PROTECTING YOUR LIFE THROUGH RESISTANCE

God's creation can help you realize that His way is the best way to live.

By Mel D Westbrook MBTh

Resisting Through God's Creation

What Can You Expect from This Book?

Resisting Bad Decisions
You can find yourself in undesirable relationships, financial habits, negative emotions, or spiritual temptations that you just can't seem to win over. Also, during the normal activities of your day, there are situations where you are faced with making questionable decisions. You can be pressured to do things you know you shouldn't. Living a quality Christian life requires you to avoid many pitfalls, traps, and dead-end paths all during your day. Learning how to handle these things through Jesus' power-resistance is vital in these situations.

Submitting To a Relationship with God
James 4:7 (NIV) SUBMIT yourselves, then, to God. RESIST the devil, and he will flee from you. In the books on submission, Jesus introduced you into how to keep developing a closer and closer relationship with your heavenly Father by SUBMITTING to Him. This was so you would be able to win over your issues with life. He also explained many of the ways for you to take advantage of that special relationship.

You are now ready for Jesus to teach you how to use your submitted relationship with your heavenly Father. It will help you work together with Him to RESIST wrong, bad, and evil things. You and Jesus will be working against those things that are trying to get into your life to hurt you. Preventing them from happening is far better an having to get rid of them.

A Whole-Life Approach
Keep in mind that these books are leading you into a system of only two pages each day for five days. As with all of the Victorious Christian Living books, on the first page you will study the vital Biblical principles. On the second page, you will pray and ask Jesus to apply those principles to your life. Even though you are only studying and praying over two pages each day, by the end of a year, Jesus will have made tremendous changes in your life.

Studying and praying are only part of your spiritual growth. You and Jesus will be going out in life; and, He will be helping you apply that day's truths. If you are exposed to a lot of concepts, it will become overwhelming. On a typical day, you and Jesus first go through the Study Page together. After that, on the Prayer Page, you ask Him to empower you to live those truths. Then all day long you and He will work on you living a superior life. He wants to bless you, empower you, and enhance all aspects of your life.

As you allow Jesus to teach you how to resist wrong, bad, and evil things, you PREVENT them from happening in the first place. We will be praying that you and Jesus can work together to protect you from all those things that typically come against you.

Your Study Page For:
Moving From Wickedness to Christianity

Is there something you should hate?

Six Ways of Resisting

1. You Must Stop Wrong

This and the previous series are dealing with **James 4:7: Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (NIV).** In the previous series, in order to help you **submit** yourself, **then, to God**, Jesus helped you grow in your love for God. Now, in order for you to **resist the devil, and he will flee from you**, He is helping you develop a HATRED for the things of the body, the world, and the devil. This will help you stop wrong things from coming into your life.

2. You Must Have the Right Desires

You must WANT righteous things that empower you to only do good things to yourself and others. And, you must HATE evil things that do only bad things to you and others. **Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I WANT to do I do not do, but what I HATE I do.** The requirement of God after you have been born again is to WANT to do the right things and HATE doing the wrong things. As you can see in Romans 7:15, you won't yet know how to DO the right things; but, God requires that you WANT them. Jesus put these two attitudes in your heart when you made Him your Lord, Savior, and King.

3. You Must Maintain These Two Attitudes

Your job or responsibility is to maintain these two attitudes. And, the way to maintain them is to apply The Three Keys to All of Christianity. You must ASK Jesus to empower you to maintain the WANT and HATE that God requires of you. Jesus is ready to provide you with the training and power to maintain these two attitudes. He is going to help you grow in your respect, appreciation, and excitement concerning God's creation. He will show you how to resist the devil without spending a lot of time doing it.

4. You Must Accept Your Main Assignment

Heb 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. One of Satan's biggest efforts against you and all humanity is to try to convince you that God doesn't exist. If you are a person who has never had a problem with that issue, you have always known God exists, that still doesn't keep you from dealing with this issue. Millions of people are struggling with it; and, you need to understand how to help yourself and all these people.

5. You Must Fight the Lie

Rom 1:18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. As you know, Satan uses people to try to keep other people from coming to Jesus. Here is the first place you need to put up your resistances. What are these **godlessness and wickedness of men suppressing the truth** about? What are they trying to do to you and the people around you? They are trying to keep as many people as possible from getting to know God. Since everyone's first assignment is to **believe that God exists,** Satan has come up with as many lies, tricks, and deceptions as possible.

6. You Must Realize People Are Lying to You on Purpose

Rom 1:18-19 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. First of all, these **godless and wicked men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,** know the truth. **What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.** It isn't an accident, a misunderstanding, or some unavoidable mistake. There are people who are lying to you with the express purpose of destroying your faith in God; they know what they are doing.

What Is God Doing About This?

God Is Providing Proof

Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. God hasn't left you without all the necessary evidences. He isn't going to require that you and the people around you **believe that He exists** and not make it plain to you. It is easy to resist the lies of the devil and close the doors if you will allow God to provide you with His proof.

God's Creation Is Proof

For since the creation of the world: If you don't want to be blind to the greatness of God, then you must be willing to start looking with openness of heart at God's creation. God expects you to allow it to talk to you and impress you. He wants you to learn to appreciate the beauty, the complexity, the unity, and the brilliance of His work. If you just go around taking advantage of it without admiring it, then you are allowing **godless and wicked men to suppress the truth by their wickedness** in your heart and mind. You need to fight and resist their efforts.

The Greatness of God Is Visible
For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature: Did you know that you can start looking around at God's creation and see **His eternal power and divine nature?** God is trying to speak to you in a powerful way by making the creation beautiful, dynamic, impressive, and revealing. If you look at the creation through the eyes of **godlessness and wickedness men,** you will be blind to it all. But, if you will ask God to reveal **His eternal power and divine nature** to you, He will. The more you allow God to show you His greatness, the easier it will be to resist the devil and close the doors to him.

They Are Looking for An Excuse
So that men are without excuse: The philosophies, lies, deceptions, and misinformation that are coming your way are designed by people who don't want to spend time with God. AND, they are committed to not allowing you to have a close and intimate relationship with Him either. As long as you don't clearly see their motives, it will be hard to resist them. If you don't know that they will do anything to come up with an excuse for rejecting God, you will trust rather than resist them.

Your Prayer Page For:
Moving From Wickedness to Christianity
Is there something I should hate?

Six Ways of Resisting
1. I Must Stop Wrong Things I Am Letting in My Life

Jesus, help me understand that in this and the previous series, You are dealing with **James 4:7: Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (NIV).** In the previous series, You helped me **submit** myself, **then, to God**, You helped me grow in my love for God. Now, in order for me to **resist the devil, and he will flee from** me, You are helping me develop a HATRED for the things of the body, the world, and the devil. This will help me stop wrong things from coming into my life.

2. I Must Have the Right Desires

Jesus, help me WANT righteous things that empower me to only do good to myself and others. And, help me HATE evil things that do only bad things to me and others. **Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I WANT to do I do not do, but what I HATE I do.** Teach me that God's requirement after I have been born again is to WANT to do the right things and HATE doing the wrong things. I can see in Romans 7:15, that I won't yet know how to DO the right things; but, teach me that God requires me to WANT them. Show me that You put these two attitudes in my heart when I accepted You as my Lord, Savior, and King.

3. I Must Maintain These Two Attitudes

Jesus, help me accept my responsibility for maintaining these two attitudes. And, make it clear to me that the way to maintain them is to apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. Help me be continuously ASKING You to empower me to maintain the WANT and HATE that God requires of me. Provide me with the training and power to maintain these two attitudes for the rest of my life. Help me grow in my respect, appreciation, and excitement concerning God's creation. Show me how to resist the devil without spending a lot of time doing it.

4. I Must Accept My Main Assignment

Heb 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Jesus, help me understand that one of Satan's biggest efforts against me and all humanity is to try to convince us that God doesn't exist. If I am a person who has never had a problem with that issue, if I have always known God exists, help me see that, that still doesn't keep me from dealing with this issue. Show me that millions of people are struggling with it; and, I need to understand how to help myself and all these people.

5. I Must Fight the Lie

Rom 1:18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. Jesus, I know Satan uses people to try to keep other people from coming to You. Show me where the first place is for me to put up my resistances. Reveal to me what these **godless and wicked men** are **suppressing.** What are they trying to do to me and the people around me? Make it clear to me that they are trying to keep as many people as possible from getting to know God. Since everyone's first assignment is to **believe that God exists,** Satan has come up with as many lies, tricks, and deceptions as possible. Help me fight them.

6. I Must Realize People Are Lying to Me on Purpose

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God's Creation Is Proof

For since the creation of the world: Jesus, help me not be blind to the greatness of God; help me be willing to start looking with openness of heart at God's creation. Since God expects me to allow it to talk to me and impress me, open my heart to it. Since He wants me to learn to appreciate the beauty, the complexity, the unity, and the brilliance of His work, help me appreciate it. Help me not to just go around taking advantage of it without admiring it. Help me not allow **godless and wicked men suppress the truth by their wickedness** in my heart and mind. Help me fight and resist their efforts and close the doors to them.

The Greatness of God is Visible

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature: Jesus, I didn't know I could start looking around at God's creation and see **His eternal power and divine nature.** Help me let God speak to me in a powerful way because He made creation beautiful, dynamic, impressive, and revealing. Help me not look at creation through the eyes of **godless and wicked men** so I won't be blind to it all. I ask You to reveal Your **eternal power and divine nature** to me. Show me Your greatness so it will easier to resist the devil.

They Are Looking for An Excuse

So that men are without excuse: Jesus, teach me that the philosophies, lies, deceptions, and misinformation that are coming my way are designed by people who don't want to spend time with God. AND, they are committed to not ALLOW me to have a close and intimate relationship with Him either. Help me clearly see their motives so it won't be hard to resist them. Help me know they will do anything to come up with an excuse for rejecting God. Help me use this knowledge so I won't have a hard time resisting them.

Your Study Page For:

Fighting Wickedness Through a Message from Creation

Have you ever allowed God's creation talk to you?

The Power of God's Creation

Explaining It All Away

Rom 1:21 (NIV) For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. To keep from admiring people who used people to get money, possessions, positions, popularity, prestige, pleasure, and accomplishments, you will need to learn how to resist their "appearance" of success. If you believe these people have something to teach you, then you will open the door rather than close it. This verse is giving you your reason to reject their appearance of success.

Atheists

Although they knew God: They can harden their conscience where they can no longer hear God; but, **they knew God.** Don't let their bold talk, hard selling, and condescending tones fool you. **What may be known about God is plain to them, <u>because God has made it plain to them</u>.**

You must have money to buy the things you *need*. But, your relationship with God is very dependent on how you go about getting it. **Mat 6:24 (NIV) No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. <u>You cannot SERVE both God and Money</u>.** You must focus on what is important; pray that God will help you want to serve Him and not the wealth and success of this world.

Fighting Against a Downward Progression

1. See More Than God's Existence

Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Creation is available for everyone to allow it to provide them proof of God's existence. But, the more you spend your time listening to these people's arguments, sales presentations, reasoning, and "proofs," you will have your vision narrowed and you will forget what you saw. These people started out where you are; they knew! But, as they stopped allowing God's creation to show them His wonderful works, they turned inward.

2. Observe Objects of Creation

For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him: God's creation isn't just beautiful, it's very functional. The foods, light, air, warmth, and resources came from God. God invented water, air, animals, trees, vegetables, birds, electricity, metals, soil, fish, physics, and humans. None existed until God thought them up, designed them, and created them. Wicked people can take advantage of them, take them for granted, and attribute them to random circumstances. But, they should be giving God the glory for it all.

3. Use Protection from Futile Thoughts

But their thinking became futile: All you have to do to resist heading in this direction is to obey Philippians 4:8: **Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things (NIV).** God's creation will give you plenty of Philippians 4:8 types of thoughts to think. That will empower you to resist failing to give glory and thanks to God. You mind will be filled with true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy thoughts.

4. Focus on The Light

And their foolish hearts were darkened: Whether it was caused by wanting to be rich, popular, powerful, or were seeking pleasure, they directed their attention to evil things. If God gets in the way of what you want, it is vital that you take it to Him immediately. If you focus your eyes on the wrong things, you bring darkness into your mind, your heart, and your life. **Mat 6:22-23 (NIV) The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!** As you resist looking at, focusing on, and imagining things the Bible speaks against, you keep darkness out of your life.

5. Identify Fake Experts

Rom 1:22 (NIV) Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools: It all started back at the beginning where they decided to prove to themselves that God didn't exist. They narrowed their view of God's creation and picked a few animals and fish to look at. Instead of constantly looking at the whole creation, they boiled it down to some things they could manipulate. They pulled themselves and as many people as possible away from the mighty work of God and started writing books. They provided themselves with credentials, positions, prestige, influence, and notoriety. But, **they became fools** because they convinced themselves and many other people of a lie.

6. See That Nothing Changed

Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. God's creation is still available for people who want to look at, examine, interpret, and establish the truth. There are more than enough evidences that they can look at and know it had to come from God. They can still repent and God will heal their mind and heart; but that is up to them. **John 12:43 (NIV) For they loved praise from men more than praise from God.**

Your Prayer Page For:

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The Power of God's Creation

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Atheists

Although they knew God: Jesus, help me understand that these people may have so hardened their conscience that they can no longer hear God; but, help me understand that **they knew God.** Keep me from letting all their bold talk, hard selling, and condescending tones cause me to forget that **what may be known about God is plain to them, <u>because God has made it plain to them</u>.**

Jesus, I need money in order to buy the things I NEED. But, teach me that my relationship with God is very dependent on how I go about getting it. **Mat 6:24 (NIV) No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. <u>You cannot SERVE both God and Money</u>.** Help me keep my focus on what is important; I want to serve You and not the wealth and success of this world.

I Am Fighting Against a Downward Progression

1. I Am Seeing More Than God's Existence

Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Jesus, make it clear to me that Your creation is available for everyone to observe and allow it to provide them proof of God's existence. But, the more I spend my time listening to these people's arguments, sales presentations, reasoning, and "proofs," I will have my vision narrowed and I will forget what I saw. Help me always keep in mind that these people started out where I am; they knew! But, as they stopped allowing God's creation to show them His wonderful works, they turned inward.

2. I Am Observing Objects of Creation

For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him: Jesus, help me see that God's creation isn't just beautiful, it is very functional. All the foods, light, air, warmth, supplies, and resources came from God. God invented water, air, animals, trees, vegetables, birds, electricity, metals, soil, fish, physics, and humans. Show me that none of these things existed until God thought them up, designed them, and created them. These wicked people can take advantage of them, take them for granted, and attribute them to random circumstances. But, they should be giving God the glory for it all. Help me so appreciate these things that I give God the glory.

3. I Am Using Protection from Futile Thoughts

But their thinking became futile: Jesus, teach me that all I have to do to resist heading in this direction is to obey Philippians 4:8: **Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things (NIV).** Let God's creation give me plenty of Philippians 4:8 types of thoughts to think. Let that empower me to resist failing to give glory and thanks to God. Help my mind to be filled with true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy thoughts.

4. I Am Focusing on The Light

And their foolish hearts were darkened: Jesus, whether it was caused by wanting to be rich, popular, powerful, or they were seeking pleasure, they directed their attention to evil things; protect me from this motivation. If God gets in the way of what I want, show me that it is vital that I take it to Him immediately. If I focus my eyes on the wrong things, I will bring darkness into my mind, my heart, and my life. **Mat 6:22-23 (NIV) The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!** As I resist looking at, focusing on, and imagining things the Bible speaks against, let that keep darkness out of my life.

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6. I Am Seeing That Nothing Changed

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Your Study Page For:
Your Protection from Wickedness

Do you know why Jesus came down from heaven?

The Benefits of Jesus' Power-Resistance

Having Protection from Lies

Rom 1:18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. The main reason God's wrath is on these people is because they are hurting themselves and other people. When they **suppress the truth by their wickedness,** they keep themselves and other people from seeing the wonderful blessings of God. **John 3:36 (NIV) Whoever believes in the Son <u>has eternal life</u>, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.** They aren't just **suppressing the truth** from themselves, they are campaigning and pushing their lies.

Having The Power to Resist

Psa 8:3 (NIV) When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, The power to resist evil doesn't just come through casual observance of God's creation; it takes considering. There is a message in God's creation that God not only exists, He exists in power, brilliance, love, and intricate detail. **Mat 10:30 (NIV) And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.** The universe is huge; but, the hairs on your head are numbered. Why would the God that you see when you look into the sky at night care about how many hairs you have on your head?

Having The Reasons to Resist

Psa 8:4 (NIV) What is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him? You are the ultimate feature of God's creation; when you see yourself in the mirror, you are looking at the one aspect of all creation that God paid the supreme price for. Why? **Gen 1:27 (NIV) So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

You being made in God's image is why it is so important for you to resist everything that contaminates you. You don't want to degrade into **the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.** Once God made you in His own image, He established incredible plans for you. But, you, the world, and the devil have plans for you too.

Having Resistance Life-Classes

Psa 8:5 (NIV) <u>You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings</u> and crowned him with glory and honor. Just like you wouldn't give a large, sharp knife to a young child, your heavenly Father won't give you His power until you mature, train, get skilled, and develop spiritually as a child of God. Even though you are the supreme purpose of His creation, He is holding power from you until you can be trusted with it. **Gal 4:1-2 (NIV) What I am saying is that as long as <u>the heir</u> is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he <u>owns the whole estate</u>. He is subject to guardians and trustees <u>until the time set by his father</u>.**

Increasing Your Resistance

Rom 1:19 (NIV) Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. This verse is revealing the fact that wicked men have no excuse for denying God's existence and greatness. But, it also reveals what is available to you as a person who is resisting wrong, bad, and evil. As you concentrate on the greatness of God's creation, **what may be known about God is plain to** you too. All YOU have to do is allow it to show you God's character and the power of your resistance will be increased. If you will allow Him, Jesus will open your eyes as you look at pictures of God's creation and you will know so much more about your heavenly Father.

Opening Your Eyes

Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world <u>God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made</u>, so that men are without excuse. If you miss the powerful message from God's creation, it is true that you will be **without excuse.** But, all you have to do is apply Matthew 7:7-8 which lists The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. ASK Jesus to open your eyes as you walk outside. ASK Him to help you look past the obvious and see how brilliant and loving God is.

Seeing God's Invisible Qualities

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities: God's objective in structuring His creation the way He did was to reveal His **invisible qualities.** That is the same purpose He had in sending His Son to earth. **John 14:9-10 (NIV) Jesus answered: "Don't you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just My own. <u>Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, Who is doing His work</u>.**

Jesus Entering the Creation

John 6:38 (NIV) For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him Who sent Me. When Jesus was born in a human body, He joined the creation. He became much more powerful as a revelation of **God's invisible qualities.** All that you can receive from Jesus as He lived in His earthly body will be a part of empowering you to resist your body's sinful desires, the world's training and influence, and Satan's temptations. Focus on Jesus as presented in the Gospels and He will give you great reasons for resisting everything that isn't godly.

Providing Resistance to Being Lost

John 6:39 (NIV) And this is the will of Him Who sent Me, that I shall LOSE none of all that He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. Jesus has been joining you in your resistance efforts. He is empowering you, teaching you, and helping you win against those things that are trying to take you down. As you look to Him in the Gospels, He will be a part of your creation evidences. He was in physical form so **God's invisible qualities** would become visible to you. And, as they do, you will be more and more convinced that He is the way you want to live your life.

From Resistance to Victory

John 6:40 (NIV) For My Father's will is that EVERYONE who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise Him up at the last day. This creation is temporary; you and it are here so as to help you become a child of God. Then once you do that, your next assignment is to train, practice, exercise, grow, and mature as a child of God. All the life-classes you have already gone through were strategically put in your life so as to train you in. The ones you are currently involved in are building on your past life-classes. Your future life-classes will put the finishing touches on you graduating into eternal life in God's Kingdom.

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Rom 1:18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. Jesus, teach me that the main reason God's wrath is on these people is because they are hurting themselves and other people. Show me that when they **suppress the truth by their wickedness,** they keep themselves and other people from seeing the wonderful blessings of God. **John 3:36 (NIV) Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.** Help me see clearly that they aren't just **suppressing the truth** from themselves, they are campaigning and pushing their lies.

I Have the Power to Resist

Psa 8:3 (NIV) When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place. Jesus, help me get the power to resist evil by going beyond casual observance of God's creation; help me move on into considering. Teach me that there is a message in God's creation that God not only exists, He exists in power, brilliance, love, and intricate detail. **Mat 10:30 (NIV) And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.** Help me see the greatness and detailed aspects of God. As I see that the universe is huge, help me also remember that the hairs on my head are numbered. Show me why the God that I see when I look into the sky at night cares about how many hairs I have on my head.

I Have the Reasons to Resist

Psa 8:4 (NIV) What is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him? Jesus, help me understand that I am the ultimate feature of God's creation; when I see myself in the mirror, I am looking at the one aspect of all creation that God paid the supreme price for. Help me understand why. **Gen 1:27 (NIV) So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

Jesus, make it clear that since I have been made in God's image, that is why it is so important for me to resist everything that contaminates me. Keep me from degrading into **the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.** Teach me that once God made me in His own image, He established incredible plans for me. But, help me see that I, the world, and the devil have plans for me too; help me resist them.

I Have Resistance Life-Classes

Psa 8:5 (NIV) <u>You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings</u> and crowned him with glory and honor. Jesus, just like I wouldn't give a large, sharp knife to a young child, my heavenly Father won't give me His power until I mature, train, get skilled, and develop spiritually as a child of God. Even though I am the supreme purpose of His creation, He is holding power from me until I can be trusted with it. **Gal 4:1-2 (NIV) What I am saying is that as long as <u>the heir</u> is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he <u>owns the whole estate</u>. He is subject to guardians and trustees <u>until the time set by his father</u>.**

I Am Increasing My Resistance

Rom 1:19 (NIV) Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. Jesus, even though this verse is revealing the fact that wicked men have no excuse for denying God's existence and greatness, help me see that it also reveals what is available to me as a person who is resisting wrong, bad, and evil. As I concentrate on the greatness of God's creation, **what may be known about God is plain to** me too. Teach me that all I have to do is allow it to show me God's character and that will cause the power of my resistance to be increased. Open my eyes as I look at pictures of God's creation so I will know much more about my heavenly Father.

I Am Opening My Eyes

Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world <u>God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made</u>, so that men are without excuse. Jesus, if I miss the powerful message from God's creation, it is true that I will be **without excuse.** But, teach me that all I have to do is apply Matthew 7:7-8 which lists The Three Keys to All of Christianity. I now ASK that You open my eyes as I walk outside. Help me look past the obvious and see how brilliant and loving God is.

I Am Seeing God's Invisible Qualities

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities: Jesus, show me that God's objective in structuring His creation like He did was to reveal His **invisible qualities.** Teach me that this is the same purpose He had in sending You to earth. **John 14:9-10 (NIV) Jesus answered: "Don't you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just My own. <u>Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, Who is doing His work</u>.**

Jesus Entering the Creation

John 6:38 (NIV) For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him Who sent Me. Jesus, show me that You joined creation when You were born in a human body. You became much more powerful as a revelation of **God's invisible qualities.** Let Your life that You lived in Your earthly body empower me to resist my body's sinful desires, the world's training and influence, and Satan's temptations. Help me focus on You as presented in the Gospels; give me great reasons for resisting everything that isn't godly.

I Am Resisting Being Lost

John 6:39 (NIV) And this is the will of Him Who sent Me, that I shall LOSE none of all that He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. Jesus, I see in this verse that You have been joining me in my resistance efforts. You are empowering me, teaching me, and helping me win against those things that are trying to take me down. As I look to You in the Gospels, be a part of my creation evidences. Teach me that You were in physical form so **God's invisible qualities** would become visible to me. And, as they do, help me be more and more convinced that You are the way I want to live my life.

From Resistance to Victory

John 6:40 (NIV) For My Father's will is that EVERYONE who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise Him up at the last day. Jesus, show me that creation is temporary; I and it are here to help me become a child of God. Once I do that, my next assignment is to train, practice, exercise, grow, and mature as a child of God. All the life-classes I have already gone through were strategically put in my life so as to train me. The ones I am currently involved in are building on my past life-classes. My future life-classes will put the finishing touches on me graduating into eternal life in God's Kingdom.

Your Study Page For:
Fighting Wickedness Through Believing in Jesus

Why do some people resist you when you talk about Jesus?

Taking Steps into Resistance

1. Understand the Love of God

Rom 1:18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. The important thing to realize about God is that He IS LOVE: **1 John 4:8 (NIV) Whoever does not love does not know God, because <u>God is love</u>.**

God's wrath is on these people because they are hurting themselves and other people. God really loves those people who are being hurt by these wicked people who **suppress the truth by their wickedness.**

2. See What Wickedness Is All About

God really cares that these wicked people are keeping themselves and other people from seeing His wonderful blessings. **John 3:36 (NIV) Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.** They aren't just **suppressing the truth** from themselves, they are campaigning and pushing their lies. They are doing their best to keep people from believing in the Son and getting eternal life. People are rejecting Jesus because of their lies.

3. Notice Wickedness Procedures

Here is another way the wicked suppress the truth: When you are at work, do you feel the resistance when you talk about Jesus? If you bring your Bible to a party, can you visualize the looks and stares? When you mention things people are doing that the Bible speaks against, can you feel the resistance? **Suppressing the truth** isn't just a personal matter, these people are campaigning and pushing their lies. For you to resist wrong, bad, and evil, it won't just be a temptation from the devil in your mind, it will come from every direction during your day. People, literature, videos, movies, games, and advertisements will be pushing those things you and the people around you need to resist.

4. Cooperate with God's Creation

Eph 6:10 (NIV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in HIS mighty power. Jesus is trying to make you a vessel He can flow through in power. He is trying to train you so you can be used by Him to destroy evil. **2 Cor 10:4 (NIV) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have DIVINE power to demolish strongholds.** As you look to Jesus in His earthly body and look at all the incredible aspects of God's creation, it is so you will be able to yield to Jesus' supernatural power.

5. Learn How to Yield to Jesus

Phil 4:13 (NIV) I can do everything through Him (Jesus) Who gives me strength. As you see what Jesus is capable of by looking at His incredible creation, it helps you realize what He is trying to do in you, through you, for you, to you, and with you. As long as you see things as a human, think like a human, and believe like a human, you will find it difficult to be able to resist evil from a supernatural basis.

6. Be Impressed with Jesus' Power

1 Pet 5:8-9 (NIV) Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. If you have really seen Who Jesus is and what He wants to do in and through you, then creation has done its job. It has revealed **God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature.** God's creation has shown you that **You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, BECAUSE the One Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4).**

Understand Who Jesus Is

Number six, "Be Impressed with Jesus' Power" is encouraging you to be amazed with Jesus. Let Jesus show you how powerful and eternal He is. It is vital that you see this so you won't be impressed with your problems, your body, the world, or the devil's influence. So, prepare your heart and mind for "Understanding Who Jesus Is."

1. Jesus Is the Word of God

John 1:1-3 (NIV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made Jesus is the Word; He is the divine expression of God. He is the Creator of heaven and earth; and, He created you. Jesus stepped into a small part of His creation when He came to earth as a baby. When He turned water into wine, calmed storms, raised the dead, and healed sick bodies, He was exercising His authority over His own creation. That is what He wants to do in and through you.

2. Jesus Was in The Beginning

In the beginning was the Word: Jesus isn't part of God's creation; Jesus is the Creator. Jesus is the Word that spoke all of creation into existence. When you admire, appreciate, and are blessed by the creation, you are being influenced by Jesus' handicraft. What you see is representative of God and His greatness. But, Jesus created them for His own specific purpose. **Col 1:15-16 (NIV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.**

3. Jesus Was with God

The Word was with God: Jesus was in on all the decision-making before the final decision was made as to mankind: **Gen 1:26 (NIV) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."** This is an opportunity for you to see God making decisions prior to fulfilling them.

4. Jesus Is God

The Word was God: Jesus stripped Himself of His God nature, equality, authority, and power in order to come to earth in the likeness of a human. **Phil 2:5-7 (NIV) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.** Just coming to earth was a major sacrifice.

5. Jesus Is Your Creator

Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made: With such a beautiful, beneficial creation and with Jesus Who has such a sacrificial love, you are being given an incredible amount of powerful information. If you will pray and allow all of that information, be put into your attitudes and character, you will be able to trust God with all you have and all you are.

6. Jesus Is Your Source of Faith

Heb 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. The objective of God is to help you believe that He exists and that He rewards your efforts of seeking Him. Once Jesus and His creation have empowered your faith so you are able to believe God exists, Jesus is ready to supply you with the faith to believe God **rewards those who earnestly seek Him.**

Your Prayer Page For:
Fighting Wickedness Through Believing in Jesus

Why do some people resist me when I talk about Jesus?

I Am Taking Steps into Resistance

1. I Am Understanding the Love of God

Rom 1:18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. Help me understand that the important thing to realize about God is that He IS LOVE: **1 John 4:8 (NIV) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.** Help me appreciate God's wrath on these people because they are hurting themselves and other people. Show me that God really loves those people who are being hurt by these wicked people who **suppress the truth by their wickedness.**

2. I See What Wickedness Is All About

Help me see that God really cares that these wicked people are keeping themselves and other people from seeing His wonderful blessings. **John 3:36 (NIV) Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.** Show me that they aren't just **suppressing the truth** from themselves, they are campaigning and pushing their lies. They are doing their best to keep people from believing in the Son and getting eternal life. People are rejecting Jesus because of their lies. Help me get the truth to these hurting people.

3. I Am Noticing Wickedness Procedures

Jesus, show me other ways the wicked suppress the truth as I go about my day: When I am at work, I feel their resistance when I talk about You. If I bring my Bible to a party, I can visualize the looks and stares from them. When I mention things people are doing that the Bible speaks against, I can feel the resistance. Help me see that **suppressing the truth** isn't just a personal matter, these people are pushing and spreading their lies. Help me understand that for me to resist wrong, bad, and evil, it won't just be a temptation from the devil in my mind, it will come from every direction during my day. People, literature, videos, movies, games, and advertisements will be pushing those things I and the people around me need to resist.

4. I Am Cooperating with God's Creation

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Phil 4:13 (NIV) I can do everything through Him (Jesus) Who gives me strength. Jesus, as I see what You are capable of by looking at Your incredible creation, let it help me realize what You are trying to do in me, through me, for me, to me, and with me. Teach me that as long as I see things as a human, think like a human, and believe like a human, I will find it difficult to be able to resist evil from a supernatural basis.

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Understand Who Jesus Is

Jesus, number six, "I Am Impressed with Jesus' Power" is encouraging me to be amazed with You. Show me how powerful and eternal You are. Show me how vital it is that I see this so I won't be impressed with my problems, my body, the world, or the devil's influence. So, prepare my heart and mind for "Understanding Who Jesus Is."

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5. Jesus Is My Creator

Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made: With such a beautiful, beneficial creation and with You Who have such a sacrificial love, I am being given an incredible amount of powerful information. I pray for and I allow all of that information to be put into my attitudes and character so I will be able to trust God with all I have and all I am.

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Your Study Page For:
Fighting Wickedness Through Praising God About His Creation

What has God's creation done to your emotions lately?

The Process of Resistance

A Wonderful Revelation

Rom 1:19-20 (NIV) Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, <u>being understood from what has been made</u>, so that men are without excuse. What a wonderful thing God did! He gave us a beautiful place to live. It is incredible the amount of resources that are available. When Satan tries to get you to trade the desires of the body, the cares of the world, or the temptations of Satan, you could spend all your time resisting; but, that isn't the answer.

There's No Comparison

Concentrating on your body's desires, the world's cares, or Satan's temptations isn't the process of **submitting yourself, then, to God, resisting the devil, and he will flee from you.** The resisting the devil part comes from the submitting yourself to God. If you put a bowling ball on one side of a scale and a feather on the other, the scales would definitely lean toward the bowling ball. That is what Jesus is trying to do with you. He wants you to be so filled with the excitement, appreciation, love, and beauty of God and the things of God that ANYTHING the devil has to offer is repulsive; let that be your procedure for resisting.

Let Jesus take you through Psalm 148 and give you plenty of reasons for loving your heavenly Father and resisting anything your body, the world, or Satan has to offer.

Getting Excited About God

The Enjoyment of The Sky

Psa 148:1 (NIV) Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. When you see a beautiful sky, the Bible presents that beauty as the sky giving praise to God. Just like it fills your eyes and heart with joy, the Bible is saying that God responds the same way. He enjoys the beauty of a sunset or sunrise just like you do; with His supernatural enjoyment of course. But, He enjoys the things He created for you to enjoy. You enjoying God and the things of God keeps you from wanting something evil; that is godly resistance.

Angelic Praise

Psa 148:2 (NIV) Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Have you sung a song that should have brought positive emotions but didn't? Have you been so distracted with some major problem that you couldn't feel any joy or praise toward God? When the angels and the heavenly hosts praise God, it comes out of great excitement, powerful emotions, and supernatural praise. Their emotions are bubbling over into praise. Rather than praising so as to get happiness, joy, and excitement, they already have it to praise God with. That is what Jesus wants for you.

Praising Lights

Psa 148:3 (NIV) Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. The light and the heat that come your way are radiant praise to and from God. When you get to heaven, you will be amazed at all the things that were going to God and being gifted to you from God that you didn't realize. God wants the sun, moon, and the stars to bless you like they do Him. He created them for blessing you, encouraging you, speaking His love into you. All these things that are out in front of you of God's creation are trying to talk to your heart. They are trying to tell you how much your heavenly Father loves you. If you will listen, it will inspire praise to God from you and turn your heart off to your body, the world, and the devil.

Clouds Of Praise

Psa 148:4 (NIV) Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Clouds take interesting shapes; but, they are the variety you need. In a world of categories, organization, structure, and symmetry, clouds give you change, unexpected appearances, unpredictable beauty, and ever-changing shapes. God doesn't want you in a box or falling into the crowd and getting lost. He who keeps a running count of how many hairs you have on your head, wants you to be special. Let His clouds say that to you. That will help you not even notice the temptations of the devil.

It's All Creation

Psa 148:5 (NIV) Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. The animate and inanimate things in God's creation didn't just get created. They were created for a purpose. Just like fruit can be a special food for you, all of God's creation has a special purpose for God. If you will ask Him to, He will help you see the relationship He has with all of these created things so you can benefit from them too.

Transformation

Psa 148:6 (NIV) He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away. You are going to get a new body; there is going to be a new heaven and a new earth. That doesn't sound like they **will never pass away.** However, before you are caught up in the air to meet Jesus, your old body will unite with your spirit and you and your body will go up together. Why? Because your old body will be used to produce your new body. As you are being caught up to meet Jesus in the air with your old body, your old body will be *transformed* into a new glorified body. *It* will be awesome; but, it was birthed out of your old body.

Praise Out of The Ocean

Psa 148:7 (NIV) Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, The fish and other sea creatures aren't all seen by humans. Some are so deep in the depths of the ocean that humans don't get to look at them; but, God does. They are a blessing and a joy to Him; He considers their uniqueness and beauty praise to their Creator. Some of them may be food for humans or be caught for sport; but, God also created them for enjoyment and pleasure.

Things That Can Be Scary

Psa 148:8 (NIV) lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, The things that humans call weather are things that are praising and serving God. Some of these weather events may be predicted by people; but, they cannot be controlled by people. They belong to God and **do His bidding.** People may evacuate an area; but, God knows why things are happening the way they are. Weather professionals may be able to predict the path of a storm to some degree of accuracy; but, God knows where it is going and what it is going to do.

Beautiful Resources

Psa 148:9 (NIV) You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, Mountains, hills, and trees can be quite beautiful; but, inside the mountains and hills can be metals and materials that are very important. Trees have been blessing mankind for all of their existence. The way they bless mankind gives great pleasure to God. He saw to it that they were all invented so you could be blessed and could see what kind of a God you have.

Beautiful Living Creatures

Psa 148:10 (NIV) wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, The unity, the distinct purpose, the special features, the beauty of uniqueness, and the incredible variety all testify. They testify about the creative artistry, attention to detail, brilliant cooperation, and unifying symmetry of all living creatures occupying one planet together for centuries. They give praise to God and they help you praise God. Once you see all these things, it helps you totally devote your heart to God and resist any other opposing offer.

Strategic Selection

Psa 148:11 (NIV) kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth. Depending on the spiritual condition of nations, kingdoms and countries, God chooses leaders to rule over them that deal with that spiritual condition. He makes it clear that He sets them up and takes them down. It may take you recognizing that God is smarter than you even though you don't like some of those He picked. But, this world and all living things on it would long since be gone, if God hadn't made the leadership decisions He has continued to make.

Regular People

Psa 148:12 (NIV) young men and maidens, old men and children. Every person who has, is, or will occupy this planet have been chosen by God. He picked them, their gender, their parents, their geographical location, the time of their existence, their looks, their circumstances, and a lot more. He made all His decisions based on giving each person the very best opportunity to become His child. And, He gave them the very best opportunity to excel to the highest potential. They all have a God-given free will; but, God made sure *nothing* got in the way of them being able to use it. It may not seem like everyone got that chance; but, they did.

If You Can See It

Psa 148:13 (NIV) Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. No one is being force to praise God. Only those who can see how great He is will do it. God is doing everything to help you see it all. The more you see, the more you will be *able* to appreciate, be excited about, be thankful for, and find the time to praise, worship, and thank the very best God humans could possibly have.

Your Prayer Page For:
Fighting Wickedness Through Praising God About His Creation

What has God's creation done to my emotions lately?

The Process of Resistance

A Wonderful Revelation

Rom 1:19-20 (NIV) Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Jesus, this is such a wonderful thing God did! He gave me a beautiful place to live. It is incredible the amount of resources that are available. When Satan tries to get me to trade God's provisions for the desires of the body, the cares of the world, or the temptations of Satan, I could spend all my time resisting; but, all I have to do is compare them with God and His awesome blessings.

There's No Comparison

Jesus, help me to always keep in mind that concentrating on my body's desires, the world's cares, or Satan's temptations isn't the process of **submitting myself, then, to God, resisting the devil, and he will flee from** me. Teach me that the resisting the devil part comes from the submitting myself to God part. If I put a bowling ball on one side of a scale and a feather on the other, the scales would definitely lean toward the bowling ball. That is what Jesus is trying to do with me. Help me be so filled with the excitement, appreciation, love, and beauty of God and the things of God that *anything* the devil has to offer is repulsive; let that be my procedure for resisting.

Jesus, take me through Psalm 148 and give me plenty of reasons for loving my heavenly Father and resisting anything my body, the world, or Satan has to offer.

I Am Getting Excited About God

The Enjoyment of The Sky

Psa 148:1 (NIV) Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise Him in the heights above. Jesus, when I see a beautiful sky, the Bible presents that beauty as the sky giving praise to God. Just like it fills my eyes and heart with joy, the Bible is saying that God responds the same way. He enjoys the beauty of a sunset or sunrise just like I do; with His supernatural enjoyment of course. But, help me realize that He enjoys the things He created for me to enjoy. Teach me that my enjoying God and the things of God keeps me from wanting something evil; that is godly resistance.

Angelic Praise

Psa 148:2 (NIV) Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him, all His heavenly hosts. Jesus, I have sung songs that should have brought positive emotions to my heart but they didn't. I have been so distracted with some major problem that I couldn't feel any kind of joy or praise toward God. Teach me that when the angels and the heavenly hosts praise God, it comes out of great excitement, powerful emotions, and supernatural praise. Their emotions are bubbling over into praise. Rather than praising so as to get happiness, joy, and excitement, they already have it to praise God with. Let that happen to me.

Praising Lights

Psa 148:3 (NIV) Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars. Jesus, let me see that the light and the heat that come my way are radiant praise to and from God. When I get to heaven, I will be amazed at all the things that were going to God and being gifted to me from God that I didn't realize. Help me understand that God wants the sun, moon, and the stars to bless me like they do Him. Make it clear to me that He created them for blessing me, encouraging me, speaking His love into me. Help me accept the fact that all God's creation are out in front of me trying to talk to my heart. They are trying to tell me how much my heavenly Father loves me. If I will listen, it will inspire praise to God from me and turn my heart off to my body, the world, and the devil.

Clouds Of Praise

Psa 148:4 (NIV) Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Jesus, help me appreciate the clouds interesting shapes being the variety I need. In a world of categories, organization, structure, and symmetry, the clouds give me change, unexpected appearances, unpredictable beauty, and ever-changing unique shapes. Help me let God take me out of a box and not fall into the crowd and get lost. Help me always realize that He is the One Who keeps a running count of how many hairs I have on my head; He wants me to be special. Let His clouds say that to me. Let that help me not even notice the temptations of the devil.

It's All Creation

Psa 148:5 (NIV) Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created. Jesus, teach me that the animate and inanimate things in God's creation didn't just get randomly created. They were created for a purpose. Just like fruit can be a special food for me, all of God's creation has a special purpose for God. I ask You, God, to help me see the relationship You have with all of these created things so I can benefit from them too.

Transformation

Psa 148:6 (NIV) He set them in place for ever and ever; He gave a decree that will never pass away. Jesus, teach me that I am going to get a new body; I am going to live in a new heaven and on a new earth. That doesn't sound like they **will never pass away.** However, explain to me that before I am caught up in the air to meet You, my old body will unite with my spirit and I and my body will go up together. Why? Help me understand that, that is because my old body will be used to produce my new body. As I am being caught up to meet You in the air with my old body, my old body will be *transformed* into a new glorified body. Help me realize that *it* will be awesome; but, it will be birthed out of my old body.

Praise Out of The Ocean

Psa 148:7 (NIV) Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, Jesus, the fish and other sea creatures aren't all seen by me. Some are so deep in the depths of the ocean that I don't get to look at them; but, God does. Show me that they are a blessing and a joy to Him; He considers their uniqueness and beauty praise to their Creator. Some of them may be food for me or caught for sport; but, help me understand that God also created them for enjoyment and pleasure.

Things That Can Be Scary

Psa 148:8 (NIV) lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do His bidding, Jesus, teach me that the things that humans call weather are things that are praising and serving God. Some of these weather events may be predicted by people; but, they cannot be controlled by people. Teach me that they belong to God and **do His bidding.** People may evacuate an area out of fear; but, God knows why things are happening the way they are. Weather professionals may be able to predict the path of a storm to some degree of accuracy; but, help me understand that God knows where it is going and what it is going to do.

Beautiful Resources

Psa 148:9 (NIV) You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, Jesus, mountains, hills, and trees can be quite beautiful; but, inside the mountains and hills can be metals and materials that are very important. Help me appreciate that trees have been blessing mankind for all of their existence. Show me that the way they bless mankind gives great pleasure to God. He saw to it that they were all invented so I could be blessed and could see what kind of a God I have.

Beautiful Living Creatures

Psa 148:10 (NIV) wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, Help me see all the unity, the distinct purpose, the special features, the beauty of uniqueness, and the incredible variety. Show me how they testify of the creative artistry, attention to detail, brilliant cooperation, and unifying symmetry of all living creatures occupying one planet together for centuries. Help me understand that they give praise to God and they help me praise God. Once I see all these things, let it help me to totally devote my heart to God and resist any other opposing offer.

Strategic Selection

Psa 148:11 (NIV) kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth. Depending on the spiritual condition of nations, kingdoms and countries, God chooses leaders to rule over them that deal with that spiritual condition. He makes it clear that He sets them up and takes them down. Help me recognize that God is smarter than me even though I don't like some of those He picked. But, make it clear to me that this world and all living things on it would long since be gone, if God hadn't made the leadership decisions He has continued to make.

Regular People

Psa 148:12 (NIV) young men and maidens, old men and children. Jesus, teach me that every person who has, is, or will occupy this planet has been chosen by God. Help me understand that He picked them, their gender, their parents, their geographical location, the time of their existence, their looks, their circumstances, and a lot more. Help me realize that He made all His decisions based on giving each person the very best opportunity to become His child. And, He gave them the very best opportunity to excel to the highest potential. Since they all have a God-given free will, God made sure NOTHING got in the way of them being able to use it. Even though it may not seem like it to me, everyone got that chance.

If You Can See It

Psa 148:13 (NIV) Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His splendor is above the earth and the heavens. Jesus, help me always keep in mind that no one is being force to praise God. Make it clear to me that only those who can see how great He is will do it. Show me that God is doing everything to help me see it all. The more I see, the more I will be ABLE to appreciate, be excited about, be thankful for, and find the time to praise, worship, and thank the very best God I could possibly have.

Your Study Page For:
Recognizing Wickedness You Thought Was Okay

Do you still have **want** and **hate**?

Ways Of Resisting
Things That Will Hurt You

Wrong Things You Are Letting In

James 4:7 (NIV) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. As you can see, there are two aspects to this verse. The first part is submitting to God; the second part is resisting the devil. In the previous series, Jesus helped you submit to God by growing in your love for Him. In this series, He has been helping you grow in your HATRED for the things of the body, the world, and the devil; hatred toward things that are trying to get into your life to hurt you, will help you resist.

True Christians Have WANT And HATE

Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I WANT to do I do not do, but what I HATE I do. The main requirement of God after you have been born again is to WANT to do the right things and HATE doing the wrong things. The right things are you doing right, good, and righteous things to yourself, other people, and God's plan. The wrong things are you doing wrong, bad, or evil things to yourself, other people, and God's plan. Jesus put the WANT and HATE attitudes in your heart when you accepted Him as your Lord, Savior, and King.

True Christians Must Maintain WANT And HATE

Rom 7:16 (NIV) And if I do what I do not WANT to do, I agree that the law is good. Your responsibility is to maintain the WANT attitude for right, good, and righteous things. And, your responsibility is to maintain the HATE attitude for wrong, bad, and evil things. The way to maintain these two attitudes is to apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity to them. You will be ASKING, SEEKING, and KNOCKING so that Jesus will install and empower you to do the right, good, and righteous things; that is why the next page is prayer. And He will remove and empower you to resist the wrong, bad, and evil things, also through prayer.

How Did They Get There?

Rom 1:18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. You resisting bad things trying to get into your life requires you knowing what to resist. So, how did these people get in this condition? Obviously, they weren't born that way. And surely, they didn't suddenly become that kind of person. They not only didn't allow Jesus to teach them how to WANT to do the right things, they wouldn't allow Him to train and empower them to DO the right things. Jesus wants to take everyone beyond HATING the wrong things to actually resisting the wrong things.

Your Previous Life
Eph 4:22-24 (NIV) You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

You haven't just been listening to God all your life. You have been exposing your brain and your mind to all kinds of schools of thought. Your brain is filled with a mixture of many different types of information and principles. Some of them are neutral; they don't have any spiritual connotation to them. Others have a lot of spiritual implications. Like everyone else, you have listened to your body's demands, the world's reasoning, and Satan's temptations. At those moments when you did, you were being trained by the opposite educational system.

Your Current Life
1 Pet 3:12 (NIV) For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Because of the training you received in your previous life, some of your thinking is in direct opposition to the truth of God. As long as you stay in that condition, it has made you unusable by God in that area of life and ministering to others. While in that condition, when God talks to you Spirit-to-spirit, you will disagree with various concepts you are receiving from Him. Some people are unaware it is God dealing with them. Others go into direct disobedience against Him. That is what they believe and no one is going to change their mind.

Dealing With Your Current Life
1 John 1:7 (NIV) But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

If you want to head in the opposite direction of those wicked people, you will have to let Jesus deal with those areas where you have built a close and intimate relationship with the body, the world, or the devil. You will have to spend extra time getting help from God. These are going to be places where closing the door will be extremely difficult. But, if you don't, you will always find yourself failing in life and being unable to share with others in those spots.

When things start making a lot of sense to your human thinking and reasoning processes, you become convinced that you have the truth.

A Walled Off Area
1 John 1:8 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. In an area of your life where you are convinced you are right, it gets shut off from all contrary information. If it is false information, you are locked in it and don't want out. The door to your heart will be left open to that false information. You will be unwilling to close the door because the information makes sense to you. And, it keeps you from being willing to hear any opposing views.

Breaking Down the Wall

1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Walled areas of your heart and mind are caused by you being so convinced that it is best for you that you don't even want views from God and His Word. When you hear an opposing view from God's Word, you will often assume that all the facts just aren't in yet. You will especially be tempted to ignore Scriptures that seem to be saying the complete opposite to your view. You will typically decide that the Bible doesn't really mean that. This arena of your life and ministry becomes a fortress against God's Word and God's Truth. Whether you know it or not you are heading into wickedness.

Your Prayer Page For:
Recognizing Wickedness You Thought Was Okay

Do I still have **want** and **hate**?

Ways Of Resisting
Things That Will Hurt Me

Wrong Things I Am Letting In

James 4:7 (NIV) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Help me understand the meaning of the two aspects to this verse. Teach me that the first part is submitting to God and the second part is resisting the devil. Jesus, thank You for teaching me in the previous series to submit to God by growing in my love for Him. Help me grow in my HATRED for the things of my body, the world, and the devil. Show me that hatred toward things that are trying to get into my life to hurt me, will help me resist.

True Christians Have WANT And HATE

Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I WANT to do I do not do, but what I HATE I do. Jesus, teach me that the main requirement of God after I have been born again is to WANT to do the right things and HATE doing the wrong things. Help me learn that the right things are me doing right, good, and righteous things to myself, other people, and God's plan. The wrong things are me doing wrong, bad, or evil things to myself, other people, and God's plan. I thank You for putting the WANT and HATE attitudes in my heart when I accepted You as my Lord, Savior, and King.

True Christians Must Maintain WANT And HATE

Rom 7:16 (NIV) And if I do what I DO NOT WANT to do, I agree that the law is good. Jesus, help me accept my responsibility to maintain the WANT attitude for right, good, and righteous things. And, help me accept my responsibility to maintain the HATE attitude for wrong, bad, and evil things. Teach me that the way to maintain these two attitudes is to apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity to them. Let me be ASKING, SEEKING, and KNOCKING so that You will install and empower me to do the right, good, and righteous things. And remove and empower me to resist the wrong, bad, and evil things through this prayer.

How Did They Get There?

Rom 1:18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

Jesus, in order for me to resist bad things trying to get into my life requires I knowing what to resist. So, teach me how these people got in this condition. Obviously, they weren't born that way. And surely, they didn't suddenly become that kind of person. Show me that they not only didn't allow You to teach them how to WANT to do the right things, they wouldn't allow You to train and empower them to DO the right things. Take me beyond HATING the wrong things to actually resisting the wrong things. Keep showing me how these wicked people got where they are and how to resist it.

My Previous Life

Eph 4:22-24 (NIV) You were taught, <u>with regard to your former way of life</u>, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Jesus, I haven't just been listening to God all my life. I have been exposing my brain and my mind to all kinds of schools of thought. My brain is filled with a mixture of many different types of information and principles. Some of them are neutral; they don't have any spiritual connotation to them. Others have a lot of spiritual implications. Like everyone else, I have listened to my body's demands, the world's reasoning, and Satan's temptations. Make it clear to me that at those moments when I did, I was being trained by the opposite educational system.

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1 Pet 3:12 (NIV) For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Jesus, because of the training I received in my previous life, some of my thinking is in direct opposition to the truth of God. As long as I stay in that condition, it makes me unusable by God in that area of life and ministering to others. While in that condition, when God talks to me Spirit-to-spirit, help me see that I will disagree with various concepts I am receiving from Him. Some people are unaware it is God dealing with them. Others go into direct disobedience against Him. That is what they believe and no one is going to change their mind. Help me not be like these people.

Dealing With My Current Life

1 John 1:7 (NIV) But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

Jesus, I want to head in the opposite direction of wicked people. Help me let You deal with those areas where I have built a close and intimate relationship with the body, the world, or the devil. Let me spend extra time getting help from God. Show me that these are going to be places where closing the door will be extremely difficult. But, if I don't, I will always find myself failing in life and being unable to share with others in those spots.

Jesus, teach me that when things start making a lot of sense to my human thinking and reasoning processes, I become convinced that I have the truth.

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1 John 1:8 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Jesus, help me see that in a particular area of my life where I am convinced, I am right, it becomes shut off from all information to the contrary. If it is false information, I am locked in it and don't want out. The door to my heart will be left open to that false information. I will be unwilling to close the door because the information makes sense to me. And, it keeps me from being willing to hear any opposing views.

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Jesus, help me understand that walled areas of my heart and mind are caused by me being so convinced that it is best for me that I don't even want views from God and His Word. Show me that when I hear an opposing view from God's Word, I will often assume that all the facts just aren't in yet. I will especially be tempted to ignore Scriptures that seem to be saying the complete opposite to my view. I will typically decide that the Bible doesn't really mean that. This arena of my life and ministry becomes a fortress against God's Word and God's Truth. Make it clear to me that whether I know it or not I am heading into wickedness.

Your Study Page For:
Resisting Wickedness by Changing Your Thought-Life

What are the three major issues that have to be established in the thoughts of your mind?

Three Major Issues

Are You Thinking What God's Thinking?

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." There are three major issues that have to be established in the thoughts of your mind, if you are going to resist Satan. The first is the acceptance of the fact that God thinks on a height and a righteousness that is far superior to your way of thinking. God knows everything; He knows what is best for you. That is what evil people are suppressing.

Are You Feeling What God's Feeling?

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. God's thoughts aren't just incredibly higher than yours, His thoughts are incredibly purer and more loving. The second major issue that has to be established in the thoughts of your mind, if you are going to resist Satan is, God loves you more than you love yourself. You are NOT your best friend who should watch out for your best interests; God is! That is another thing evil people are suppressing.

Are You Wanting What God's Wanting?
Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. The third major issue that has to be established in the thoughts of your mind, if you are going to resist Satan is, God thinks with a generosity that leads Him into trying to give you every good thing He can trust you with. You don't know what is going to make you happy; God does! These evil people are suppressing that truth also. They are trying to get you to put your trust in their advertisements.

It is easy to see why wicked people come under God's wrath when they **suppress the truth.** They obscure, hide, camouflage, distort, and lie about the greatness of God. This is what **men who suppress the truth by their wickedness** are suppressing. THAT brings forth **the wrath of God.**

It's A Personal Decision
Rom 1:18-19 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. They aren't confused, misled, accidently making their decision, or being forced by someone else. They WANT to do wicked things. But, for those who are confused, misled, accidently making their decision, or being forced by someone else, God will reach out to them and help them.

They Are Closing Their Eyes
Acts 28:27 (NIV) For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them. In Romans 1:18-19, you can look at some people who see what you are seeing. They see all God's creation just like you do. What is causing them to ignore it and **suppress the truth by their wickedness?** Are they blind? No, **since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.**

They Are Choosing Wickedness
Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. They are the opposite of Romans 7:15. Let Jesus break this Scripture down for you so you can see the difference:

- **I do not understand what I do:** They know exactly what they are doing. There is no confusion. God made His creation clear to them and they CHOSE not to believe.

- **For what I want to do I do not do:** They are doing what they want to do. They want to **suppress the truth by their wickedness;** so, they **suppress the truth by their wickedness.**

- **What I hate I do:** They don't do the things they hate. They hate doing right, good, righteous things; so, they quite simply DON'T DO THEM.

Learning How to Trust God

You are struggling with issues as are described in Romans 7:15; it is important for you to see how different wicked people are from you. You are WANTING to do good and HATING doing bad. They don't have any want or desire to do good. And, they don't have any hatred toward evil. Trust God to help you do what it takes to turn your WANTING and HATING into a victorious Christian life.

1. You Don't Have
To Think Like the Wicked

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." But, even though God's thoughts are higher than yours, He is inviting you into His WAY of thinking; you can't think as high as Him; but, you can think some of His righteous thoughts.

2. You Can Think God Type Thoughts

Phil 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. This aligns your expectations and your receptivity to God's creation. Instead of being corrupted in your sight as you see God's great creation, you will be mentally prepared to see the truth in His creation.

3. Let God Prove His Love

There are three major issues that have to be established in your heart if you are going to close the three doors to Satan. The first was that God is smarter than you, the second is, God loves you. **Rom 8:32 (NIV) He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all--how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?** God's thinking powers are millions of times more powerful than the distance between you and an ant. When your way of seeing something makes sense to you and God's way of seeing that same issue doesn't, you must humbly lay it before God and allow the matter go to neutral. Why would you do that? God is a lot smarter than you are; and, He has your best interest in mind.

4. Follow Jesus' Example

Luke 22:42 (NIV) Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; <u>yet not My will, but Yours be done</u>. There is no one like God. Like Jesus is saying here, God is much more qualified to make the decision than you are. If Jesus trusted the heavenly Father, shouldn't you? If creation and Jesus in creation can help you trust God, then they have worked a miracle in you.

5. Get Jesus' Attitude

Phil 2:5-7 (NIV) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. If Jesus can submit like this, can't you at least let your opinions go to the zero point? God will help you become OPEN to whatever He has to say. If you were right all along, He will let you know. If you were wrong, He will help you see things from a better vantage point.

Your Prayer Page For:
Resisting Wickedness by Changing Your Thought-Life

What are the three major issues that have to be established in the thoughts of my mind?

Three Major Issues

Are You Thinking What God's Thinking?

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Jesus, help me get these three major issues established in the thoughts of my mind so I can effectively resist Satan. I accept the first one, that God thinks on a height and a righteousness that is far superior to my way of thinking. I believe that God knows everything; He knows what is best for me. Help me see that this is what evil people are suppressing.

Are You Feeling What God's Feeling?

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus, I accept the fact that God's thoughts aren't just incredibly higher than mine, His thoughts are incredibly purer and more loving. I accept the second major issue that has to be established in the thoughts of my mind, if I am going to resist Satan. I believe that God loves me more than I love myself. I accept the fact that I am NOT my best friend who should watch out for my best interests; God is! Help me feel what God feels about this being another thing evil people are suppressing.

Are You Wanting What God's Wanting?

Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Jesus, I also accept the third major issue that has to be established in the thoughts of my mind, if I am going to resist Satan. I believe God thinks with a generosity that leads Him into trying to give me every good thing He can trust me with. I don't know what is going to make me happy; God does! Empower me to thwart these evil people's efforts to suppress these truths. Show me that they are trying to get me to put my trust in their advertisements.

Jesus, it is easy to see why wicked people come under God's wrath when they **suppress the truth.** They obscure, hide, camouflage, distort, and lie about the greatness of God. These are the things **men who suppress the truth by their wickedness** are suppressing. Help me understand why this brings forth **the wrath of God.**

It's A Personal Decision

Rom 1:18-19 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. Jesus, help me understand that they aren't confused, misled, accidently making their decision, or being forced by someone else. They WANT to do wicked things. And, help me also understand that if I am confused, misled, accidently making my decision, or being forced by someone else, God will reach out to me and help me.

They Are Closing Their Eyes

Acts 28:27 (NIV) For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them. Jesus, help me understand that in Romans 1:18-19, I am looking at some people who see what I am seeing. They see all God's creation just like I do. Make it clear to me what is causing them to ignore it and **suppress the truth by their wickedness.** Help me realize that they are not blind; instead, they are closing their eyes. You are doing Your part: **Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.**

They Are Choosing Wickedness

Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. Jesus help me see that the wicked are the opposite of Romans 7:15. Break this Scripture down for me so I can see the difference:

- **I do not understand what I do:** Jesus, help me accept the fact that they know exactly what they are doing. There is no confusion. God made His creation clear to them and they CHOSE not to believe. Jesus, empower my heart and mind to NEVER choose to ignore and close my eyes to Your truths.

- **For what I want to do I do not do:** Jesus, show me that they are doing what they want to do. They want to **suppress the truth by their wickedness;** so they **suppress the truth by their wickedness.** Jesus, keep me away for these kinds of people. Help me head in the opposite direction.

- **What I hate I do:** Jesus, let me see that they don't do the things they hate. They hate doing right, good, righteous things; so, they quite simply DON'T DO THEM. Jesus, keep me hating wrong, bad, and evil. Let it intensify in my heart and mind.

I Am Learning How to Trust God

Jesus, I am struggling with issues as are described in Romans 7:15; help me see how different wicked people are from me. I am WANTING to do good and HATING doing bad. Show me that they don't have any want or desire to do good. And, they don't have any hatred toward evil. Empower me to trust God to help me do what it takes to turn my WANTING and HATING into a victorious Christian life.

1. I Don't Have to Think Like the Wicked

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Jesus, let me get excited about the fact that even though God's thoughts are higher than mine, He is inviting me into His WAY of thinking. I can't think as high as Him; but, I can think some of His righteous thoughts.

2. I Can Think God Type Thoughts

Phil 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Jesus, let these thoughts align my expectations and my receptivity to God's creation. Instead of being corrupted in my sight as I see God's great creation, let me be mentally prepared to see the truth in His creation.

3. I Am Letting God Prove His Love

Rom 8:32 (NIV) He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all--how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Jesus, show me that God's thinking-powers are millions of times more powerful than the distance between me and an ant. So, when my way of seeing something makes sense to me and God's way of seeing that same issue doesn't, empower me to humbly lay it before God and allow the matter go to neutral. Show me why I should do that. Let the fact that God is a lot smarter than I am and that He has my best interest in mind, help me relax in my relationship with Him.

4. I Am Following Jesus' Example

Luke 22:42 (NIV) Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done. Jesus, help me always keep in mind that there is no one like God. Like You are saying here, God is much more qualified to make the decision than I am. If You trusted the heavenly Father, shouldn't you? If creation and You in creation can help me trust God, then they have worked a miracle in me.

5. I Am Getting Jesus' Attitudes

Phil 2:5-7 (NIV) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. If You, Jesus, can submit like this, help me at least let my opinions go to the zero point. Let God help me become OPEN to whatever He has to say. Teach me that if I was right all along, He will let me know. If I was wrong, He will help me see things from a better vantage point.

Your Study Page For:
Moving Away from Wickedness

What is it going to take for you to stay totally free from wickedness?

What Does It Take?

Rom 1:21-22 (NIV) For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools. You are learning how to move in the opposite direction from these people. Jesus is trying to help you be interested in what it is going to take for you to be totally free from any of these wicked people's characteristics. He knows that you can start out right and get sabotaged along the way. So, He is laying out some very important truths for you. So, let your heart and mind absorb these important steps on "What Does It Take?".

1. Examine What Makes Sense to You

There are three major issues that have to be established in your heart if you are going to close the three doors to Satan. The first was that God is smarter than you, the second was, God loves you. Once you have it settled that God is incredibly smart; and, you are sure He totally loves you, the third issue you have to face is how bad your reasoning power really is.

2. Face Your Weakness

There was a time in your life when you thought you were right; and, you were actually totally wrong. The scary part here is the fact that it happened to you concerning an eternal issue. It was an issue that was so important to your well-being that you were deciding whether you were going to be spending eternity with God or not. And, you were totally leaning in the "not" direction. Now that is really scary! **Prov 14:12 (NIV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.**

3. Start with The Easy Ones

You will only let God change your philosophies, opinions, and beliefs if you know they are wrong. Now, no one will be dogmatic on ALL areas and issues of previous training. Some things will just be mild opinions. You have based your life on them; but, they aren't all that important to you. If you allow God to take those, you will see how incredible the replacement truths will be. That will help you trust Him with more "important" ones.

4. Be Praying for The Hard Ones

When God put His finger on things that are in the category of "If I give this principle up, I will never have any more fun for the rest of my life," and, when others are in the category of "I have based my whole life on this principle; I can't possibly be wrong on that one," start asking God to help you get to the place where you will trust Him with those. If you wait until all your easy ones get turned into much better ways of life, you will still be locked in on these other issues.

5. Get Flexible with God

Prov 14:12 (NIV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. One thing you need to get out of this Scripture is how positive you can be about something that is so wrong. Just because something makes total sense to you, doesn't make it truth.

- Since God is so brilliant and you have this ability of being extremely wrong about something you are sure of,
- Since you can't love yourself in a supernatural way, but, God can,
- Since your opinions effect your ability to see God's creation clearly, but, God has the power to show it to you,
- Since you want to move away from wickedness, and God can motivate you to love righteousness,
- And since you want to close three doors against your body, the world, and the devil, and Jesus is training and empowering you to do so,

You must totally relax in His hands and let Him begin the process of changing your mind or confirming your thoughts on all matters of previous training.

6. Let Jesus Get You Ready

Mat 7:22-23 (NIV) Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!" Jesus is making sure you don't fall into this category. He knows what it takes for you to be totally victorious. These are the issues Jesus is seeing to it that you are learning how to bring to a neutral point. He loves you and wants you to know the complete truth.

7. Keep Your Eyes Open to God's Creation

Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. There is much for you to learn about God that His creation is able to show you. The major problem the wicked had was a lack of thankfulness. **Rom 1:21 (NIV) For although they knew God, <u>they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him</u>, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

Let every chance you get to look at God's creation be an opportunity to see, appreciate, and thank Him for the life and planet He gave you. Don't let the cares of this world blind you to all that God did when He gave you this life on this earth. Pray and ask God to help you never take your eyes off of His creation that testifies of His love for you. And, ask Him to help you study and grow through the life of Jesus when He was living within His creation.

Your Prayer Page For:
Moving Away from Wickedness

What is it going to take for me to stay totally free from wickedness?

What Does It Take?

Rom 1:21-22 (NIV) For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools. Jesus, You are teaching me how to move in the opposite direction from these people. You are trying to help me be interested in what it is going to take for me to be totally free from any of these wicked people's characteristics. You know that I can start out right and get sabotaged along the way. So, You are laying out some very important truths for me. Let my heart and mind absorb these important steps on "What Does It Take?".

1. I Am Examining What Makes Sense to Me

Jesus, teach me that there are three major issues that have to be established in my heart if I am going to close the three doors to Satan. The first was that God is smarter than me, the second was, God loves me. Help me understand that once I have it settled that God is incredibly smart; and, I am sure He totally loves me, the third issue I have to face is how bad my reasoning power really is.

2. I Am Facing My Weaknesses

Jesus, there have been many times in my life when I thought I was right; and, I was actually totally wrong. The scary part is, there was one case where I was sure I was right concerning an eternal issue. It was an issue that was so important to my well-being that I was deciding whether I was going to be spending eternity with God or not. And, I was totally leaning in the "not" direction. Now that is really scary! **Prov 14:12 (NIV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.**

3. I Am Starting with The Easy Ones

Jesus, help me see that I will only let God change my philosophies, opinions, and beliefs if I know they are wrong. No one will be dogmatic on ALL areas and issues of previous training. I embrace some things that are mild opinions. I have based my life on them; but, they aren't all that important to me. Help me allow God to take those so I can see how incredible the replacement truths will be. Let that help me trust God with more "important" ones.

4. I Will Be Praying for The Hard Ones

Jesus, when God puts His finger on some that fall into the category of "if I give this principle up, I will never have any more fun for the rest of my life." And, when others fall under the category of "I have based my whole life on this principle; I can't possibly be wrong on that one." Let me start praying and asking God to help me get to the place where I will trust Him with those too. Show me that if I wait until all my easy ones get turned into much better ways of life, I will still be locked in on these other issues.

5. I Am Getting Flexible with God

Prov 14:12 (NIV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Jesus, help me see that there is one thing I need to get out of this Scripture. It is how positive I can be about something that is so wrong. Teach me that just because something makes total sense to me, it doesn't make it truth.

- Jesus, since I have this ability of being extremely wrong about something I am sure of and God is so brilliant,
- Since I can't love myself in a supernatural way, but, God can,
- Since my opinions effect my ability to see God's creation clearly, but, God has the power to show it to me,
- Since I want to move away from wickedness, and God can motivate me to love righteousness,
- And since I want to close the three doors, which are my body, the world, and the devil, and Jesus is training and empowering me to do so,

Help me totally relax in God's hands and let Him begin the process of changing my mind or confirming my thoughts on all matters of previous training.

6. I Am Letting Jesus Get Me Ready

Mat 7:22-23 (NIV) Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!" Jesus, You are making sure I don't fall into this category. You know what it takes for me to be totally victorious. These are the issues You are seeing to it that I am learning how to bring to a neutral point. You love me and want me to know the complete truth.

7. I Am Keeping My Eyes Open to God's Creation

Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Jesus, there is so much for me to learn about God that His creation is able to show me. Teach me that the major problem the wicked have is a lack of thankfulness. **Rom 1:21 (NIV) For although they knew God, <u>they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him</u>, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.** Help me always give glory to God and give Him thanks.

Jesus, help me let every chance I get to look at God's creation be an opportunity to see, appreciate, and thank Him for the life and planet He gave me. Help me not let the cares of this world blind me to all that God did when He gave me this life on this earth. God help me never take my eyes off of Your creation that testifies of Your love for me. God, help me study and grow through the life of Jesus when He was living within His creation.

Your Study Page For:
Closing One Door to Wickedness Closes Them All

What are some things that could draw you back toward wickedness?

It's The Devil on The Line; He Wants to Talk to You.

Don't Answer It!

Rom 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your BODIES as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this WORLD, but be transformed by the renewing of your MIND. Then you will be able to test and approve what GOD'S WILL is--<u>His good, pleasing and perfect will</u>.

This powerful passage lays out what to do. It doesn't provide the process for doing it; but, it lets you know what The Three Keys To All Of Christianity should be applied to. This Scripture is something you do for a lifestyle rather that a onetime event, Jesus is giving you additional training on how to get something started and then keep doing it for the rest of your life. Once this is in place, your body door is closed, the door to the world is closed, and the door to the devil is closed.

How Does the Devil Influence You?

Satan tries to get to you through your *body*. Its five senses are his access points. Temptations are sent your way through your eyes, ears, and the sensations of your body. Occasionally he will use your taste and smell; but, mostly it is touch, sight, and sounds. His target is your *mind*! Satan uses people, the messages of the world, and he can even put thoughts in your mind to attack your body. He tries to get your thoughts, the people around you, and the messages of the world to tempt your body to do wrong, bad, and evil things; and, typically your body is up for it.

You Left the Door Open
A lot of the time you accidently, ignorantly, and even purposefully leave the door open to Satan's influence. What kind of music do you listen to? What are the words and what kind of rhythm does it have? What kind of shows and movies do you watch? What are the words and actions that are being *planted* in your mind? What kind of literature to you look at and read? What kind of *permanent* seeds are they planting in your mind? The things you are exposing your five senses to are being recorded and processed in your mind.

What kind of people do you spend time with? What are your conversations? What do you do together with them? Did you know Jesus is right there all during your exposure to everything you do, say, see, and hear? Is He okay with the things you are exposing yourself to? Does the Bible agree with where you go, what you do, who you spend time with, what you watch and listen to, and what you spend your time thinking about? If there are *any* seeds being planted in your mind that aren't pleasing to Jesus, you need to let Him "weed" them out.

Healing For Your Past, Present, and Future

What To Do to Be Forgiven
Rom 6:10 (NIV) The death He died, He died to sin once for ALL; but the life He lives, He lives to God. Jesus **died to sin once for ALL.** That included you as one of the "ALL" and that included all your past, present, and future sins.

Rom 10:9-10 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, <u>you will be saved</u>. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Since you did this, you are now forgiven, born again, a Christian, a child of God, a member of God's family, and a citizen in God's eternal Kingdom. This is what opened the door to ALL the great things of God! NOW you are doing what it takes to GET ALL the great things of God.

What To Do After Forgiveness
1 John 1:7 (NIV) But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from ALL sin. You are now doing what it takes to **walk in the light, as He is in the light.** That means you are closing the three doors that your body, the world, and the devil were using to put darkness inside you.

Rom 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your BODIES as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this WORLD, but be transformed by the renewing of your MIND. Then you will be able to test and approve what GOD'S WILL is--<u>His good, pleasing and perfect will</u>. You are now ready to take four steps into closing all three doors. As long as you continue this process for the rest of your life, you will **walk in the light, as** Jesus **is in the light.**

Four Lifetime Processes for Freedom from Wickedness

This Is a Continuing Process Not a One Time Event

Here are the four major steps that are being laid out for you:

1. **Offer your BODY as a living sacrifice.**

2. **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this WORLD.**

3. **Be transformed by the renewing of your MIND.**

4. **Be able to test and approve what GOD'S WILL is.**

Your Prayer Page For:
Closing One Door to Wickedness Closes Them All

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Jesus, help me yield to this very powerful passage that lays out what I am to do. Help me understand that it does NOT provide the process for doing it; but, it DOES let me know what to apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity to. Help me understand that this Scripture is something I do as a lifestyle rather that a onetime event. Because of that, give me additional training on how to get something started and then keep doing it for the rest of my life. Show me that once this is in place, my body door is closed, the door to the world is closed, and the door to the devil is closed.

How Does the Devil Influence Me?

Jesus, teach me that Satan tries to get to me through my *body*. Its five senses are his access points. He sends temptations my way through my eyes, my ears, and the sensations of my body. Occasionally he will use my taste and smell; but, mostly it is the touch on my body, sights for my eyes, and sounds for my ears.

Jesus, make it clear to me that Satan's target is my *mind*! Teach me that Satan uses people, the messages of the world, and he can even put thoughts in my mind to attack my body. He tries to get my thoughts, the people around me, and the messages of the world to tempt my body to do wrong, bad, and evil things; and, typically my body is up for it.

I Left the Door Open

Jesus, help me realize that a lot of the time I accidently, ignorantly, and even purposefully leave the door open to Satan's influence.

- Jesus, spend time with me examining what kind of music I listen to. What kind of words are being presented in these song and what kind of rhythm do they have?
- What kind of content and concepts are in the shows and movies I watch? Show me what the words and actions are that are being PLANTED in my mind.
- Help me carefully examine the kind of literature I look at and read. Let me see and understand the kind of PERMANENT seeds that are being planted in my mind. Teach me that the things I am exposing my five senses to are being recorded and processed in my mind.
- Jesus, also help me honestly and sincerely examine what kind of people I spend time with.
- Help me remember what our conversations have been about.
- What do I do together with them?

Jesus, help me understand that You are right there all during my exposure to everything I do, say, see, and hear. Are You okay with the things I am exposing myself to? Help me search the Bible and see if it agrees with where I go, what I do, who I spend time with, what I watch and listen to, and what I spend my time thinking about. If there are ANY seeds being planted in my mind that aren't pleasing to You, I now ask You to "weed" them out.

Healing For My
Past, Present, and Future

What To Do to Be Forgiven

Rom 6:10 (NIV) The death He died, He died to sin once for ALL; but the life He lives, He lives to God. Jesus, You **died to sin once for ALL.** That included me as one of the "ALL" and that included all my past, present, and future sins. Thank You very much for doing that!

Rom 10:9-10 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, <u>you will be SAVED</u>. For it is with your heart that you believe and are JUSTIFIED, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are SAVED. Jesus, since You made it possible for me to do this, I am now forgiven, born again, a Christian, a child of God, a member of God's family, and a citizen in God's eternal Kingdom. Make it clear to me that this is what opened the door to ALL the great things of God! NOW, empower me to do what it takes to GET ALL the great things of God.

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1 John 1:7 (NIV) But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from ALL sin. Jesus, You are now doing what it takes to empower me to **walk in the light, as** You are **in the light.** Teach me that, that means I am closing the three doors that my body, the world, and the devil were using to put darkness inside me.

Rom 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to <u>offer</u> your BODIES as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not <u>conform</u> any longer to the pattern of this WORLD, but be <u>transformed</u> by the renewing of your MIND. Then you will be able to test and approve what GOD'S WILL is--<u>His good, pleasing and perfect will</u>. Jesus, help me be ready to take four steps into closing all three doors. Help me see that as long as I continue this process for the rest of my life, I will **walk in the light, as** You are **in the light.**

Four Lifetime Processes for Freedom from Wickedness

This Is a Continuing Process Not a Onetime Event

Jesus, help me with these four major steps that are being laid out for me:

1. **Jesus, teach me how to offer my BODY as a living sacrifice.**
2. **Teach me how to not conform any longer to the pattern of this WORLD.**
3. **Teach me how to be transformed by the renewing of my MIND.**
4. **Teach me how to be able to test and approve what GOD'S WILL is.**

Your Study Page For:
Romans 12:1-2 Brings Healing from Wickedness

What are some things that draw you toward righteousness?

Four Lifetime Processes

Closing The Body Door

Rom 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your BODIES as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this WORLD, but be transformed by the renewing of your MIND. Then you will be able to test and approve what GOD'S WILL is-- **<u>His good, pleasing and perfect will</u>.** You are now ready to take four steps in closing all three doors of your body, the world, and the devil. As long as you continue this process for the rest of your life, you will **walk in the light, as** Jesus **is in the light.**

Your Four Lifetime Assignments

Doing What It Takes:

1. **Offer your BODY as a living sacrifice.** You are to offer and keep on offering your body as a living sacrifice.

2. **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this WORLD**. You are to cease living like the world lives from now on.

3. **Be transformed by the renewing of your MIND.** You are to start yielding to Jesus renewing your mind as a lifetime process.

4. **Be able to test and approve what GOD'S WILL is.** You are to receive the ability to test and approve God's will moment by moment and issue by issue.

Your Body

Offer Your BODY As A Living Sacrifice

1 Th 4:3-7 (NIV) It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <u>that each of you should learn to control his own body</u> in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

To live a holy life is for you to only do good things with yourself, other people, and God's plan. The only way for that to happen is for Jesus to give you the power to live like this. Jesus will give you power to:

- Make your body read and study the Bible, like you are doing now.
- Make your body have good devotions every day.
- Make your body listen to good Christian music.
- Make your body read good Christian books.
- Make your body go to church or to a good small group.
- Make your body think on Philippians 4:8 things.
- Make your body yield to the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.

The World

Do Not Conform Any Longer to The Pattern of This WORLD
Mat 6:22-23 (NIV) The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

In this passage, Jesus is talking about what you expose yourself to. To leave a door open is to allow yourself to be exposed to something. The way you can accidently, ignorantly, and even purposefully leave the door open to Satan's influence is, to fail to see the importance of closing it. Spend some time with Jesus seeing what you need to do to no longer be conformed to the pattern of this world:

- You and Jesus need to examine the words and the beat of the music you listen to. You need to let Him guide you to the music He wants you to listen to.
- You and Jesus need to evaluate the content and concepts in the shows and movies you watch. Let Him help you set His standards for what you should be exposed to.
- You and Jesus need to critique the kind of literature you look at and read. Let Him help you eliminate anything that expresses principles and belief systems that are contrary to the Bible.
- You need to honestly and sincerely examine what kind of people you spend time with. Let Jesus tell you which ones you should spend time with and which ones you should avoid.
- You and Jesus need to go over your typical conversations and see if they are representative of a true Christian.
- You and Jesus need to look at what you do together with other people. Are you doing those things the Bible instructs you to do; or, are you doing what the Bible speaks against?

If there is any area where you are struggling with yielding to Jesus' leadership and change, that is the place where you need to keep praying and asking Him to help you become willing to submit. If that area remains open to your body, the world, and the devil, you will continue to have problems.

Your Mind

Be Transformed by The Renewing of Your MIND

Here are the steps into the renewing of your mind:

1. Allow Jesus To Set Your Mind: **Rom 8:5 (NIV) Those who live according to the sinful nature have their MINDS set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their MINDS set on what the Spirit desires.** Setting your mind on the Holy Spirit's desires has to do with your desires. You are asking Jesus to empower you to only desire those things the Holy Spirit desires. You can pray a general prayer asking for Jesus' power to be there at a MOMENT when you are facing a certain ISSUE. A general prayer gets you ready for all moments and issues; but, it doesn't force you to desire what the Holy Spirit desires at the moment you are facing that certain issue.

   When you are at a moment facing a certain issue, it must be a specific prayer asking to desire what the Holy Spirit desires for that decision. Every decision you face that day will only conform to the Holy Spirit's desires, if you pray asking Jesus to help you with IT.

2. Allow The Holy Spirit to Control Your Mind: **Rom 8:6-7 (NIV) The MIND of sinful man is death, but the MIND controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful MIND is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.** Bringing your mind under the control of the Spirit is a God-given free will decision. And, it is made moment by moment and issue by issue. You can pray a general prayer asking God to help you allow the Holy Spirit to control your mind; but, that only makes Jesus' power available for helping you yield to the Holy Spirit. It doesn't make you yield at the MOMENT you are about to make a decision. You are still in control because of your God-given free will.

3. Allow The Holy Spirit to Give You His Ideas: **Rom 8:26-27 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He Who searches our hearts knows the MIND of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.** Letting the Holy Spirit cause issues to pop up in your mind is vital. He will help you experience a **renewing of your mind** by leading you to pray for things you wouldn't have thought of on your own.

4. Let This Guide Your Thoughts: **Phil 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is TRUE, whatever is NOBLE, whatever is RIGHT, whatever is PURE, whatever is LOVELY, whatever is ADMIRABLE--if anything is EXCELLENT or PRAISEWORTHY--think about such things.** This makes all of the above verses of Scripture work. Praying and asking Jesus to empower you to do this sets your mind on the Holy Spirit's desires, gives you the power to allow the Holy Spirit to control your decisions and life, and helps you hear the Holy Spirit when He causes ideas to pop up in your mind.

God's Will

Be Able to Test and Approve What GOD'S WILL Is

1. Let Jesus Grow You Spiritually: **Col 1:9 (NIV) For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.** The reason Jesus is leading you into spiritual growth is because **the knowledge of** God's **will** comes **through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.**

2. Stay In God's Will: **Heb 10:36 (NIV) You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will RECEIVE what He has promised.** Pray and ask Jesus to help you NEVER give up.

3. Live A Righteous Life: **1 Pet 2:15 (NIV) For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.** Righteousness that comes from Jesus' power enables you to do good to yourself, other people, and God's plan.

   1 Pet 4:1-4 (NIV) Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.

4. Live Eternally: **1 John 2:17 (NIV) The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.** Ask Jesus to help you keep this in mind all the time. Getting eternal life, living in God's eternal Kingdom, living in a glorified, immortal body, and ruling and reigning with Jesus forever needs to motivate you now. Ask Jesus to help you see why you are applying yourself to all of His truths. Ask Him to show you that you will not only be victorious now, you will spend eternity enjoying all those things you prepared for now.

Your Prayer Page For:
Romans 12:1-2 Brings Healing from Wickedness

What are some things that draw me toward righteousness?

Four Lifetime Processes

Closing The Body Door

Rom 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your BODIES as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this WORLD, but be transformed by the renewing of your MIND. Then you will be able to test and approve what GOD'S WILL is--<u>His good, pleasing and perfect will</u>. Jesus, empower me to take the four steps into closing all three doors of my body, the world, and the devil. Help me see that as long as I continue this process for the rest of my life, I will **walk in the light, as** You are **in the light.**

My Four Lifetime Assignments

I Am Doing What It Takes:

1. Jesus, train and empower me to **offer** my **BODY as a living sacrifice.** Help me not just offer it once; help me keep on offering my body as a living sacrifice.

2. Jesus, teach me how and empower me to **not conform any longer to the pattern of this WORLD**. Help me cease living like the world lives from now on.

3. Jesus, show me how and empower me to **be transformed by the renewing of** my **MIND.** Let me start yielding to You renewing my mind as a lifetime process.

4. Jesus, bring me to the place where I am **able to test and approve what GOD'S WILL is.** Open my mind and heart to receive the ability to test and approve God's will moment by moment and issue by issue.

My Body

I Offer My BODY As a Living Sacrifice

1 Th 4:3-7 (NIV) It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <u>that each of you should learn to control his own body</u> in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

Jesus, help me see that for me to live a holy life is to only do good things to myself, other people, and God's plan. Help me understand that the only way for that to happen is for You to give me the power to live like this. I believe that You will give me power to:

- Make my body read and study the Bible, like I am doing now.
- Make my body have good devotions every day.
- Make my body listen to good Christian music.
- Make my body read good Christian books.
- Make my body go to church or to a good small group.
- Make my body think on Philippians 4:8 things.
- Make my body yield to the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.

The World

Do Not Conform Any Longer To the Pattern of This WORLD

Mat 6:22-23 (NIV) The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Jesus, in this passage, as You talk about what I expose myself to, help me close all doors. Teach me that to leave a door open is to allow myself to be exposed to something. Show me that the way I can accidently, ignorantly, and even purposefully leave the door open to Satan's influence is, to fail to see the importance of closing it. Show me what I need to do to no longer be conformed to the pattern of this world:

- Jesus, help me examine the words and the beat of the music I listen to. Guide me to the music You want me to listen to.

- Jesus, help me evaluate the content and concepts in the shows and movies I watch. Set Your standards for what I should be exposed to.

- Jesus, help me critique the kind of literature I look at and read. Help me eliminate anything that expresses principles and belief systems that are contrary to the Bible.

- Jesus, help me honestly and sincerely examine what kind of people I spend time with. Tell me which ones I should spend time with and which ones I should avoid.

- Jesus, help me go over my typical conversations and see if they are representative of a true Christian. Help me only say those things that You want said.

- Jesus, help me look at what I do together with other people. Help me see whether or not I am doing those things the Bible instructs me to do. Also, help me see if I am doing what the Bible speaks against.

Jesus, if there is any area where I am struggling with yielding to Your leadership and change, make it clear to me that, that is the place where I need to keep praying and asking You to help me become willing to submit. If that area remains open to my body, the world, and the devil, I will continue to have problems. Help me keep this list of evaluations so I won't have to wonder why I am having problems. I will be able to go over the list and You will make it obvious to me.

My Mind

I Am Being Transformed by The Renewing of My MIND

Jesus use these steps to renew my mind:

1. Allow Jesus to Set Your Mind: **Rom 8:5 (NIV) Those who live according to the sinful nature have their MINDS set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their MINDS set on what the Spirit desires.** Jesus, set my mind on the Holy Spirit's desires so His desires are my desires. Empower me to only desire the things He desires. Jesus, I pray this general prayer asking for Your power to be there at a moment when I am facing a certain issue. Let this general prayer get me ready for all moments and issues; but, help me understand that it doesn't force me to desire what the Holy Spirit desires at the moment I am facing that certain issue.

   Jesus, when I am at a moment facing a certain issue, help me pray a specific prayer asking You to help me desire what the Holy Spirit desires for that decision I am about to make. Teach me that every decision I face that day will only conform to the Holy Spirit's desires, if I pray asking You to help me with IT.

2. Allow The Holy Spirit to Control Your Mind: **Rom 8:6-7 (NIV) The MIND of sinful man is death, but the MIND controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful MIND is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.** Jesus, show me that when I bring my mind under the control of the Spirit, it is a God-given free will decision. And, make it clear to me that it is a decision that is also made moment by moment and issue by issue. I can pray a general prayer asking God to help me allow the Holy Spirit to control my mind; but, that only makes Your power available for helping me yield to the Holy Spirit. It does NOT make me yield at the MOMENT I am about to make a decision. I am still in control because of my God-given free will.

3. Allow The Holy Spirit To Give You His Ideas: **Rom 8:26-27 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He Who searches our hearts knows the MIND of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.** Jesus, empower me to let the Holy Spirit cause issues to pop up in my mind. Let Him help me experience a **renewing of** my **mind** by leading me to pray for things I wouldn't have thought of on my own.

4. Let This Guide Your Thoughts: **Phil 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is TRUE, whatever is NOBLE, whatever is RIGHT, whatever is PURE, whatever is LOVELY, whatever is ADMIRABLE--if anything is EXCELLENT or PRAISEWORTHY--think about such things.** Jesus teach me that this verse makes all of the above verses of Scripture work. I ask You to empower me to do this so that it sets my mind on the Holy Spirit's desires. Let it give me the power to allow the Holy Spirit to control my decisions and life. Let it help me hear the Holy Spirit when He causes ideas to pop up in my mind.

God's Will

Be Able to Test and Approve What GOD'S WILL Is

1. Let Jesus Grow You Spiritually: **Col 1:9 (NIV) For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.** Jesus, show me that the reason You are leading me into spiritual growth is because **the knowledge of** God's **will** comes **through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.**

2. Stay In God's Will: **Heb 10:36 (NIV) You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will RECEIVE what He has promised.** Jesus, help me NEVER give up.

3. Live A Righteous Life: **1 Pet 2:15 (NIV) For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.** Jesus, produce a righteousness that comes from Your power; let it enable me to do good to myself, other people, and God's plan.

   1 Pet 4:1-4 (NIV) Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. Jesus, train and empower me to **not live the rest of** my **earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God**

4. Live Eternally: **1 John 2:17 (NIV) The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.** Jesus, help me keep this in mind all the time. Let getting eternal life, living in God's eternal Kingdom, living in a glorified, immortal body, and ruling and reigning with You forever motivate me now. Help me see why I am applying myself to all of Your truths. Show me that I will not only be victorious now, I will spend eternity enjoying all those things I prepared for now.