speech, anger, appetite, spending, technology, work, and rest beneath Your authority.

When I fail, lead me quickly into confession and corrected action.

Help me remember that immediate pleasure is temporary, but faithfulness to Christ has eternal value.

Bring my body into honorable service.

Make my private life consistent with my public profession.

Let every growing victory display the power of Your grace rather than confidence in myself.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one area in which desire has gained too much power.

Complete these statements:

The Desire or Habit Is

It Usually Begins When

I Have Been Making Provision Through

Today I Will Remove

I Will Replace It With

My Specific Boundary Is

I Will Tell

Remove the access today.

Do not merely intend to change later.

Establish the replacement before the next vulnerable moment.

Tell one trustworthy person what boundary you have chosen.

Then practice one deliberate act of self-control through the grace God supplies.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 87: How to Become More Like Jesus Christ

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is becoming like Jesus different from attempting to earn salvation by imitating His behavior?

- What is the difference between the aspects of Christ's life believers should follow and the saving works and divine authority that belong uniquely to Him?

- How does beholding Christ in Scripture lead to transformation rather than mere information?

- Why must Christlikeness become visible in private life and close relationships, not only in public Christian activity?

- In which present situation is your natural response most different from the character and teaching of Jesus Christ?

A Prayer for Christlikeness

Father,

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save sinners.

My hope is not in my ability to imitate Him well enough to earn salvation.

My hope is in His death, resurrection, righteousness, and grace.

Yet I desire to become more like Him.

Show me the true Jesus through Your Word.

Protect me from following a version of Christ created by culture, emotion, preference, or imagination.

Through the Holy Ghost, change me into His image from glory to glory.

Expose everything in me that contradicts His character.

Put away pride, selfishness, impurity, harshness, cowardice, dishonesty, bitterness, and the desire for human praise.

Renew my mind.

Form the mind of Christ within me.

Teach me to obey You as Jesus obeyed.

Help me serve without seeking importance.

Give me compassion for people who are lost, weak, hurting, or scattered.

Give me courage to speak truth with grace.

Teach me meekness without cowardice, holiness without contempt, forgiveness without falsehood, and love without compromise.

Make me Christlike at home, at church, at work, online, and when no one sees me.

When I suffer unjustly, keep me from retaliation.

When I receive correction, make me teachable.

When I fail, lead me quickly into repentance and changed conduct.

Thank You that the work is progressive and that full conformity will come when Jesus appears.

Until then, keep forming Christ in me.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one current situation in which your response differs from Jesus Christ.

Complete these statements:

My Present Situation Is

My Natural Response Is

Jesus' Character and Teaching Show

I Must Put Off

I Must Put On

The Specific Action I Will Take Is

Read one Gospel passage that directly addresses the situation.

Do not merely ask:

"What would Jesus do?"

Ask:

"What has Scripture revealed about Jesus, and what does He command me to do?"

Then practice that Christlike response through the strength of the Holy Ghost.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 88: How to Make Godly Decisions

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between a decision answered by biblical command and one requiring mature wisdom among several lawful options?

- Why must conscience, peace, open doors, obstacles, dreams, and impressions remain beneath Scripture rather than becoming final authority?

- How can personal desire influence the way we interpret facts, counsel, and providential circumstances?

- Why is gathering facts, counting cost, and consulting qualified people an expression of wisdom rather than unbelief?

- What current decision have you delayed because you are waiting for absolute certainty that God has not promised to provide?

A Prayer for Godly Decisions

Father,

You are perfectly wise, and I am limited.

Thank You for giving Scripture, the Holy Ghost, prayer, godly counsel, conscience, reason, facts, and the fellowship of believers.

Forgive me for the times I decided first and asked You to bless the decision afterward.

Forgive me for pride, fear, haste, greed, comparison, and the desire to control the outcome.

Presently, I surrender this decision to You.

Do not allow personal desire to twist Scripture, ignore facts, or seek only counsel that agrees with me.

Renew my mind.

Show me any command or biblical principle that applies.

Help me gather accurate information and hear more than one side.

Expose hidden motives.

Teach me to count the cost and consider the people affected by my choice.

Lead me toward wise, truthful, and qualified counsel.

Protect me from superstition, random signs, careless impressions, and false claims that You have spoken when You have not.

Help me recognize providence humbly without pretending to know every hidden purpose.

Give me courage to act when sufficient wisdom has been given.

Keep me from paralysis, endless second-guessing, and fear of every possible mistake.

If new truth requires correction, make me humble enough to change direction.

Let my choice honor Jesus Christ, preserve a clean conscience, serve the genuine good of others, and use this brief life for what will matter in eternity.

Your will be done.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one present decision and write it in one clear sentence.

Then separate your evaluation into four sections:

What God Has Clearly Revealed

What the Facts Show

What Wise Counsel Identifies

What Remains Uncertain

Do not call the uncertain part revelation.

Surrender it.

Set a responsible deadline.

Gather one missing fact.

Seek one qualified counselor.

Then make the wisest faithful decision available and proceed in dependence upon God.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 89: How to Redeem the Time

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between redeeming time and attempting to fill every minute with activity?

- Why can ordinary work, family care, rest, and hidden service possess eternal value when performed unto the Lord?

- How can good activities become unwise when they repeatedly displace greater responsibilities?

- What is the difference between appropriate recreation, necessary rest, laziness, and distraction?

- Which present activity is consuming time that should be used for a clearer God-given priority?

A Prayer to Redeem the Time

Father,

My times are in Your hand.

Thank You for every day, hour, ability, relationship, responsibility, and opportunity You have given me.

Forgive me for time wasted through sin, distraction, laziness, fear, pride, entertainment, and careless living.

Forgive me also for worshipping productivity, measuring my worth by output, and neglecting rest or relationships in the name of accomplishment.

Teach me to number my days and apply my heart unto wisdom.

Help me understand Your will for this season of life.

Show me the responsibilities You have truly assigned and the commitments I need to release.

Give me courage to say no to lesser things so I can remain faithful to greater things.

Help me work diligently without making work an idol.

Help me rest without becoming lazy.

Teach me to use technology as a servant rather than becoming controlled by it.

Make me attentive to people with eternal souls.

Help me recognize opportunities to serve, encourage, witness, and do good.

Give me realistic routines, wise margin, disciplined attention, and humility when plans must change.

Where I have wasted years, lead me into repentance without allowing regret to waste the present.

Let my ordinary duties, hidden service, relationships, work, worship, and ministry be performed unto Jesus Christ.

Use the remainder of my earthly life for what will honor You and possess eternal value.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

For the next three days, record honestly how your time is spent.

Then complete these statements:

My Clearest God-Given Priorities Are

My Largest Unnecessary Time Drain Is

One Good Activity That Needs Less Time Is

One Neglected Responsibility That Needs Scheduled Time Is

The Rest or Margin I Need Is

The Opportunity I Must Not Keep Postponing Is

Remove or restrict one unnecessary drain.

Place one neglected priority into your actual schedule.

Complete one act of obedience today rather than assigning it vaguely to tomorrow.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 90: How to Finish Your Course With Joy

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between completing the work God has given and attempting to meet every need or finish every possible task?

- How can comparison with another believer cause either discouragement or pride regarding your own course?

- Why must completing a ministry or responsibility include character, relationships, truthfulness, and a clean conscience—not merely visible results?

- How can exhaustion, resentment, hidden sin, and the desire for control gradually remove joy from faithful service?

- What unfinished responsibility or necessary handoff presently requires your focused attention?

A Prayer to Finish With Joy

Father,

Thank You for every responsibility, person, gift, and opportunity You have entrusted to me.

Forgive me for pride, comparison, distraction, procrastination, resentment, control, and the desire to appear important.

Show me clearly what belongs to my course and what I have taken upon myself without Your direction.

Keep me from neglecting ordinary duties while seeking visible ministry.

Help me take heed to the work I have received in the Lord and fulfil it.

Give me grace to focus on the present portion.

Protect me from critics who would distract me and praise that would corrupt my motive.

Make me humble enough to receive true correction.

Keep my conscience clean.

Expose hidden sin, dishonest methods, neglected commitments, and damaged relationships.

Restore joy where service has become bitter.

Teach me to rest, receive help, change pace, and adjust methods without abandoning faithfulness.

Give me wisdom to train others and release responsibilities at the proper time.

Keep me from building work that depends upon my name, personality, or control.

Remind me that I can plant and water, but only You give the increase.

Help me finish without pride.

Help me finish without resentment.

Help me finish loving the people You gave me to serve.

And let every completed work testify to the gospel of the grace of God and bring glory to Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Write down the three clearest responsibilities God has presently entrusted to you.

Then complete these statements:

My Present Course Includes

I Have Been Distracted By

The Responsibility I Need to Finish Is

The Burden I Need to Release Is

The Relationship or Wrong I Need to Address Is

The Person I Need to Train or Involve Is

My Next Faithful Step Is

Choose one unfinished portion that can be completed or advanced this week.

Schedule the necessary work.

Address one issue threatening your joy.

Then complete the next portion faithfully without trying to carry the entire course in one day.

Notes and Prayer

Stage 10: Living Ready for Eternity

Lessons 91-100

Lesson 91: Why Every Christian Must Live Ready

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why must readiness begin with saving faith in Jesus Christ rather than moral improvement or religious activity?

- What is the difference between living ready and living in fear, panic, or constant prophetic speculation?

- How does the faithful servant in Matthew 24 show that readiness includes ordinary responsibilities and active service?

- Why is quick repentance part of readiness even though readiness does not mean sinless perfection?

- What known act of obedience, repentance, reconciliation, or witness have you been postponing as though tomorrow were guaranteed?

A Prayer to Live Ready

Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus Christ to die for sins and rise again.

My hope of salvation rests in Him, not in my works, religious appearance, or future intentions.

Search my heart.

Show me whether I am truly abiding in Christ or merely appearing religious before people.

Forgive me for carelessness, delay, hidden sin, neglected responsibility, and presuming upon tomorrow.

Help me confess and turn from known sin quickly.

Give me courage to apologize, restore what I owe, and correct what can be corrected.

Teach me to maintain a clean conscience before You and before others.

Keep me from prophetic pride, date-setting, sensationalism, panic, and fear.

Make me sober, watchful, hopeful, and faithful.

Help me fulfil ordinary responsibilities as unto the Lord.

Let me be found serving, loving, praying, working, and witnessing when Jesus comes.

Give me concern for people who are not ready to meet You.

Help me share the gospel clearly and compassionately.

Teach me to plan responsibly while remembering that tomorrow is not guaranteed.

Do not let me spend this brief life building only what will disappear.

Give eternal value even to ordinary duties as I perform them for Jesus Christ.

Let the return of Christ be my blessed hope.

Keep me abiding in Him so that I may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements honestly:

I Know I Am Ready Through Christ Because

The Matter I Have Been Postponing Is

The Sin or Compromise I Must Bring Into the Light Is

The Responsibility I Must Resume Is

The Person I Need to Contact Is

The Gospel Opportunity I Should Take Is

Take one action today.

Do not merely write about readiness.

Confess the sin.

Make the call.

Offer the apology.

Resume the responsibility.

Share the gospel.

Or seek help concerning a matter that should no longer remain hidden.

Live today in the condition in which you would desire Christ to find you.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 92: How to Watch and Pray in the Last Days

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Prayer Is Dependence Upon God

Watching reveals how much believers need prayer.

We cannot remain faithful through:

intelligence;

preparation;

or determination alone.

Prayer confesses:

“Lord, I need Your wisdom.”

“I need strength against temptation.”

“I need discernment.”

“I need courage.”

“I need help to remain faithful.”

Prayer is not an emergency addition to watchfulness.

It is its sustaining power.

Watch and Pray Always

Jesus said:

“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” — Luke 21:36, KJV

Praying always does not mean speaking formal prayers every second.

It means living in continuing dependence upon God.

There should be regular prayer times.

There should also be prayer throughout the day as:

temptations;

decisions;

burdens;

and opportunities

arise.

Pray Before the Crisis

Many people pray only after danger becomes severe.

Watchful prayer begins sooner.

Pray before:

the difficult conversation;

the vulnerable evening;

the major decision;

the ministry opportunity;

or the expected temptation.

Prayer before the moment can prepare the heart to respond differently within it.

Pray Scripture-Governed Prayers

Watchful prayer should not be driven entirely by rumors and fear.

Pray according to truths God has revealed.

Pray for:

holiness;

discernment;

faithfulness;

the salvation of the lost;

strength for persecuted believers;

unity in the church;

faithful preaching;

and courage to obey.

Let Scripture shape both your concerns and your confidence.

Pray for All Believers

Paul writes:

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” — Ephesians 6:18, KJV

Watchfulness should enlarge intercession.

Do not pray only for yourself.

Pray for believers who face:

temptation;

deception;

persecution;

discouragement;

and false teaching.

The church watches together.

Pray for Leaders and Society

Paul commanded prayers for:

kings;

and all who are in authority.

The purpose included peaceful conditions in which believers could live godly lives and the gospel could advance.

Do not allow political anger to replace prayer.

You may oppose wrongdoing.

You may speak truth.

But pray for rulers, justice, peace, and opportunities for the gospel.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between biblical watchfulness and fear-driven obsession with news, rumors, or prophetic speculation?

- Why must watching and praying remain joined rather than practiced separately?

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-
- How can ordinary cares, comfort, entertainment, and responsibility gradually make a believer spiritually dull?

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- What three qualities does First Thessalonians 5:8 connect with sober watchfulness?

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-
- Which danger are you presently more likely to underestimate: temptation, deception, distraction, fear, prayerlessness, or coldness of heart?

A Prayer to Watch and Pray

Father,

Thank You for warning Your people because You love us.

Forgive me for spiritual sleep, prayerlessness, distraction, carelessness, and coldness of heart.

Forgive me for the times I have watched events without praying, or prayed vaguely without watching my own soul.

Protect me from deception.

Help me test every teaching, claim, and spiritual impression through Scripture.

Keep me from prophetic pride, date-setting, rumors, conspiracy, and careless conclusions.

Deliver me from panic.

Give me sober judgment, established faith, active love, and the hope of salvation.

Show me the temptations and conditions I have underestimated.

Help me watch and pray before pressure becomes strong.

Do not let comfort, entertainment, work, or the cares of life dull my heart.

Teach me to pray for all believers, faithful ministers, rulers, persecuted Christians, and people who do not know Jesus Christ.

Help me remain informed without becoming consumed.

Give me wisdom to verify information and refuse to spread fear or falsehood.

Keep me faithful in my home, church, work, relationships, and hidden life.

Let my watchfulness produce obedience rather than speculation.

Let my prayer produce dependence rather than passivity.

And keep me looking with hope for the return of Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

For the next seven days, practice this brief daily pattern:

Morning

Read one passage of Scripture and ask:

“Lord, what must I watch for today?”

During the Day

When fear, temptation, anger, or distraction appears, pause and pray before responding.

Evening

Ask:

“Where was I spiritually awake, and where did I become careless?”

Then complete these statements:

I need to reduce:

I need to verify:

I need to resist:

I need to pray for:

I need to obey:

Choose one specific danger and one specific prayer burden.

Watch over that area faithfully without panic.

Pray over it consistently without giving up.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 93: How to Avoid Falling Away

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does spiritual departure often begin through neglect and small compromises rather than one sudden public denial of Christ?

- What is the difference between a serious stumble followed by repentance and a settled decision to reject Christ and truth?

- How does the deceitfulness of sin gradually harden a person's heart?

- Why are Scripture, obedience, prayer, and mutual Christian exhortation all necessary means of remaining close to Christ?

- Which present sign of drift should you address before it develops into something more serious?

A Prayer to Remain Faithful

Father,

Thank You for warning me because You love me.

Keep me from drifting, hardening my heart, loving the world, believing deception, or departing from Jesus Christ.

Forgive me for neglected prayer, neglected Scripture, delayed obedience, hidden compromise, and ignored conviction.

Show me where sin has deceived me.

Expose every promise it has made and every consequence it has hidden.

Give me a tender heart when I hear Your voice.

Help me respond today rather than teaching my heart to delay.

Keep me grounded in the true gospel and the true Jesus Christ.

Protect me from false teachers, seducing spirits, pride, and spiritual presumption.

When believers fail me, keep my eyes upon Jesus.

When persecution or hardship comes, deepen my roots.

When the world attracts my heart, show me the greater worth of Christ.

Keep me within truthful, healthy Christian fellowship.

Give me humility to receive correction and courage to confess hidden sin.

When I stumble, lead me quickly into repentance rather than despair or further rebellion.

Help me encourage believers who are becoming weak and pursue those who wander with truth, wisdom, and love.

I do not trust my strength.

I trust Jesus Christ.

Help me abide in Him, continue in His Word, obey His commandments, and remain faithful until the end.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements without excusing or exaggerating your condition:

I Have Begun Drifting Through

The Truth I Have Neglected Is

The Sin or Desire I Have Protected Is

The Person I Need to Speak With Is

The Practice I Must Restore Is

My Act of Repentance Today Will Be

Do not wait for a stronger feeling.

Take the first truthful step today.

Return to Scripture.

Pray honestly.

Confess the hidden matter.

Remove the compromising influence.

Contact a faithful believer.

And turn your heart again toward Jesus Christ before drift becomes greater distance.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 94: How to Overcome Until the End

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between enduring the Christian course and overcoming the particular battles encountered along it?

- Why must Christian victory begin with Christ's finished work rather than confidence in human willpower?

- How do the blood of the Lamb, the word of testimony, and loyalty to Christ work together in Revelation 12:11?

- Why does overcoming evil with good sometimes include truthful confrontation, boundaries, reporting wrongdoing, or protective action?

- Which present battle is most likely to defeat your obedience if you continue responding to it in the same way?

A Prayer to Overcome Until the End

Father,

Thank You for giving victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I confess that I cannot overcome sin, the world, the devil, fear, deception, or suffering through my own strength.

Thank You that Jesus Christ has overcome the world.

Thank You for the blood of the Lamb, through which sinners are redeemed, forgiven, and cleansed.

Help me stand in the gospel rather than my own righteousness.

Show me clearly which battle is presently gaining ground in my life.

Expose every lie I have believed, every compromise I have protected, and every provision I have made for defeat.

Give me faith to believe Your Word.

Give me courage to resist through real obedience.

Help me remove access to temptation, reject false teaching, refuse worldly approval, and maintain a faithful testimony to Jesus Christ.

When I am accused falsely, anchor me in truth.

When conviction exposes real sin, lead me quickly into confession and repentance.

Do not let one fall become surrender.

Teach me to overcome evil with good without becoming passive toward danger or wrongdoing.

Give me humility to receive help, accountability, treatment, counsel, or protection where needed.

Keep me from prideful confidence after victory and hopeless despair after failure.

Establish, strengthen, and settle me through the God of all grace.

Help me hold fast what I have and keep Christ's works unto the end.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose the one battle that most threatens your present faithfulness.

Complete these statements:

The Battle Is

The Lie Behind It Is

Christ's Truth Is

The Access or Compromise I Must Remove Is

The Resistance God Requires Is

The Help I Will Seek Is

My Action Today Will Be

Do not attempt to overcome only through emotion.

Read the Scripture that addresses the battle.

Remove one provision for defeat.

Tell one trustworthy believer the truth.

Then take one concrete act of obedience today.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 95: Why the Warnings of Scripture Must Be Taken Seriously

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why are the warnings of Scripture an expression of God's mercy rather than evidence that He delights in frightening people?

- Why must warning passages concerning false profession, church discipline, lost reward, apostasy, and eternal judgment not be treated as though they all describe the same situation?

- What is the difference between biblical assurance and spiritual presumption?

- Why should Hebrews 10 not be reduced either to every conscious sin or to a harmless warning with no real danger?

- Which warning of Scripture are you most tempted either to explain away or to apply to yourself without proper context?

A Prayer for a Heart That Hears God's Warnings

Father,

Thank You for every promise, command, encouragement, correction, and warning You have given in Scripture.

Forgive me for reading only the passages I find comfortable.

Forgive me for explaining away warnings that expose my sin or presumption.

Keep me also from misusing severe passages, taking them out of context, or allowing fear to hide the grace of Jesus Christ.

Teach me to behold both Your goodness and Your severity.

Give me reverence without hopeless terror.

Give me assurance without carelessness.

Help me distinguish false profession, discipline, loss of reward, deliberate rebellion, and eternal judgment according to what each passage actually teaches.

Search my heart.

Expose every place where I am trusting:

religious activity;

past experience;

human approval;

or outward appearance

instead of Jesus Christ.

Show me any known sin I have begun to treat casually.

Help me respond today.

When I am presumptuous, awaken me.

When I am repentant and afraid, lead me boldly to the throne of grace.

Protect pastors and teachers from softening Your Word or using warnings to control people.

Make us faithful to preach the whole counsel of God with truth, tears, humility, and hope.

Keep me believing, abiding, repenting, holding fast, and continuing in Jesus Christ.

In His name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one warning passage that has either troubled you or that you have tended to avoid.

Read:

the entire chapter;

the preceding section;

and the section that follows.

Then complete these statements:

God Is Warning About

The Warning Is Addressed To

The Response God Requires Is

The Hope or Promise in the Context Is

I Have Been Tempted Toward Presumption By

Or I Have Been Tempted Toward Despair By

Today I Will Respond By

Do not stop with interpretation.

Take the response the passage requires.

Believe.

Repent.

Hold fast.

Flee.

Return.

Or seek faithful help.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 96: How to Live With Eternity in View

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does the temporary nature of earthly life make present obedience more meaningful rather than less meaningful?

- How can ordinary work, family care, rest, and hidden service possess eternal value when performed unto Jesus Christ?

- What is the difference between receiving earthly gifts gratefully and treating those gifts as ultimate?

- How does the promise of resurrection and renewed creation help believers face suffering without denying grief?

- Which temporary concern, desire, possession, conflict, or ambition presently appears too large because eternity has become too small in your view?

A Prayer to Live With Eternity in View

Father,

You are eternal, and my earthly life is brief.

Thank You for giving eternal life through Jesus Christ.

My hope rests in His death, resurrection, righteousness, and promise.

Forgive me for allowing temporary things to become too large in my heart.

Forgive me for building identity upon possessions, comfort, success, recognition, health, or human approval.

Set my affection upon things above, where Jesus Christ sits at Your right hand.

Teach me to use earthly things without becoming controlled by them.

Help me receive Your gifts gratefully without making them idols.

Give eternal value to my ordinary duties as I perform them in faith, love, and obedience unto the Lord.

Help me see people as souls who will stand before You.

Make me more faithful in love, forgiveness, service, warning, and gospel witness.

When I suffer, remind me that pain is real but not final.

Strengthen me with the hope of resurrection, the new heavens and new earth, and life in Your presence.

Keep me from morbid fear, escapism, irresponsibility, or prophetic fascination without holiness.

Make me diligent to be found faithful.

Help me refuse temporary gain that requires spiritual compromise.

Do not let me spend my brief life building only what will disappear.

Let my work, relationships, possessions, opportunities, and hidden choices serve Jesus Christ and His everlasting kingdom.

Above every gift, teach me to desire You.

Be the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one present concern or decision and complete these statements:

This Feels Ultimate to Me Right Now

Scripture Shows It Is Temporary Because

The Eternal Reality I Need to Remember Is

The Person or Responsibility I Need to Value Differently Is

The Compromise I Must Refuse Is

The Faithful Action I Will Take Today Is

Take one action that reflects eternal perspective.

Release an unnecessary conflict.

Perform an ordinary duty faithfully.

Contact someone whose soul matters.

Refuse temporary gain that requires compromise.

Or return time and attention to Jesus Christ.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 97: How to Prepare to Stand Before the Judgment Seat of Christ

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between salvation through Jesus Christ and the evaluation of a believer's earthly work?

- Why does First Corinthians 3 emphasize the quality of work rather than merely its visible size or quantity?

- How should the knowledge that Christ will reveal motives affect service performed for praise, recognition, competition, or control?

- Why can ordinary work and hidden service possess eternal value while some highly visible religious activity may suffer loss?

- Which present responsibility, motive, relationship, or method would you most want to correct before standing before Jesus Christ?

A Prayer to Be Ready to Give Account

Father,

Thank You for salvation through Jesus Christ.

My hope is not in my works, religious activity, reputation, or reward.

My hope is in the death, resurrection, righteousness, and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Thank You that there is no condemnation for those who are in Him.

Yet Your Word teaches that I will give account of my earthly life.

Search me now.

Show me what I am building and why I am building it.

Expose pride, competition, selfish ambition, dishonesty, and the desire for human praise.

Forgive me for using people, neglecting responsibilities, wasting opportunities, or protecting an image instead of maintaining a clean conscience.

Help me build upon Jesus Christ with truth, holiness, love, and faithful methods.

Teach me to perform ordinary duties unto the Lord.

Help me serve faithfully when no person notices.

Give me courage to confess wrongdoing, apologize, make restitution, receive correction, and change harmful patterns.

Keep me from comparing my stewardship with another believer's.

Help me use the time, gifts, influence, relationships, and opportunities You have entrusted to me.

Where work has been wasted, lead me into repentance rather than despair.

Where faithful work remains unfinished, help me complete the next portion.

Make my greatest desire to please Jesus Christ.

Let what I build endure His truthful examination and bring glory to His name.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one area of stewardship and complete these statements:

Christ Has Entrusted Me With

I Have Been Tempted to Use It For

My Hidden Motive May Be

The Person or Responsibility I Have Neglected Is

The Correction I Need to Make Is

The Faithful Work I Will Do This Week Is

Take one concrete action while earthly opportunity remains.

Complete the neglected responsibility.

Confess the hidden motive.

Correct the dishonest method.

Offer the apology.

Make restitution.

Or begin serving faithfully without seeking recognition.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 98: How to Lay Up Treasure in Heaven

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why is laying up treasure in heaven the fruit of salvation rather than a way of purchasing salvation?

- How can responsible provision, appropriate enjoyment, and generous giving exist together without contradiction?

- What safeguards should believers use to avoid manipulation, prosperity teaching, financial exploitation, or unwise giving?

- Why may a small gift or hidden act of service possess greater eternal value than a large public contribution?

- What resource—money, time, skill, hospitality, attention, influence, or prayer—are you presently storing mainly for yourself rather than using for eternal good?

A Prayer to Lay Up Treasure in Heaven

Father,

Everything I possess has come from You.

Thank You for life, strength, provision, opportunities, relationships, abilities, and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Forgive me for trusting money, loving possessions, fearing loss, comparing myself with others, and using Your gifts mainly for myself.

Make Jesus Christ my greatest treasure.

Help me provide responsibly for the people and obligations You have entrusted to me.

Give me wisdom to save appropriately without allowing fear to make me selfish.

Teach me to give willingly, thoughtfully, proportionately, and cheerfully.

Protect me from manipulation, false promises, dishonest ministries, and giving that enables harm.

Help me recognize faithful gospel work, genuine need, and opportunities that possess eternal value.

Show me how to use my money, time, home, abilities, attention, prayer, and influence for Your glory.

Purify my motives.

Keep me from giving for recognition, control, competition, or spiritual appearance.

Help me remember overlooked people who cannot repay me.

Do not let me postpone generosity until some imagined future when I have more.

Teach me to begin faithfully with what is already in my hand.

Let my earthly resources become instruments of eternal good.

And let every act of generosity direct my heart more fully toward Jesus Christ and His everlasting kingdom.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Choose one resource God has entrusted to you.

Then complete these statements:

God Has Given Me

I Have Mainly Used It For

An Eternal Need I Can Address Is

A Responsible Amount or Action Is

The Motive I Need to Guard Is

The Person or Ministry I Need to Examine Carefully Is

I Will Act By

Take one thoughtful action this week.

Give privately.

Help someone who cannot repay you.

Support faithful gospel work.

Offer hospitality.

Use a skill.

Give time.

Or remove one unnecessary expense and redirect it toward eternal good.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 99: How to Die in Faith, Ready to Meet the Lord

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Prayer Must Also Include Surrender

Jesus prayed in Gethsemane:

“Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.” — Luke 22:42, KJV

Submission does not weaken prayer.

It acknowledges that God is Lord.

A Christian may pray:

“Lord, heal me.”

And also:

“Lord, my life belongs to You.”

Faith is not the power to force one outcome.

It is confidence in God through whatever outcome He permits.

Choosing Comfort-Focused Care Is Not Necessarily Giving Up

There may come a time when treatment no longer offers a reasonable possibility of cure or meaningful benefit.

Choosing care focused upon:

comfort;

pain control;

dignity;

family support;

and quality of remaining life

is not automatically suicide, unbelief, or abandonment.

Such decisions should be made with clear medical information, prayer, appropriate family discussion, and respect for the patient’s informed wishes.

Palliative care may be used during serious illness while other treatment continues. Hospice is a particular form of comfort-focused care near the end of life. These services can also support families and caregivers.

Comfort Care Is Not Hastening Death

There is a moral difference between:

caring compassionately for a dying person;

and intentionally causing death.

The goal of appropriate comfort care is to relieve suffering and support the person through the natural dying process.

Specific treatment questions can be medically and ethically complex.

Seek qualified clinicians and, where needed, trustworthy pastoral or ethical counsel.

Do not make major medical decisions from slogans alone.

Dying in Faith Does Not Mean Hastening Death

Suffering can become severe.

A person may say:

“I want this to end.”

That statement may express:

pain;

fear;

depression;

exhaustion;

or loss of hope.

It should be taken seriously and compassionately.

The response is not condemnation.

Seek immediate medical and emotional support.

Life remains a stewardship from God.

Dying in faith means entrusting the timing of death to Him while receiving appropriate care.

Paul Faced Death Honestly

Near the end of his life, Paul wrote:

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.” — 2 Timothy 4:6, KJV

Paul did not deny what was happening.

He called death:

“my departure.”

He understood that earthly ministry was ending.

His identity and hope were not ending.

Paul Looked Back With a Clear Testimony

Paul continued:

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” — 2 Timothy 4:7, KJV

He did not claim that he had never struggled or failed.

He testified that through Christ’s grace he had continued.

He had:

fought;

finished;

and kept the faith.

A faithful death is connected to a faithful course.

Discipleship Questions

- What is the difference between dying in faith and pretending to feel no fear, grief, weakness, or pain?

- Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ the foundation of Christian hope in the face of death?

- How can prayer for healing, medical treatment, comfort-focused care, and submission to God’s will exist together?

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- Why can advance care planning, lawful documents, financial organization, and funeral wishes be acts of Christian stewardship and love?
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- Which spiritual, relational, medical, or practical matter would leave unnecessary confusion or regret if you died without addressing it?
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A Prayer to Die in Faith

Father,

Thank You for eternal life through Jesus Christ.

My hope is not in my goodness, religious works, emotions, or strength.

My hope is in the death and resurrection of Your Son.

Thank You that Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Teach me to live in faith so that I may also die in faith.

Forgive me for avoiding the reality of death or presuming upon tomorrow.

Show me every spiritual, relational, medical, legal, or practical matter I should address.

Help me confess sin, maintain a clean conscience, apologize where I have done wrong, and forgive personal offenses.

Give me wisdom to prepare my family without attempting to control them.

Help me communicate my wishes, organize responsibilities, and choose trustworthy people to help when I cannot speak for myself.

When illness comes, give me wisdom to seek appropriate treatment.

Let me pray boldly for healing while remaining surrendered to Your will.

Protect me from both hopelessness and false promises.

Give compassion and strength to caregivers.

Help the church remain present with the sick and dying.

When I am afraid, remind me that You are with me.

When I am weak, hold me.

When I cannot speak, know my heart.

When death approaches, help me entrust myself to Jesus Christ.

Let my final testimony point people toward the Saviour rather than toward me.

Whether I live or die, I am Yours.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Step

Complete these statements prayerfully:

My Eternal Hope Is

The Spiritual Matter I Must Address Is

The Person I Need to Contact Is

The Medical Conversation I Need to Have Is

The Document or Responsibility I Need to Organize Is

The Testimony I Want My Family to Know Is

The Fear I Am Entrusting to Christ Is

Take one practical action this week.

Have the conversation.

Make the appointment.

Organize the document.

Offer the apology.

Record your testimony.

Or explain clearly to someone you trust that your hope rests in Jesus Christ.

Notes and Prayer

Lesson 100: How to Follow Jesus Christ Until You See Him Face to Face

Read the complete lesson first, then answer prayerfully and honestly.

Discipleship Questions

- Why does completing a discipleship course not mean that a Christian has completed discipleship?

- What is the difference between following Jesus Christ and merely following Christian principles, traditions, leaders, or routines?

- What does Jesus' command to Peter—"What is that to thee? follow thou me"—teach about comparison?

- How should the promise of seeing Jesus face to face affect present holiness, service, and endurance?

- What is the clearest present step through which Jesus Christ is calling you to follow Him now?

Final Next Step

Do not treat Lesson 100 as graduation from discipleship.

Set aside time to answer one question honestly:

Where Is Jesus Christ Calling Me to Follow Him More Faithfully Today?

Then write one action beneath it:

My Next Step of Obedience Is

Take that step.

Afterward, continue returning to these lessons as needed.

Do not rush through them merely to remember information.

Use them to examine your life beneath Scripture.

Keep reading the Bible.

Keep praying.

Keep repenting.

Keep serving.

Keep helping others follow.

And continue one faithful day at a time until you see Jesus Christ face to face.

Notes and Prayer
