

THE JESUS LIFE

Jesus knows what life is all about. He is offering to join you in your life by providing you with the provisions and procedures that He lives by.

By Mel D Westbrook MBTh

Starting Your Day
With Jesus LIFEstyle
Series

Starting Your Day With Jesus *Lifestyle* Series

The Book Introduction

Version: 24.10.2

Using The Truth/Prayer Pages

Jesus will be teaching you a truth then lead you into praying for that truth. Each page has power truths and power prayers. Today read about the purpose of Power Truths. Then, tomorrow read about the purpose of Power Prayers. From then on, you will read three Truth/Prayer Pages each day for five days. Please read the purpose of Power Truths today. NOTE: This is a five-day program; you skip Saturday and Sunday.

The Purpose Of “Power Truths”

Week One Day One

What Is Your Original Purpose?

This introduction is used in all the “Starting Your Day With Jesus *LIFe*style Series” studies and prayers. If you have read this introduction before, it may seem repetitious. But, it is vital that you stay aware of where Jesus is taking you and what you are doing to get there.

What kinds of people are you having to deal with every day? Do you find that, as a Christian, it hard to do what Jesus wants your relationships to be? With the kind of people you have to deal with, how does He expect you to treat people with unity, truth, compassion, fairness, and love? How do these things work in business, dating, marriage, a family, or with an enemy or adversary? How do you take what you learn in the Bible and apply it to the way you live life? How do you do it in such a way it actually empowers you to succeed in life in a better way than ever before? You and Jesus will be able to solve these issues together here.

Does The Bible Help With Your Life?

Have you ever read a requirement in the Bible, and wondered what would happen if you applied it to your business or a relationship? What would happen to your business or your friends if you went around just telling them the truth? It can look like you would be a lot more successful if you mainly concentrated on your needs, likes, preferences, and interests. To start loving others and concentrating on their needs, can appear to hurt your goals, plans, and future; but, it actually enhances them. Wisdom from Jesus will make the difference.

What makes you win in life? What causes people to want to be around you? Why would someone want to do business with you, marry you, be your friend, or stop being your enemy? What kind of a person would you need to be to win at life and it make you and those around you happy. What is Jesus, the truths of the Bible, and Christianity offering that would make your life so much better that you wish you had lived that way all of your life?

Did You Know There Are Two Lifestyles?

There are two approaches to life; one involves dishonesty and the other involves honesty. One involves selfishness and the other involves love. One involves goals that end at death and the other wins now and in eternity. One involves loving things and using people and the other involves loving people and using things. One involves following the teachings of the world and the other involves following the teachings of Jesus. The thing about these two lifestyles is, one abuses people and the other blesses, helps, befriends, and cares about people.

Would You Like To Grow With Jesus?

What if you are already too busy to add one more thing to your life? What if you already have a full schedule? What if you are already doing as much as possible trying to have a relationship with God? Why would you add something like this to your busy schedule?

It's true you can't just stop your life to let Jesus teach you. But, would reading and praying over three pages a day really be that hard? Rather than a simple "thought for the day" or some self-help concept, what if Jesus took you into steady, continued growth in your relationship with Him? What if He took you into incredible principles and taught you how to succeed at everything you do? Studying a truth and then praying and asking Jesus to put it in your life is a powerful way of making your life so much better than it has ever been.

How Is The Bible Relevant To Your Every Day Life?

What about your life? Would you like Jesus to teach you how to succeed in a business, a marriage, a family, a career, or your life? Are you willing to let Him help you grow in your relationship with Him? Have you ever considered how wise Jesus is? What would happen if you included Him in all the decisions of your day? He will help you think of incredible things that will enhance your plans. You can simply read and pray through three pages a day for five days a week and Jesus will help you learn how to walk and talk with Him all day long.

What about your happiness? Have you ever thought a certain thing or person would make you happy and it didn't? Have you ever got something that made you happy for a while and then it gradually lost its excitement? How would you like Jesus to guide you into those things that bring true happiness that lasts for a lifetime? How about starting your day *with* happiness?

What Is Your System For Life?

What is life all about? Jesus and the Bible are like turning on the light in a dark room. Most people are trying to "feel" their way through life. They are trying to imagine and guess what life is all about. They find themselves going down dead-end paths, running into obstacles, and falling over things they weren't able to see. Jesus is the light of the world. He illuminates the issues and circumstances you face so you can see and understand what you are dealing with. This is called *truth*. On each page, you will be letting Jesus teach you a truth and then empower you to pray and invite Him to put it into the attitudes, character, and behavior of your life. That is worth the little time it takes to read and pray three pages a day.

Do You Know What Causes You To Win Or Lose?

What about your success? Did you know there are certain areas of your *attitudes* and *character* that are causing you to win or lose at life? These two things are Jesus' priority. He knows that if you have bad attitudes, you will fail. How is your character? You may feel like your attitudes and character are pretty good. Have you ever dealt with a person who seemed to be unaware of their faults? Their people-skills were poor; but, they didn't seem to know it. It is difficult for us to see our own faults. Jesus will lovingly and gently help you improve.

Who do you like? Do you like those who are trying to use you to get what they want? Do you like those who lie to you so you will meet their needs? Do you like those who will cheat you, if they think they can get by with it? Do you like those who talk down to you because they think they are superior to you? Improving your attitudes and character are how Jesus helps you treat people the way you like being treated. When they find out that you are real and trustworthy, it becomes much easier for them to be around you. Jesus wants to teach you how. Win/win relationships are all about doing to others what you want them doing to you.

Your Team

Jesus' people are praying that you are blessed in a special way. They are praying that you have a close relationship with Jesus.

People Are Praying This For You:

Eph 1:16-17 (NIV) I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may *give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.*

Eph 1:18-19a (NIV) I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

Eph 1:19b-21 (NIV) That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Note: Your Life-Map Record Sheets are at the end of this book. It is very helpful for keeping a record of where you left off. It would be good to print it and keep it filled out as you progress through these chapters.

Below is a Personal Assessment Worksheet. Please prayerfully fill it out before you start your next study and prayer. You will be given another one at the end of the book. This will give you a chance to see any changes in your personal assessment.

My Personal Assessment Worksheet

Version 24.10.2

Please answer these questions so as to get a feel for where you are at this point in time. Space has been provided for you to write down those things you want to put under each question. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet. Print as page 5.

1. What are the things that are bothering you the most?
2. What goals have you set up as being the most important accomplishments for your life?
3. What plans have you put in place that are now influencing most of your decisions?
4. What kind of circumstances have come your way that have shaped a lot of your life?
5. What relationships have you established that are major contributors to the way you live?
6. Are you happy with the way you are living?
7. Are you satisfied with the way your life is heading?
8. Would you like Jesus to help with it all?

The Purpose Of “Power Prayers”

Week One Day Two

Living Life For A Purpose

How Do You Turn Information Into A Lifestyle?

If you were a hoarder, you would fill your house with all kinds of things. They may be very useful; but, you would have forgotten why you obtained them. Working on your *lifestyle* is about *using* what you learn, and *living* life as God gives it to you. This keeps you from just “hoarding” a bunch of information.

Let’s say you got a degree and was licensed as a professional. What if you worked at a fast-food place, getting minimum wages, while getting your education, degree, and license? But, suppose you kept working as a fast-food worker after you paid the price, learned the information, earned the degree, and were licensed to take advantage of your training. You didn’t make the changes in your *lifestyle*. Jesus’ methods keep this from happening.

What Makes Jesus’ Truths Different?

Have you seen people going on a strict diet, lose a lot of weight, but later gain it all back? They didn’t make dieting and exercise a part of their lifestyle. Your lifestyle is *permanently changed* by you “doing what it takes” to get where you need to go so you can continue *living* there. By exposing yourself to Jesus’ principles, you develop a *lifestyle*.

How can Jesus take three-page chapters and turn those principles into a new *lifestyle* for you? First, He helps you understand His truths. Then He helps you ask Him to put those truths into your life by providing you relevant prayers based on those truths. Plus, He helps you be thinking about what you studied and prayed about. All during your day, He helps you see how you can use His principles in your daily life.

How Does Jesus’ Life Help Your Life?

A baby goes through many stages in becoming an adult; they try to pattern their life after adults. If they saw how much smaller, weaker, and untrained they were, they might get discouraged and not try. You have been born again; this time you were born into the family of God. You started out as a spiritual infant. As a beginner child of God, you are to become a mature, trained, adult child of God. Jesus will help you grow into all these things.

Jesus is your pattern for adulthood; But, you must see Him as your example. Jesus is the Creator of the universe; He is God; of course He is able to do what He did. As a spiritual beginner, you may see how small, weak, and untrained you are; you may not be willing to try. You may not know you are to be a spiritual adult someday by following Jesus’ examples and training. Jesus can get you ready to live in God’s Kingdom by helping you now.

What Is Jesus Trying To Teach You?

If a baby doesn't innately know *the reason* they have a small version of an adult body, they won't develop properly. They must desire to watch, practice, grow, and gradually learn how to live life as an adult. You are never going to be God; but, you are a child of God; you are to watch Jesus, practice, grow, and gradually learn how to live life as a spiritual adult. Jesus IS God; but, it is *still* His desire to show you *how* to live His adult, Jesus-life *as* a child of God.

You were born as a human so you could have a body and a life to be trained with. It is a limited life because your attitudes and character haven't been developed to a place where you can be trusted with supernatural, God-sized power. If you yield to Jesus' training, your attitudes and character will be developed properly. Then Jesus will *gradually* give you opportunities to work together with Him. He and you will be able to train and help those around you to experience Jesus' power and truths in their life.

Are You Ready To Learn How To Live The Jesus-Life?

Ask Jesus to help you understand vital truth issues. Like in the rest of these things in this book, spiritual understanding only comes from Jesus. If you read and understand these things, you can be sure it is because Jesus is empowering you to understand. If you read and don't understand, all you have to do is ask Jesus to help you understand. If you pray and still don't understand, then ask Jesus to help you bring it back up when He is ready to explain it to you.

1. Be Born Into It

John 3:3 (NIV) In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” You know what human birth looks like; it is a small version of a human, starting out for the first time on this planet. They usually have all the physical equipment, but, don't know how to use it or take advantage of it. They have a lot of growing to do physically, mentally, spirituality, and in experiences. They have a long way to go to be an adult human; but, they seem to have the desire, hope, and determination to get the job done.

You were born again; your second birth made you God's child, a member of His family, and a citizen in His Kingdom. Now you need to allow all of this become a reality in your heart and mind. You *know* you have been born into it. Now allow Jesus to help you know the other things you need to know.

2. Know You Are Born Again For Eternity

1 Pet 1:23 (NIV) For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. Being born again is different from being born as a human. The human “seed” of your parents produced a life that is **perishable** and heading for death. You do all that growing physically, mentally, and in experiences; but, if you aren't born again, you lose it all at death. Being born again through the “seed” of God is **imperishable**; you live forever. But like human birth, you have some growing to do; you start from spiritual infancy and mature into an adult child of God.

3. Trade Your Human Life For Jesus' Life

Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me. If you want to, you can spend all your time learning how to succeed as a human. If you do, you will forfeit your eternal Jesus-training. As an untrained Christian, you will enter into eternity with very little spiritual skills, abilities, experiences, or training. Your opportunities will be extremely limited. However, even if you only give Jesus a few minutes of your time each day, He will use it to help you succeed now and for eternity in many ways.

As a child of God, you have some growing to do. Jesus will help you learn to live in the spirit realm where your Father lives. As a new born-again beginner, you don't know much about this new realm. But, Jesus provides you examples through His life and teaching. He will teach and show you what an adult child of God looks like. It will take a lifetime to learn; but all of it will work now and last for eternity. Let Jesus show you how to trade your life for His.

4. Trade One Lifestyle For Another

John 14:12 (NIV) I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. What if a young child didn't see their parents as someone they were to pattern after? What if they thought they could never be like them? That is what happens to a lot of Christians. They don't understand the *lifestyle* Jesus is trying to give them. Yes, Jesus is God; but, He lived His life as a human, spiritual adult. He did it so you can accept His lifestyle as yours.

5. Trade One Inheritance For Another

Rom 8:17 (NIV) Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory. What if you see the Bible and Jesus' life as not have anything to do with your life now? How would it affect your life if you knew your life now was influencing your eternal inheritance? What if you found out that you could be making investments in eternity by living a certain way here? Did you know that your success here affects your success in eternity?

6. Appreciate Your New Birth And New Inheritance

Now if we are children, then we are heirs: What did you inherit when you became a child of God? **Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).** Just like a human child will automatically grow up looking a lot like their parents, there are parts of you that are automatic in Christian growth. But, there are skills, knowledge, experiences, abilities, and training your parents have that you didn't get.

7. Take Advantage Of Your New Birth And New Inheritance

Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ: Not all of Christianity is automatic; a human baby inherits their characteristics from their parents. But, what they do with them is up to them. That is the way Christianity is; you inherited God and His provisions. That is automatic; but, what you do with all this is the next big issue. You aren't here just to learn how to live as a human, you are mostly here to learn how to live as a spirit being. You are to let Jesus use the things you learn about living as a human to teach you about living as God's child. You have applied yourself to learning a lot about being human; and, you have applied yourself to learning *how* to live as God's child. Now it is time to start *living* as a child of God.

8. "Do What It Takes"

If you need a drink, you have learned how "to do what it takes" to get one. If you need to chew some food, you know how to do it. If you need to pick something up, you have learned the process of accomplishing that. But, do you know how to hunger and thirst after righteousness? Do you know how to "chew" spiritual truths? Do you know how to move spiritual issues from one place to another? Learning how to walk in the Spirit, digest God's truth, have eyes and ears that can see and hear what Jesus is teaching, is what you are dealing with now.

A Prayer For You To Always Pray For Yourself And Others

Jesus' people are praying Ephesians 1:17-23 for you. It contains such vital requests before God that it has converted into a prayer for you and those around you. As others pray it for you, please join them by praying this modified prayer for yourself and your friends.

I keep asking that the God of my Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that I may know Him better.

I pray also that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened in order that I may know the hope to which He has called me, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for me, who believes. Jesus, help me see, know, and understand the hope, the riches, and this power.

That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills everything in every way. Jesus, I ask that I would receive a full revelation and vision into all this power that is available to me; and, I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

It would be good for you to pray this prayer for yourself and those around you regularly.

“The Jesus Life” Truth/Prayer Pages

Version: 24.10.2

Week One Day Three

Chapter One Living Victoriously

How Do You Live What You Have Learned?

The Power Truth words and the Power Prayers in the boxes have two different objectives. You read the Power Truths to *learn* Biblical principles; you pray the Power Prayers in the boxes to *live* them; this is called *asking*. **Mat 7:7 (NIV) ASK and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.** These are “**The Three Keys to All of Christianity.**” They empower you to *grow* in a close and intimate relationship with Jesus. They help you *get* everything He provides. These Power Prayers are a life-exercise; they take the Biblical principles from the Power Truths and invite Jesus to start them flowing in and through you.

Jesus, I need all You have to offer; help me use Matthew 7:7 to get these things. Help me learn them, as I go through the Scriptures in the Power Truths. Then let me use these Power Prayers to *ask* You to apply them to my life. Help me realize that these are the Bible studies I need so I can start living the Bible and taking advantage of all God’s truths.

How Do You Apply The Truths To Everyday Living?

We have all read things, studied things, learned things, and then forgot them, or, just never used them. After intense exposure to certain principles, you get excited, impressed, hopeful, and inspired. But, after a few months, you go back to the way you have *always* lived. Your old lifestyle, habits, procedures, and systems take back over and you don’t change all that much. ***Seek and you will find*** is telling you that there is a power-to-live available.

Jesus, my whole reason for learning the Bible is so I can live it. Help me use it in my moment-by-moment, issue-by-issue decisions of life. Help me learn how to *seek* so I can keep moving forward in my journey of victorious living. Empower me to learn how to apply all of it to my *lifestyle*. I believe that if I *seek* I **will find** the truths that set me free.

What Does It Mean To *Yield* Your Life to The Truths

John 8:31-32 (NIV) To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, “If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples.” You must “do what it takes” to not just *hear* what Jesus has to say; you can’t just *learn* what He teaches; you have to *learn how to hold to* His teachings and not let them go. You must allow them to be a part of you so you can live out the transformation, miracles, blessings, and healing they offer. God has given you **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity** help you yield to these truths.

What Did Jesus Mean When He Said To “Hold To”?

“**Hold to,**” means you get power to *live* Jesus’ teachings. Jesus will show you how to **hold to** His **teaching**, making you **really** be His **disciple**. Jesus’ teachings aren’t just information; “**Hold to**” isn’t Him just trying to inform you. And, it means you can’t use your experiences, talents, skills, training, and abilities to **hold to**. Jesus’ **teachings** must empower you to **hold to**. They must give you a new way to live. It does what *you could not* do for yourself. You apply them by *asking*. You believe that if you *ask...it will be given to you*.

How Do I “Do What It Takes” To Hold to Jesus’ Teaching?

John 8:31-32 (NIV) To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, “If you *hold to My teaching*, you are really My disciples. *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*” You are now ready for taking the steps into being free.

Step One (This is typically accomplished in the Power Truth studies)

Then you will know the truth: First you must *seek* to know what Jesus’ truths are.

1. Jesus, help me *seek* to get to know what Your truths are.
2. Help me *seek* by studying these Biblical truths with great intensity.
3. Help me pray the right prayers as I *seek* for Your truths.
4. Give me *Your* faith so I can believe I *have* what I have been *seeking*.
5. Help me yield to God’s love so I can *seek* with a true heart.
6. Help me move into the “*lifestyle*” Scriptures in the Power Prayers so I can take the next step of living them. I believe that when I *seek*, I **will find**.
7. Give me a thankful heart for all the wonderful things You are doing for me.

And the truth will set you free: Just **knowing the truth** doesn’t set you free. Jesus doesn’t say, **Then you will know the truth, and** knowing the truth will set you free. He says: “**The truth will set you free.**” **Then you will know the truth** is step one of two steps. First, you must **know** what the **truth** is; then you must *ask* to yield to that **truth** so it can **set you free**. So, after you have been *seeking* the Bible principles to get to know what the truth is, you are now ready to *ask* for them in the next step.

Step Two (This is accomplished in the Power Prayers)

And the truth will set you free: Then you must *ask* to *get* the freedom from Jesus’ truths.

1. Jesus, help me *desire* to be set free by the truths You have shown me.
2. Help me learn how to be set free by Your truths through *studying* Your Bible.
3. Help me *pray* the prayers that will set me free to succeed in life.
4. Give me Your faith for each truth You have shown me so I can *believe* I have this freedom in my own life.
5. Help me yield to God’s *love* so I ask for freedom for the right reasons.
6. Help me pray through the “*lifestyle*” Scriptures in the Power Truths so I can take *faith-action* on the next step of living on the basis of *this freedom*.
7. The help me appreciate all You do for me and be *thankful* for it.

Steps To Freedom

1. Ask Jesus to Empower You to Give Freedom A Chance

Doing the above two steps with these special keys isn't the end of it. It is true God just gave you His power from those two steps; but, there are a lot of truths in the Bible. You must do this truth-by-truth, and issue-by-issue. AND, you will be praying moment-by-moment throughout your day. It's a *lifestyle* not an all-inclusive, sudden, once-in-a-lifetime provision.

Jesus, as I am exposed to Your Biblical principles, help me not just read and move on. Let me apply them each day. Lead me into *getting* Your freedom from them as I use study (*seek*) and prayer (*ask*). Help me learn to stop and pray until I feel Your presence and power flow into my heart and mind. Give me the patience to wait on You until I *know* You have given it to me. Let me *feel* Your transformations in my heart.

2. Ask Jesus to Empower You to Develop a Freedom Lifestyle

"Lifestyle" isn't just a study; you will need a spiritual exercise; but, you will read Scriptures at a much slower pace. You won't just **know the truth**; you will be **set free** by Jesus' **truth**. To **know the truth** happens at a much faster pace. But, living these truths and being set free by them, will require you to slow down and allow them to do their job.

Jesus, help me find every truth in Your Bible; help me know it, understand it, and then learn what it is going to take to apply it to my life. Help me be willing to allow that truth to change me in ways that I may not totally understand. If I feel a truth is going to do something to me that I won't like, help me understand why I need that change. Then help me allow it to make that change. I want to be set free by Your truths; You know what is best for me.

3. Ask Jesus to Empower You to Take the Faith Steps

You are seeing how **"The Three Keys To All Of Christianity"** work; you are applying them to yourself. You will take the Scriptures in the Power Truths and apply them in the Prayer Pages. You will *take out time* to *ask* God to make them a part of who you are and what you do. You will see incredible results in your daily life, because you aren't just reading and moving on.

Jesus, help me see this as literal steps into Your power, freedom, and transformation. Make it clear that this is how the Bible and Christianity work. Show me that it takes asking, seeking, and knocking with **The Three Keys**. Show me that I won't get Your truth or its freedom, unless I *seek* to find out what your truths are and then *ask* for them.

This concludes your reading and praying for today.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Two

The Three Keys

Week One Day Four

How To Benefit From The Three Keys

1. Ask Jesus to Teach You How to Use the Three Keys to All of Christianity

Mat 7:7 (NIV) Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Just like you have to reach out your hand and grasp something in order to pick it up, you have to ask, seek, and knock to get certain things in the spirit realm. **The Three Keys** have the concepts of asking or praying and seeking or studying in them. Jesus will show you how to use them separately and how to couple them together.

Jesus, help me understand that this type of asking, seeking, and knocking isn't coming from my human efforts. Show me how to do them through faith in Your power. Empower me to ask with the intensity that the seek key provides. Help me start on my journey by getting these truths into my life. I want to be set free by "doing what it takes" through Your truths.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Know The "Ask" Key Is The Most Powerful And Important

Jesus concludes His instructions in Matthew 7:7-11 with the statement: **If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him (Mat 7:11)!** The Bible tells you in **James 4:2b (NIV) You do not have, because you do not ask God.**

Jesus, it so tempting for me to try to do what the Bible tells me to do and forget to ask You to help me with it. Help me realize that, as powerful and effective as your Word is, it is *very* dependent on Your ask, seek, and knock keys. Show me that asking keeps me from looking to my abilities, strengths, talents, skills, training, and efforts. I have been having trouble with this issue; and, it keeps me living far below Your plan for my life.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand Your Permission Based Relationship With Him

As was said before, God won't do anything for you that you don't give Him permission to do. And, you can't make Him do anything without His permission. God waits for you to say you want something *before He considers* giving it to you. After you have indicated you want it, *then* He decides whether or not it is the very best for you and those around you.

Jesus, because of my God-given free will, asking, seeking, and knocking are my first moves toward You. They tell You what is my true desire. Empower me to pray the Scripture: **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Mat 6:33).** Show me that *ask* invites You to give me Your Kingdom and Your righteousness. Help me see that this is the way all the other Scriptures are activated.

4. Ask Jesus To Protect Your Free Will

Jesus, not everyone honors my free will; *Satan* tries to force his way into my life, help me “do what it takes” to keep him from it. Some *people* try to force their will on me, empower me to stop them. Sometimes *governments* try to thwart my God-given free will, if they are powerful enough; help me cooperate with You and keep them from it. But, also help me know that *You* always honor my free will with a fierce and determined commitment.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That Free-Will Requires Invitation

Jesus, help me see that my God-given free will requires me to invite You into everything. Help me understand the principles of **James 4:8a (NIV) Come near to God and He will come near to you**; show me that I must make the first move. Empower me to learn how to respond to **Matthew 11:28 (NIV) Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest**. Show me that You are waiting on me to **come**. You are waiting for me to start “doing what it takes” to *get* the freedom and provisions; help me do it.

Rev 3:20 (NIV) Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. You are learning *how* to open **the door**. This is why things don’t happen to you just by wishing, wanting, or waiting. God is waiting for you to make the first move. And, He is waiting on you to make the *right* first move; that involves righteousness. Your first move has to be a *righteous* first move.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That Power Requires Righteousness

There are people who have money, possessions, positions, power, popularity, prestige, pleasure, and accomplishments. Here are the *kinds* of people who have them:

- There are people who are *willing* to lie, cheat, steal, mislead, and hurt people because they don’t have righteousness (Romans 1:16-32); they do what they do on purpose.
- There are people who are just learning how to live on the basis of righteousness but are struggling with it, they hurt people but *not* on purpose (Romans 7:15-25).
- There are people who are starting to get breakthroughs in their *lifestyle*, and are succeeding with righteousness in various areas of their lives but not *all* of them (Philippians 3:12-14).
- There are people who are applying **The Three Keys** and are succeeding with righteousness more and more *each day* (Matthew 7:7-12).

Jesus, only allow me to get involved in Your power *in those areas* where I have breakthroughs in Your righteousness. Transform me so I don’t use Your gifts and power for wrong, bad, or evil purposes. Take me into the areas that are good for me and those around me. Show me how to work together with You; let good gifts and power flow from You into me. Give me Your righteousness; because that is the only way for it to happen.

7. Ask Jesus To Help You *Ask , Seek, And Knock* For Only Doing Good (Righteousness)

If you start off using **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity** for those things God considers good, then you will immediately experience victory through them. You have to understand *what your problem is* with *getting* what you need from God. You have to learn *what it takes* to be able to work together with your heavenly Father. If you don't know *what works and what doesn't*, you will always be struggling in your relationship with Him. The Bible makes God's requirements clear; but, you can't just learn them, you have to learn how to live them.

Learning truth doesn't set you free; living truth sets you free.

Jesus, it has been hard for me to understand all the requirements placed on my God-given free will. The world didn't understand my God-given free will and couldn't help me understand it. But, since I am with You; show me that I will be using keys and principles that tell You this is what I want. Help me learn how to have my God-given free will but still be getting Your permission. Help me stay within Your will while using my free will.

8. Ask Jesus To Set You Free From Using Human Effort To Get Your Needs Met

Let's take a look at a person who is trying to get their needs met the typical but wrong way.

James 4:1-3 (NIV) What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your *desires* that battle within you? *You want something but don't get it.* You kill and covet, but *you cannot have what you want.* You quarrel and fight. *you do not have, because you do not ask God.* When you *ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

Jesus, help me learn that **The Three Keys** are very powerful and results-producing. Let them keep me focused and heading directly into Your will and purpose. Let them help me make the first move when I ask, seek, and knock. Empower them to help me ask, seek, and knock for the right things, the right way, and for the right reasons.

9. Being Set Free From Human Procedures And Efforts

1. Jesus help me ask, seek, and knock for the right things, the right way, and for the right reasons.
2. Help me *seek* so I can ask and knock based on the truths of Your Word.
3. Help me *ask* with the right prayers so I can seek and knock based on Your Will.
4. Jesus, give me *Your faith* so I can *believe* I have Your power to ask, seek, and knock in faith.
5. Help me yield to *God's love* so I am empowered to ask, seek, and knock based on a love that fulfills 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a.
6. Help me move into the Scriptures in the "**Lifestyle**" Power Prayers so I can take the next step of *living* based on the fact that I am asking, seeking, and knocking for a transformed life with You.
7. I now thank You Jesus for giving me this wonderful breakthrough in my life.

This concludes your reading and praying for today.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Three

Did You Know You Have a God-Given Free Will?

Week One Day Five

How To Direct Your Will

1. Ask Jesus To Help Your Will Only Desire Good Things

Mark 11:24 (AKJV) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever you *desire*, when you *pray*, *believe* that you receive them, and you shall *have* them.

Jesus, help me see that desire is the first requirement for me *having* those things I need from You. Show me that desiring *good* things brings my will into unity with Your will. Prepare my heart for victory in life by *giving* me the desires that cause me to want what *you consider* to be the very best for me and those around me.

2. Ask Jesus To Help Your Will Only Want Eternal Things

1 John 2:17 (NIV) The world and its *desires* pass away, but the man who does the will of God *lives forever*.

Jesus, reveal to me that eternal *life* involves a change in my desire. Help me see that those things I wanted, that were only good for this temporary *life*, are to be exchanged. Give me desires that get me things that not only benefit me now but also benefit me *forever*. Show me that I may end up with many of the same *things*; but, if I do, I will end up *with them* for an entirely different purpose by using an entirely different method.

3. Ask Jesus To Help Your Will Only Seek The Righteous *Life*

James 1:19-20 (NIV) My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the *righteous life* that God *desires*. If you haven't consulted God, you move into an area of easily frustration. You drive to "make things happen;" you "make up your mind;" you try to "defeat the opposition;" you "force your way to the top;" you "believe you know what is best;" and you "don't let anything get in your way." These angry, frustrated, impatient, and self-asserting attitudes don't take you into the *righteous life* that God *desires*.

Jesus, You have a *will* too; if my will lines up with Yours then I will only want to do good for myself, those around me, and Your wonderful plan for me--which is righteousness. Help my will only want what You will. Let feelings of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23) start influencing my will. Let these power-feelings from You, be my signal that I am desiring what You desire.

4. Ask Jesus To Help Your Will Only Desire To Live Honorably

Heb 13:18 (NIV) Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.

Jesus, I know it is Your will to help me produce win/win situations for everyone involved. Help me see how important this is. Help all my decisions, plans, goals, ideas, and actions to fit into this principle. Empower me to yield to this principle by You giving my will a ***desire to live honorably in every way.*** Let this move into my *goals*; let it influence me to make sure everyone is always benefited mutually in everything I do with them.

5. Ask Jesus To Help Your Will Only Desire The Truth

2 Tim 4:3 (NIV) For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Jesus, set me free from trying to use the principles of the Bible to justify my human will. Help me realize that it doesn't make me willing to do the things of God. Help my will be submitted to Your will. Your desires are powerful, steadfast, and aimed at truth. Keep me from insisting on my will; or, I will end up just wanting those things I think are best for me. Help me not try to get the Bible and my studies to tell me what I want to hear.

Yielding To The Holy Spirit's Will

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.*

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Willingly Respect God's Abilities

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their *minds set on what that nature desires*: You may not willingly have a bad desire; it may just be something *you* think will make you happy. You may want something that doesn't have any bad moral or sin aspects to it. It may be something *you* think God would feel okay about you desiring. YOU may look at it and believe it won't hurt anyone. The Bible may not speak against it in any way. It may appear to *you* to be completely harmless. But, it may do a lot of damage to you in the long run.

Jesus, I can't see how things will affect my future. I don't know the direction a job, a career, a person, a decision, or a relationship may take me. Show me that the mistakes I make aren't all sins. But, they can be turning points that lead me into sin or failure. Only You can see the future; You are the only One Who has my best interests in mind. You are my best friend, and love me more than I love myself. Keep me from having a strong will that makes mistakes that hurt my future. Take my will and replace it with Your will.

2. Ask Jesus To Help Your Will Be Based On Faith And Trust In God

Those who live in accordance with the Spirit: Jesus, set me free from faith in my opinions. Show me that it causes me to want things based on what I think. Empower me to know You are my best friend, You know what is best for me, and You only do good things. Let this knowledge help me be willing to **live in accordance with the Spirit**. I can't want to yield to Your work if I don't know how good, faithful, loving, kind, and gracious You are.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Be Willing To Have The Right Mind-Set

Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set: Jesus, I know that this isn't me making up my mind to always desire the right things. Help me apply **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity**. It is my will to get my **mind set** by *asking* You to **set** it. Bring this kind of spiritual condition into me. Help me not ignore **The Three Keys** by looking to myself for "making up my mind." Please set my mind on Your Spirit.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Be Willing To Have The Same Desire The Holy Spirit Has

Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their *minds set on what the Spirit desires*: This is you being willing to find out what the Holy Spirit *wants* you to want. Rather than desiring something and then trying to get God to do it for you, you *seek* to learn what God's Spirit wants you to desire. Then you *ask* Him to help you be willing to desire it. This makes you one **who lives in accordance with the Spirit**.

Jesus, help me be willing to get my **mind set on what the Spirit desires**. Give me Your power to resist any opposition that tries to change my will. Put Your will in me that is so powerful that nothing can push me off track. Make it so that pressures from my "friends," those who have authority over me, circumstances in life, and my own body aren't able to change my will or mind-set. You are empowering me to be willing to desire what the Holy Spirit desires because I am asking You to. You helped me see how important it is.

5. Constantly Ask Jesus To Help You Be Willing To Have The Right Desires

God gives you the right to choose your path all day long. You may pray to be willing for one thing but not pray for another. God's plan involves a relationship and a lifestyle. Each and every thing you face all during your day has to do with your will. If all of a sudden you make a "snap judgment," that is your God-given right. Mind-sets and desires are all subject to your moment-by-moment, issue-by-issue choices and decisions. As a part of every decision in your day, you decide whether you will make it with God or without Him.

Jesus, I know that my God-given free will is the freedom to include You in each decision or not. Your salvation set me free to decide whether or not I invite You into each thing I face. Help me realize that all I have to do is *think*, "Jesus, what do You want me to do about this." It may take an extra second or two; but, I *want* this to open the door for You to cause *your* ideas and feelings to pop up in my mind and heart.

This concludes your reading and praying for today. Start Chapter Four next week.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Four

Where Did You Get Your Education?

Week Two Day One

How To Get The Truth

2 Tim 2:15 (AKJV) Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1. Ask Jesus For The Goal That Sets All Your Training Goals

Study to show yourself approved to God: There are things you know that will only apply to this life and will soon pass away. There are things you know that Jesus doesn't agree with. And, there are things you are learning that will help you succeed now and in eternity. If, from now on, you **study** in such a way that it is **to show yourself approved to God**, then you will only major in those things that help you win now *and* all the way into eternity.

Jesus, I want to have the knowledge You want me to have; I want to get an education that is beneficial for me and those around me. And, I want to be taught those things that will be beneficial now and in eternity. Help me devote myself to learning those things that will influence me in the right ways. Help me set goals that influence me into the right information. Guide my studies so that Your knowledge and training will set my standards.

2. Ask Jesus For Truths That Are Better Than All Other Information

Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed:

When you make mistakes, wrong decisions, go in the wrong direction, or hurt yourself and others, because you are a true Christian, you become **ashamed** of it. It is embarrassing for you to realize you didn't do the right thing. You realize you were wrong; others see how wrong you were; and God sees why you were wrong.

Jesus, give me training in life and in eternal life; let it take away the shame and embarrassment. Help me accept the Bible as my steps into victory. Let Bible study keep me from being ignorant. Let it help me know the truths that set me free. Let it explain what I need to do to follow Your leadership. Let it open the doors to getting the things I need from You. I am a person who knows a lot of worldly information through study; but, typically I have studied many of the wrong things. Empower me to put the priority on learning the Bible so I can be a person who is guided by You into Your truth.

3. Ask Jesus For The Right Meaning So You Will Have The Truth

Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**: What if you read: “**And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19).**” and you interpreted it to mean God will make you rich? You would base your life on a false principle that sets your goals, designs your plans, and structures your life in a direction that takes you away from God. The Bible will only work for you if you get God’s true meaning.

Some people *do* study the Bible, but, end up with wrong conclusions. This is caused by bad desires and motives; they *want* the Bible to say and *mean* certain things; so, they twist and reinterpret what its true meaning is. The Holy Spirit will tell you what each Scripture means.

Jesus, if I don’t like what a Scripture says, help me not ignore it or change its meaning. Help me be one who is “**rightly dividing the word of truth**.” Let the interpretation come straight from the Holy Spirit. He alone knows what Your intentions were when You caused it to be written. Help me realize that the only way I am going to get the truth is to *ask* what You meant. And to *seek* the truth from that Scripture.

Studying The Right Way

John 5:39-40 (NIV) You diligently *study* the Scriptures because **you think that by them you possess eternal life**. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, yet **you refuse to come to Me to have life**.

1. Pray That You Will Do The Right Thing

You diligently *study* the Scriptures: Jesus teach me that the objective for study is to get the correct information. Show me that I have the Scriptures so I can have the truth available to me. Make it clear that You want me to study the Bible so I can know the truth and have the truth set me free. If my objective is not the same as Your objective, I will study for wrong reasons. Heal me of any agendas buried deep down in my heart that are misleading.

2. Pray That You Don’t Do The Right Thing For The Wrong Reason

You diligently *study* the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life: Jesus, You desire to provide me with eternal life. Your purpose for me studying the Bible is so I can know how to *get* eternal life. Teach me that study isn’t all I have to do have eternal life. Show me that studying the Bible the wrong way, or, studying it for the wrong reasons, keeps the thing that would have led me into eternal life from doing it.

3. Pray That You Get The Right Information

You diligently *study* the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me: Jesus, convince me that all the answers are right in front of me, when I study the Bible. Give me faith to know that nothing is missing in the Bible, and that everything I need is there so I can win at life here and win in eternal life later. Show me that You haven't withheld any information, instructions, principles, or truths from me. If I miss out on truth and the freedom it brings, it will be because I messed up. Help me know that **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity** can keep me from messing up.

4. Pray That You Don't Get The Right Information And Then Reject It

You diligently *study* the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, *yet you refuse to come to Me to have life*: Jesus, protect me from getting the right information, but, not wanting to hear it. Protect me from **diligently studying the Scriptures** looking for the right thing and not finding it. ***You refuse to come to Me to have life:*** Protect me from getting the truth and then rejecting it. Help me see that when I reject a Scripture I don't like, I am rejecting a part of You.

5. Pray That You Get The Right Information And Accept It

Luke 18:17 (NIV) I tell you the truth, *anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child* will never enter it. The attitude of "most" little children is one of accepting the fact that they don't know most things. They ask questions with an open mind and open heart. They trust people and allow them to teach them the answer to those things they need to know. Jesus is saying that is the vital attitude for entering the Kingdom of God.

You have a heavenly Father Who *can* be trusted completely. You know He knows *a lot* more than you do; you know He knows *exactly* what you need to know. But, if you don't use your God-given free will to *ask* Him, He won't tell you. And, if you don't ask Him to help you accept it, He won't do that either.

Jesus, You *caused* the Bible to provide me with the truth. Let me study it and be exposed to what the truth about life and eternal life is. Let me study it, be looking at those truths that have the power to set me free, and then ask for that freedom. Empower me to listen to the Holy Spirit and yield to His influence. Help me let the Spirit interpret it and then empower me to live it. I give up all my human efforts, knowledge, skills, and abilities, so I can have You and all Your efforts, knowledge, skills and abilities.

6. Pray That You Have A Seeking Type Of Bible Study

Mat 7:7-8 (NIV) Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Seek and you will find: *seek* sets the passion, the intensity, and the hunger for the truth. When you *ask* with the influence of the *seek* key, you don't *ask* casually; you *ask* passionately. When you study with the drive of *seeking*, you only *want* the truth of the matter. Through it you have sincere questions; you have deep concerns; you have intense desires, and you have honest pursuits. All you have to do is make a note of all your questions, concerns, desires, and pursuits. Then when you find a Scripture that addresses one of them, you embrace it with sincerity, depth, intensity, and honesty.

Jesus, teach me that studying without a hunger for answers is boring; show me that studying without seeking specific answers to specific needs is just a ritual. Help me realize that only when I study with a *seeking* attitude does the Bible and Bible studies come alive. Let me do the kind of study that brings miracles, healing, blessings, help, and transformation to me.

Now, create your own prayer that includes **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity**. See if you can develop them into a prayer that gets God's help with you studying the Bible the right way. Let Him develop questions in you that you need the answers to, then pray for a deep desire to look for the true answers as you study.

This concludes your reading and praying for today.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Five

Who Do You Consult for Your Answers?

Week Two Day Two

How To Get The Right Answers

1. Pray That You Get Good Gifts

Mat 7:11 (NIV) If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!

Who do you listen to their advice? Who do you believe their instructions? Who have you put your faith and trust in to guide your life? Who do you look to, to pattern your life after? Prayer is your avenue to direct access to Jesus. What would you like to ask?

Jesus, I often come to You with what I think I need. Help me see I am missing so many of Your provisions. Show me that the only way for me to get the good gifts You have is to come to You with an open mind. Teach me how to get the good gifts that I so desperately need each day. Give me insight into what Your good gifts look like so I can pray for them.

2. Pray That You Don't Miss Out On God's Good Gifts

James 4:2b (NIV) You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

Jesus, I am so used to talking, thinking, and working my way through the issues, goals, and plans of my day. Help me understand that I need to be praying my way through them. Give me Your ideas, Your words to say, and Your creative power to go through my day. I want to invite You to join me in my conversations, my thought processes, and my activities.

3. Pray That You Get Specific Good Gifts

Mat 6:9-3 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Jesus, remind me, help me, and empower me to pray this prayer every day. Let it set the foundation for all the other prayers I pray each day. Also, help me get more specific in the prayers I pray after this one. Show me exactly what I need to be praying for; then give me the power to pray it in such a way that I get the results I need all day long.

4. Pray That You Follow The Simple Process

Let's say you are going through your day and you have a decision to make. You can wonder what *you* should do; or, you can *think* something like, "Jesus, what should I do about this?", "Jesus, show me the right solution for this." "Jesus, give me the best attitude.", or, "Jesus, how would You handle this?". It isn't difficult to include Jesus in on all your daily decisions and issues. He *waits* for you to invite or *ask* Him to help you with each issue, decision, plan, and action. You *ask* Him to join you by thinking it in your mind.

1 Th 5:17 (NIV) Pray continually: Jesus, it seems strange for me to need to pray and ask You to help me pray. But, You are teaching me that I need to pray for everything. I need Your help to remember to include You in on every moment and every issue of my life. I have tried to remember to include You in my life; but I fail. Help me remember to include You; and, if, for some reason, I still forget to invite You into a situation, help me keep on asking (**pray continually**) until it becomes a natural part of my *lifestyle*.

5. Pray That You Always Use The Three Keys

Mat 7:7-8 (NIV) ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who *asks* receives; he who *seeks* finds; and to him who *knocks*, the door will be opened.

Ask and it will be given to you: Jesus, You presented The Three Keys and told me what happens when I use them. Speak this truth into my heart and mind. Put Your faith and the truth about these words in me so I will ask, seek, and knock with the knowledge that **it will be given to me**. Help me not apply them without faith and knowledge.

6. Pray That You See The *Good* Attitudes Of Your Heavenly Father

Mat 7:9-11 (NIV) Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!

There are Christians who don't ask Jesus for things because they fear He will answer it with a spiritual test or some life's challenge. One of Jesus' points in Matthew 7:9-11 is that God doesn't use bad, harmful, or disappointing things as answers to your prayers for good things.

7. Pray That You Understand The Words, "How Much More"

Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone: Jesus heal me from the lies of Satan and the world. They are always coming up with scenarios that make it look like You are a bad God. When I ask a human for something good, I expect them to not play tricks on me. A stone isn't something that would attack or hurt me; I just can't eat it. Show me that You will only give me good things that will be a great benefit to me and others.

Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake: Jesus, this is also part of the lies Satan tries to tell me. I know that if I ask my parent to give me something good to eat, they won't give me something deadly; that would be an evil thing to do. Help me see that I can completely trust my heavenly Father to not do *anything* that is wrong, bad, or evil.

If You Can See The Evil In It....

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children: If you are "good enough" to not give wrong, bad, or evil things to your children, then it should be clear to you that God wouldn't do it either. Even a really bad, evil parent who is prone to do wrong, bad, or evil things to their children, they still **know *how* to give good gifts to their children**; they just don't do it.

Jesus, show me that my human parents are evil in comparison to my heavenly Father's holiness, godliness, righteousness, and purity. Heal my heart and mind from any failures and flaws my parents had. Let me see the greatness, integrity, and love God has for me. Build a complete trust in me for His love, honesty, trustworthiness, and grace.

How Much More?

***how much more* will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him:** Don't be afraid to include your heavenly Father all day long. You must pray and ask Him to help you get rid of these fears so you can invite Him in on everything. You can trust Him to answer all your prayers with **good-gift** answers; but, you must believe this is true.

Jesus, I do sometimes feel fear that my heavenly Father might do something or require something of me that I won't like. Help me relax and trust Him with my life. Teach me how to respect His knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and love. Speak trust into my heart so I can allow Him to do what I need done. Speak truth into my mind so I will see how great and wonderful His influence on me can be.

The Reverse Is True

When something bad comes your way, not only is it coming from some source other than God, God is actually turning it around for your good. **Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we KNOW that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.** Not only does He refuse to do anything bad to you, He RESISTS everything bad that does come your way and *forces* it to work out for your good.

Jesus, help me understand that wrong, bad, and evil things that typically come everyone's way, will come my way. Let me see that just because I became a Christian doesn't mean I won't face the difficulties I was going to face. Teach me how to join You and all Your supernatural provisions to defeat and win over them. Help me not get mad, disappointed, frustrated, or hurt over them. Fill my heart with faith and my mind with truth. Show me how to fight through You, defeat them, and gain great victories through winning over them.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Six

What People and Things Do You Trust?

Week Two Day Three

How To Get Reliable Faith

Mark 11:24 (AKJV) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever you *desire*, when you PRAY, believe that you receive them, and you shall *have* them.

1. Ask For Jesus' Faith That Gets Results

In order to get things in the spirit realm, you have to **believe that you receive them**. When the Bible says: “**And my God *will* meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19)**”, faith believes it is a fact. But, this faith isn't a faith you can produce. Jesus must give you His faith. It isn't to believe **all** your **needs** will be met; it is to believe that your **GOD will meet all your needs**. It's faith in God; and, it's faith from Jesus.

Jesus, give me faith in my heavenly Father. Help believe *He* will see to it that all my **needs** will be met **according to His glorious riches in You, Christ Jesus**. Even when it looks like they aren't being met, help me know (be **sure** and **certain**) that *you are* meeting them.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand The Definition Of Faith

Heb 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is being **sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see**. When Jesus speaks faith into you, you get a faith that is **sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see**. Through the power of Jesus' faith, all of a sudden you are **sure** and **certain** that you got it from God.

Since faith must come from Jesus, it keeps you from being able to control the power and resources of God. God only gives good things through faith. Faith is the belief in the honesty and integrity of God. If you don't have faith (don't believe God is telling you the truth), then you don't get what you pray for (Hebrews 11:6).

Jesus, help me always *desire* to believe in Your honesty, *study* and learn more about Your honesty, *pray* based on Your honesty, *believe* in Your honesty, *love* You enough to know You are honest, and take *faith-action* based on Your honesty.

3. Ask Jesus To Give You The Type Of Faith *He* Speaks Into You

James 1:6-8 But when he *asks*, **he must believe and not doubt**, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord**; he is a double-minded man, **unstable in all he does**.

When Jesus speaks *His* faith into you, it is a powerful, *consistent* faith that doesn't doubt. It makes the person *constantly* **sure** and **certain**; in other words, you **believe that you receive them**. **Sure** and **certain** are the same things as to **believe that you receive them**. You don't try to **believe**; you look to Jesus to give you the faith for the thing you are praying for.

Jesus, my faith wavers and doubts; it lacks consistency. Help me wait until You speak Your faith into me. Teach me how to look to You for the faith to believe those things You want to give me. Show me that You will always give me faith for those things that are God's will.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Wait For Faith To Come

Heb 12:2a (NIV) Let us *fix* our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith.

Let us *fix* our eyes on Jesus: When the Bible says, for example, **By His wounds you have been healed (1 Pet 2:24b)**, if you want specific faith for a specific physical disease or problem, then you *look* to Jesus to give you the faith for that healing. You **fix your eyes on Jesus** by asking Him to give you the faith for it; then you stay fixed by waiting for it to come. If Jesus gives you the faith, then you are empowered to believe you have it, and, healing comes to you.

Jesus, help me not try to have faith through my own abilities. Help me be willing to wait for You to give me the faith for those things I need. Help me be looking in the Bible for those things I need to be receiving Your faith for. Show me how to always pray for them the moment I discover them. Empower me to be **certain** and **sure** that You have given them to me. Teach me how to get them through the motivation of Your love. And then, help me know how to start living on the basis of them by joining You in faith-action.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand The Authoring Of Your Faith

Let us *fix* our eyes on Jesus, the Author...of our faith: Jesus, my first experience with You speaking faith into me was at salvation. When someone shared the salvation message with me, I believed it was true. That was You authoring or *causing* me to believe it was true. You empowered me to *believe* I was saved. Help me use that experience to teach me how it works, when You speak faith into me.

6. Ask Jesus To Perfect Your Faith

Let us *fix* our eyes on Jesus, the...Perfector of our faith: Jesus, I ask You to perfect my faith. Let it be a *trust* that You only give me the very best. When I pray for something and You don't give me the faith for it, help me be **sure** and **certain** it's because it isn't the best for me and those around me.

7. Ask Jesus To Help Your Faith Become Constant

Mat 17:19-20 (NIV) Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” He replied, “Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

The **little faith** Jesus was talking about was **little** in time. As it relates to size, it can be as **small as a mustard seed**. As it relates to time, it has to be constant. If you believe for a **little** while and then doubt for a **little** while, **that man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord (James 1:7)**. But, fixing your **eyes on Jesus** will give you HIS constant faith.

Jesus, help me know the difference between little faith in size and little faith in time. Help me have Your faith that is big in size and big in consistency and duration. Help me be strong in Your faith so I can believe I have all those things You want to give me.

8. Ask Jesus To Help You Have The Right Motives

James 4:3 (NIV) When you *ask*, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. When you get the attitudes and character God is looking for, faith starts to flow in and through you in a much more rapid way. You need to always be asking God to show you anything that is in your motives and heart that are keeping Jesus from speaking faith into you for the things you need.

Jesus, keep me from praying for good things while wanting to use them for wrong or bad. Help me not want them so people will see how great I am. Help me get those things You want to give me, but have been held up because of attitude or character problems in me.

9. Ask Jesus To Help You Get Faith Through Love

Jesus gives faith for things that are the very best for you *and* those around you. If it is good for you but would hurt those around you, He won’t give you faith for it. God desires that everything be based on win/win results; so, Jesus will only give you faith for things that benefit all involved. Jesus’ faith only comes to those who love themselves, other people, and God.

Praying that your team will win, isn’t a win/win scenario. Games are for fun; but, Jesus will not help you win. He *only* gives faith for things that bring mutual benefit for all involved.

Jesus, help me always *desire* those things that are mutually beneficial to all those around me. As I *study* the Bible, teach me how to always create win/win situations. When I *pray* to You for specific things, help me not just pray for my needs but to include others in my prayers. Then once I have prayed, help you wait for You to speak faith into my heart so I can *believe* You have empowered me to care about those around me. Teach and empower me to *love* those around me so much that I want them to be mutually benefited. And then help me *live* my life based on the answers to this prayer.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Seven

How Do You Feel About God, Yourself, and Others

Week Two Day Four

How To Live Love

1 Cor 13:1-3 (NIV) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1. Thank God For His Love

The first thing that happened to you when you came to Jesus for salvation was, love was put in your heart. Christianity is all about love. You may not feel it or use it; but, all you have to do is learn how to yield to it. Human love doesn't work; so, God solves this problem by giving you *his love*. **Rom 5:5 (NIV)** And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us.

Father, I thank You for giving me Your love. Help me learn how to yield to it until it is functioning as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. Empower me to allow it to influence my relationships with myself, other people, and You. Teach me how to allow it to flow in and through me like a river. Show me what it looks like as I go through the activities of my day.

2. Ask For Jesus' Help With The Three Number One Requirements

Jesus said in **Mark 12:30-31**: “(1) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘(2) Love your neighbor (3) AS yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Jesus, I want to love You, myself, and others. I want to always be motivated to produce win/win results for all involved. Help me develop this *lifestyle* so love will be the reason I do everything I do. Protect me from trying to do it with my love; it's too weak, limited, and unreliable. Teach me how to yield to Your love and allow it to motivate me.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That He Is All About Love

John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Father, help me stay aware that Your love isn't just a feeling; it isn't just a bunch of words; it is an action that is demonstrated by the way I treat You, myself, and other people. Settle it in my heart and mind that it has to do with what I think, how I feel, what I say, and what I do. Let Your love be the foundation for all my relationships. Let it set the standard for why I do what I do. I yield to Your power to help me become a totally different person.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That He IS Love

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. This is the way of life that motivates God. **1 John 4:8 (NIV) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.**

Father, empower me to grow in all my relationships by yielding to Your love. Let Your love give me the power to change in my treatment of myself, those around me, and You. Teach me what Your love IS. Show me what it looks like in real life. Let me see what You are like and what You are taking me into.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Take Advantage Of What You Have

1 Cor 13:4-8a (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

This is God's power inside you; it is trying to work through you. When Romans 5:5 says: **"God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us."** The list in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a is what you received. All these powerful characteristics are in you waiting for you to yield to them.

1. Jesus, give me the *desire* to yield to God's love; let it start showing up in my behavior.
2. Guide me in my *study*; let it teach me what God's love looks like in real life and how to yield to it; let the 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 characteristics influence my relationships.
3. Let me *pray* prayers that help me yield to these love characteristics.
4. Help me fix my eyes on You for the faith to *believe* I have God's love. Help me believe I am being empowered to yield to it. Make me **sure** and **certain** that I can live out these wonderful characteristics.
5. Help me allow God's *love* to motivate everything I think, feel, say, and do.
6. Help me take *faith-action* and start living on the basis of the fact that I have God's love; join me so I can see all these characteristics improve all my relationships with myself, those around me, and You.
7. Then when You give me all these wonderful characteristics of love help me be *thankful*.

During your day, if you fail in one or more of these 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a areas, all you have to do is ask Jesus to help you live God's love in your relationships. We all fail, have to pray for the same things, and have to receive faith and yield to these love items. But, if you keep praying, you will gradually start seeing God's love showing up in all your behavior.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Learn The Characteristics Of Love

Read this 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a list regularly and *seek* (study with passion) to know what they are and what they mean. Then when you struggle with being **patient**, for example, you will know God's love has already provided it. So, you ask Jesus to forgive you for not yielding to His patience. Then you ask Him to empower you to yield to it.

Jesus, teach me the meaning, purpose, and life of the 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 list. Help me get more familiar with these traits within God's love. Help me recognize them as they start showing up in the relationship-events of my life. When I find myself being more patient or kind than I would typically be, help me thank God for empowering me to yield to His love.

7. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That You Don't Get Better

It is hard for a Christian to realize that God isn't trying to make them into an improved person. You *will* improve; but, it won't be because you are "getting better at it." For example, a device that has to be plugged into electricity is only "good" for as long as it is plugged in.

John 15:5 (NIV) I (Jesus) am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; *apart from Me you can do nothing*.

Jesus reveal to me that Your work doesn't make *me* become a better person. Show me that I get a better *lifestyle* because I am remaining in You and You in me. Teach me that the more I yield to God's love, the more my behavior keeps improving. Help me see great results in my relationships, and, see great victory in my life. But, empower me to see that it only lasts for as long as I stay connected to You, Your Word, and Your love (John 15:1-17).

8. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That Improvement Is A Gift

The reason you demonstrate love, the reason you learn how to produce win/win plans for all involved, and the reason you succeed in life, is because you are yielding to God's love. He is empowering all these activities in your life. As you accept this principle and spend time praising God for each breakthrough, you will learn to love Him more.

Jesus, keep me from feel like I am learning and living this life. Keep me from thinking I have reached this victory. Let me see, understand, and appreciate Your constant flow in and through me. Deliver me from assuming I am getting better. Protect me from bragging on myself rather than my heavenly Father. Teach me that pride is me believing a lie. Teach me that humility is me believing the truth. Keep me aware that I am not doing it; God's love is!

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Eight

How Do You Know When You Have God's Answer?

Week Two Day Five

How To Start Living The Bible

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Start Living On The Basis Of The Fact

James 2:17 (NIV) In the same way, *faith* by itself, if it is not accompanied by *action*, **is dead**. You have studied (been seeking) and prayed (been asking) all this way through all these Truth/Prayer Pages so you could be here. You have desired, studied, prayed, believed, and yielded to God's love, just so you could get it into your life. If you fail at faith-action all that *studying* and *asking* are *dead*; they have to be **accompanied by action**.

Teaching them to Obey everything I have commanded you (Mat 28:20a). Jesus wants you to make all of His commands a part of your *lifestyle*. He wants you to “do what it takes” for you to start *living* on the basis of the fact that He has given you faith for it. He doesn't just want you to know the truth, He wants you to *be* set free by the truth. Faith-action is to live on the basis of the fact that Jesus gave you the faith to believe you *have* what you have been *asking* for.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Live The Christian Lifestyle Through Faith-Action

The following seven prayers are about you taking faith-action. As you pray them, see them as you asking Jesus to help you live your life based on the fact that you know Jesus has given you these things you are asking for. Ask for Jesus' help in empowering you to take faith-action:

1. Jesus, help me not just *desire* to be set free, empower me to live the life of freedom (faith-action).
2. Jesus, help me not just *study* about freedom, empower me to live on the basis of the fact that I am free (faith-action).
3. Jesus, help me not just *pray* for freedom, give me the answers to my prayers so I can BE and live free (faith-action).
4. Jesus, help me not just want to believe I am free, let me know I *have* freedom and can *believe* I can now live free (faith-action).
5. Jesus, help me not just know I have Your love so I can love myself, other people, and You, empower me to *love* myself, other people, and You (faith-action).
6. Jesus, help me not just take the first five steps trying to get freedom. Empower me to move on into freedom by joining You and taking *faith-action* into the *lifestyle* of freedom.
7. Jesus, as You keep answering my prayers and meeting my needs, help me be *thankful* for all You are doing for me. Help me always give You thanks for Your love and generosity.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You With A Three Step Process

Using love as an example, you go through three phases before you arrive at your goal:

1. Jesus, teach me from the Bible, that I am supposed to **love the Lord my God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind and with all my strength.** And, **Love my neighbor as myself.... (Mark 12:30-31)** by *seeking* its truths.
2. Teach me from the Bible, *how* to **love the Lord my God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind and with all my strength.** And, **Love my neighbor as myself.... (Mark 12:30-31)** by *asking* for how to do it.
3. Help me *start loving* the Lord my **God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind and with all my strength.** And, **Love my neighbor as myself.... (Mark 12:30-31)** by taking faith-action.

Faith-action is the third step in this example; it is where you actually do it! But, faith-action is powerless without you *seeking* Biblical truths and *asking* Jesus to put them in your life.

Asking and *seeking* take you to where you can start practicing faith-action with Jesus.

4. Ask To Understand That Jesus Wants These Things In Your Life

Jesus said in **Luke 6:46: “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not *do* what I say?”**

Jesus, if I just find out *what* You say so I can know *what* it is, teach me that I am only at the first stage of what You want. If I find out *how* You want me to go about getting it into my life, then I am only at the second stage of what You want. But, if You empower me to apply the *how* to the *what* of Your teaching, then I can please You. Help me enter into a *lifestyle* of living out and obeying everything You are teaching me (Mat 28:19-20).

5. Ask For Jesus’ Help In Taking These Three Steps Into The *Lifestyle* Of Jesus

Luke 6:47 (NIV) I will show you what he is like who comes to Me and hears My words and puts them into practice.

1. **Who comes to Me:** Jesus, help me always take the first step by coming to You. Help me recognize that You are my answer to *everything* I need and want. Empower me to accept the fact that You are where I need to be. Help me enter into the first phase of getting the very best coming into my *life*; let me always come to You for everything.
2. **Hears My words:** Jesus, help me always listen to what You have to say. If it is something I don’t like or agree with, let me pray and ask You to help me understand. I know You aren’t looking for blind obedience, or, just want my mental acceptance of Your truths. You want my heart too. Help me keep on praying and listening until You *prove* to me that Your words are the truth. Show me that Your way is the very best.
3. **Puts them into practice:** Jesus, this was Your goal all a long; help me “do what it takes” to get Your teaching into the way I live. I now come to You; I now listen to You; and, I now start taking *faith-action* with You so I can start putting **them into practice**. Show me that practicing *faith-action* is the same thing as putting **them into practice**. Then as You empower me to **put them into practice**, help me always be *thankful*.

6. Ask Jesus For The Lifestyle

Luke 6:48 (NIV) He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. *When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.* Jesus gave you the three phases into the Jesus-life, which are: **I will show you what he is like who (1) comes to Me and (2) hears My words and (3) puts them into practice.** *Asking* connects you to Jesus. *seeking* is hearing His Words. *faith-action* is putting them into practice. This is the way into the Jesus-life.

Jesus, I know I am going to face difficult challenges in life. But, I don't want to face them alone; I want to face them with You. Help me apply these three principles so I don't face life's challenges alone. Empower me to always come, hear, and practice. Let that become the pattern for all of my life.

7. Pray Against Not Taking Faith-Action

Luke 6:49 (NIV) But the one who hears My words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.

This is a person who almost made it into the *lifestyle* of what Jesus was trying to accomplish in them. They came to Him, heard His words, but stopped there. It may have been that they decided they didn't want His way of life. It may have been that they didn't stay long enough to find out *how* to take faith-action (**put them into practice**). It may have been that they failed to see how important it was for them to trust Him to give them the very best. But, for whatever reason, they stopped short and **it collapsed and its destruction was complete**.

Jesus, there are times when the Christian life is very confusing, frustrating, condemning, and overwhelming. Help me realize that it is *only* because I don't have all the truths yet. Let me always ask You to help me stay with You, listen to what You have to say, and always practice faith-action with You. Let Your truth show me why I am confused, frustrated, feeling condemned, and feeling overwhelmed.

8. Ask Jesus To Help You Put Them Into Practice

To "**put them into practice**" is the same as what you learned in James 2:17. **In the same way, *faith* by itself, if it is not accompanied by *action*, is dead (James 2:17).** The words from Jesus in James just give you more information about how to go about getting the things of Jesus into your life. That is why He is taking you through these studies and prayers.

Jesus, keep teaching me how to *use* **The Three Keys To All of Christianity**. Teach me how and empower me to take Your words and **put them into practice**. As I move into the next faith-action step in the next chapter, let me go through the Scriptures. Help me become very familiar with them; and, help me **put them into practice**.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Nine

Do You Know What The Objective Is?

Week Three Day One

How To Remain In Jesus

How Do You Start Putting Bible Things Into Practice?

These Truth/Prayer Pages take John 15:1-17 and give Jesus' instructions on how to live a victorious life. He explains why some people fall out of the incredibly powerful and victorious things provided in the Christian life. Let's look at the verses in it and start to **put them into practice**.

What Keeps You From Increasing Your Potential?

There are people who are able to ruin the very best marriages, businesses, opportunities, and relationships. They appear to be the unluckiest people on the planet; everything seems to go wrong. They never get a break; it looks like they will never get a chance to win at life.

People who keep losing at life wonder why things are constantly going wrong. They don't understand why they put forth their very best efforts into things and still end up losing or failing. Why do they keep facing circumstances beyond their control that block off their goals? What can be done about a life that doesn't seem to ever work? Is there a way for a person, who is struggling with life, to be able to see positive changes? Are there ways to change your personality, your relationships, your finances, your circumstances, or your outlook on life?

Jesus help me understand what it takes to succeed at life. Help me understand why things aren't working together for good for me according to Romans 8:28. If things start going wrong and it is because I am doing something I shouldn't, help me make the changes. Let me use **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity** to get your power to make those changes.

How Do You Evaluate Victory?

There are people who "seem" to get all the breaks in life; they "seem" to be good at everything. They get money, possessions, positions, popularity, power, prestige, pleasure and accomplishments. If this is success, then they are very successful; but, there is something wrong with their life. Something is missing in all they have and all they accomplish.

If money, possessions, positions, popularity, power, prestige, pleasure, and accomplishments provide peace, happiness, and satisfaction, there would be a time when it was enough. There would be fulfillment; but, that's the problem with things; there is never enough. There's a constant drive for more. The goals, accomplishments, and standards must be raised. They must be bigger and better. The thrill of the pursuit has to be more challenging and spectacular.

Jesus, help having *enough* of things never be my goal. Help me see my accomplishments as being those things You are empowering me to produce. You be my evaluator of who I am and what my value is. You be my happiness, fulfillment, satisfaction, and peace. Deliver me from the drive and push that burns on the inside those who are applying the world's goals.

Have You Added Outside Resources?

Whether you see yourself as a loser or a winner, we all face the challenges of life that seem impossible. When you read the Bible, it also seems impossible. When you face impossible things, you need to have a source that is more powerful and capable than you are. Most people are trying to succeed at life by looking to themselves and what *they* see as being solutions. The answer to losing *and* to winning is to add the right kind of outside resources.

Jesus, whether I am battling issues inside or outside me, show me Your WAY for me to win at things I couldn't win at before. Teach me Your *truths* that raise me above my difficulties and set me free. Give me a *life* filled with happiness, victory, accomplishments, and satisfaction. Help me look to You for what I consider to be victory.

Are You Connected To A Better Outside Source?

When a house is *connected* to a source of electricity, water, gas, internet, and television, you can take advantage of all those sources. *Connection* makes it possible for all these supplies to flow into your house. You will be looking at the incredible *potential* of being *connected* to Jesus. This study simply deals with the importance and benefits that come through this *connection*.

Jesus, I have limitations; there are things I can't do. I know that if I am *connected* to people with special abilities, skills, and resources, my accomplishments greatly increase. Help me understand that, that is how life works in my relationship with You. Help see that You can take my limitations and add Your lack of limitations to me. I want to trust in You.

Are You Connected To The Best?

Jesus is your best source of getting help with your problems, needs, and issues of life. Actually, He is your only source; but, we'll say "best source" for now. To get God's help, you must go through Jesus; Jesus is the door into all the provisions of God; but, do you need God's help?

Jesus, teach me that God's help is like the difference in me living in a house with no utilities and me having them all. Help me see that having God's help is like getting all the utilities I want but for free. Show me it would be as if I had a card I could present to any company, business, store, or supply house and they would give me as much as I wanted of anything I wanted *for free*? Help me understand that my attitudes and character are what is holding up your supernatural provisions from me. You are helping me be set free from selfishness.

How Do You Eliminate Your Limitations?

Jesus and His Bible have helped you be provided with a lot of studies and prayers that introduce you into a life that is *totally* different from *anything* you have seen on earth. It is better than any monetary or governmental system known to man. Jesus has provided you with a way to have the financial, emotional, relational, physical, and spiritual provisions you need. He just needs to help you become trustworthy with His gifts.

Jesus, teach me that I can get all my needs met through God's system of *gifts*. They come to me because I am His child, a member of His family, and a citizen of His eternal Kingdom. But, the system I am used to, required me to have money, time, skills, talents, possessions, positions, prestige, power, and enough popularity to get people to give me what I needed. Help me give that old system up so I can learn how to live by faith. Help me learn how to live as a child of God.

Are You On The *Self-Improvement* Program?

In the world system, you are only as happy, wealthy, and successful as you are able to provide what others want. If there are any limitations in your money, possessions, positions, popularity, prestige, power, skills, or talents, they show up as a lack. If there is something you want from someone but you don't have enough money or skills to provide them with what they want, then you have to do without it. Is that what is still happening to you now?

Jesus, I had to try to be the best at everything; I had to try to be the kind of person who had those things other people wanted. I worked on myself trying to be the best so I could get what I needed from others. But, I always found limitations to my abilities and resources. I would like to step out of this system and let You show me a different way?

Is Your Life Based On Wages Or Gifts?

What if God gave you all kinds of abilities, skills, talents, and resources as gifts? What if you were able to get an education, succeed at a profession, develop wonderful relationships, or be able to win at life without having to have anything to offer in return? No longer would an education cost too much, a profession take too many previous experiences, a relationship require you be too good of a person, or life be too difficult and confusing.

Born In The Right Family

You may not like gifts; you may see gifts as handouts. If you are so poor that people feel sorry for you, they might give you gifts because you can't afford them. People who are born in rich families don't feel this way about gifts; they see it as their birthright. You were born *again* into a *very* rich family!

Jesus, show me the benefits of those who are born in families who "have everything." If I were born in a family that gave me a very generous allowance and provided the very best, if I knew how to use it, I would get all my needs met. My life would be filled with resources. My potential would be unlimited. Help me see why You are helping me grow spiritually.

Did You Know You Have Been Adopted Into The Right Family?

Phil 4:19 (NIV) **And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches IN Christ Jesus.** You can't choose the family you were born into; but, you *can* choose the family you are born *again* into. When you were born again, you *chose* an incredible family to belong to. Being born into God's family automatically made you a candidate for getting all His provisions. You *inherited* all the rights and privileges of being one of His family members.

The Bible is full of all the awesome things you as a Christian are given. However, there are Christians, maybe you included, that are living far below what the Bible describes as being available to God's children. If you allow Jesus to help you with your attitudes and character, He will change this. Once you become trained on how to handle your heavenly Father's provisions, Jesus will help you live on the basis of them.

Jesus, show me what could keep me as God's child from getting the benefits of living in a wealthy, generous, loving, household? Show me that ignorance could keep me from knowing how to take advantage of my resources. Help me see that bad attitudes could keep my Father from being willing to share His wealth. Help me understand that bad character could keep me from using this shared wealth in a proper way. Help me see why I need all this studying and praying.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Ten

How Does Life Work?

Week Three Day Two

How To Get Life Working Right

Do You Believe Jesus Knows How Life Works?

You just spent some very important time looking at **The Three Keys To All of Christianity**. Without them you would try to fulfill the requirements, commandments, and instructions from Jesus by using some other system; that would hurt you. When Jesus commanded you to do something, you wouldn't know how to apply supernatural, spiritual principles to a supernatural, spiritual command. You would either ignore it, try to fulfill it by using human techniques, or use one or two of them but not all of them.

Have you ever read a verse in the Bible and not stopped to consider its value? Have you ever wanted the truths in a verse to be a part of your life but didn't know how to get it? Have you ever tried to live a verse in the Bible but didn't seem to be able to? Have you ever read a verse and didn't know what it meant and didn't know how to find out? Have you ever read a verse and it seemed so difficult that you just ignored it? Jesus wants to help you with these issues.

What Is Running, Shaping, and Controlling Your Life?

There is a Personal Assessment Worksheet on the last page of today's chapter and on the last page of this book for you to print out and use. Please print it and fill it out so you can do these studies and prayers with a personal purpose.

Jesus, help me do a personal assessment; help me write down those things that are really bothering me the most. Let me put down those goals I have made that are now governing my life. Join me in looking at the plans I have drawn up. Help me remember the major circumstances that have done the most shaping of my life. Show me how to go over the relationships that have influenced me the most. Then empower me to reevaluate them as it relates to Your will, Your Word, and my relationship with You.

Are You Willing To *Stop* And Take Out Time To Reconsider?

Allow the Personal Assessment Questions help you see what you would like to get out of these studies and prayers. If you don't know where you want Jesus' help, then you won't know what you really *desire*. These questions can help you study and pray with purpose and identified needs and wants. There can be things in your life that are really hurting you.

Jesus, help me see that You are waiting for me to open my heart and mind and allow You to work with me. Since You are honoring my God-given free will, I must allow the Personal Assessment questions help me focus on where I want Your help. Help me know where I am hurting, where I am dissatisfied, where I want to go, and where I want Your help. Make this time of study and prayer be rewarding. Let me know what I need to be looking for when I open my Bible and when I do these studies and prayers.

Are You Willing To *stop* And Take Time To Set Some Goals?

There are a lot of things you need to *pray*; but, what do *you* want to pray for? If you were to join Jesus in praying for some things that are on your heart and mind, what would they be? What are the things that you have been wanting and needing for a long time and just haven't been able to get them taken care of? This is a time for you to take what you have learned and been praying for and start moving into *faith-action*. This empowers you to start living on the basis of them. Don't take the steps right up to the place of faith-action and stop.

Jesus, where do You and I want to go; what is it I need You to give me the faith for so I can *believe* You have given it to me? Help me cooperate and work together with You on "what it is going to take" to bring blessings, miracles, and answers for all those things I am concerned about. Also, help me with those around me; what do they need? What do I already have that I could share with them out of *love*? Help me realize that a lot of my needs get met out of me giving to others so that the doors get opened up to me (Luke 6:38).

Have You *Stopped* And *Thanked* God For What He Has Already Done?

What are some of the things God has already done in your life? Spend some time writing out a list of all the things you can remember that He has already given you. Then look around you at the problems, issues, diseases, bad circumstances, bad relationships, and misfortunes of the people you have seen and know. As you see what all has happened to them, how many of these things *never* happened to you? Consider all the things God protected you from so you wouldn't have to face them in the first place.

Jesus, help me make a list of all the things I can remember that You healed me, blessed me, saved me, and provided for me. Then help me make a list of all the things that happened to other people I know. Help me see what could have happened to me, but didn't. Help me go over these two lists and praise You for all You have delivered me from and all the things You have kept me from experiencing in the first place. Empower me to be thankful, appreciative, and excited about all of these things. Help me keep adding to these lists as I see more.

Have You *Stopped* And *Prayed* For Those You Know Who Are Suffering?

Now spend some time praying for those who are going through those things God has protected and saved you from. Let Jesus give you a compassion for them *as if* you were going through them yourself.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Eleven

A Very Important Illustration

Week Three Day Three

You Are Now In A Very Wealthy Family

There is a parable, a spiritual story, or illustration that helps explain important information. Jesus told it so you will be able to see what kind of character and attitude training you need. This is so you can get the most out of being a child of God. This parable is about two kids who were born to a very loving, generous, and rich father. They grew up in this wealthy environment and approached their inheritance in two totally different ways.

Jesus, use the two-son example, in this parable, to illustrate some possible reasons why I might not be able to take advantage of my inheritance. Teach me that even though it is made possible *in* or through You, I still have to “do what it takes” to benefit from it. So, as I take a look at two *wrong* ways to look at the riches in God’s family, help me be able to learn from *their* mistakes rather than me learning the hard way.

Two Rich Kids

Luke 15:11 (NIV) Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.

How Will You React To The Wealth and Power of Your Heavenly Father?

First, you will see a spoiled, rich kid who grew up in a very loving and generous family. His whole approach to life was all about him and how he could get as much pleasure as possible. Then you will see a confused rich kid who grew up never understanding what he actually had. What you are looking at here are two possible ways of misunderstanding Who God is and what He is all about. Your heavenly Father is all about love and a relationship of love.

These sons didn’t realize their father was the best thing they inherited. They didn’t know their father was showing them what real love was all about. They didn’t care that he was showing them how to have a happy and successful life. They thought they knew how to live life. One thought he knew how to have fun and how to live a thrilling life. The other one thought he knew how to accomplish things and be a success. Have you ever thought these things? So, take a look at how to have an awesome and powerful situation *and ruin it*.

Jesus, even if these two boys don’t represent me and the way I started living my life. Help me learn from them how to treat my heavenly Father. Let this illustration teach me two major aspects of how to not try to live the Christian life. Teach me the right way to approach Him.

The Younger Son

Should You Receive God's Gifts With No Appreciation?

Luke 15:12 (NIV) The younger one said to his father, “Father, *give me my share of the estate.*” So he divided his property between them. From that moment on, *both* sons were free to spend it, ignore it, or invest it. Their dad had proven that he knew how to succeed at life. He was readily available to help his two boys in any way they *wanted* him to. This father mainly represents your heavenly Father; but, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are included in Him. So, you could simply say that the father in this spiritual illustration represents God.

Jesus, as I read the Bible and hear about the blessings, miracles, and provisions of God, help me not see them as being my *rights*. Help me see them as *gifts* coming from generosity and love, rather than things I *deserve*. Help me not demand, take, expect, or require God to do what I want done. Help me love God, respect Him, appreciate Him, and thank Him for His love and generosity. Help me not love the provisions but fail to see the great attitudes and character of my heavenly Father. Help me not love money and things more than people.

What Are You Going To Do With God's Generosity?

So he divided his property: Typically you don't get an inheritance from your parents until they die. This father was still alive and yet he allowed *his* property to be divided between his two sons. That was a very generous and dangerous thing to do! But, this was done for them so they could make their mistakes and learn some very valuable lessons *before* he died.

So he divided his property between them: One son knew what he wanted to do with “*his*” inheritance. His plan was foolish and bad for him; but, just as soon as he got his inheritance, he started using it. The other son didn't understand gifts; his life didn't change at all. He went right back to living just like he had before. Both of these approaches are wrong. You will get a chance to compare your attitudes and character with these two approaches.

Do You Deserve God's Blessings? Or, Do You See Them As Gifts?

Luke 15:13 (NIV) Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

Jesus, You gave me a life, a body, a brain, earthly resources, special talents and abilities, and allow me to do what I want with them. Like most people, I went for pleasure rather than happiness. I discovered extreme pleasure and assumed it was the same as happiness; but, I was wrong. I finally realized I was squandering my gifts from God. I realized this before my whole life was over. You showed me my beliefs, philosophies, and systems were wrong. You helped me allow my Father to teach me what I needed to know in the first place. I am now learning the difference between separation from God and remaining with Him.

Are You Ready To Face Reality?

Luke 15:14 (NIV) After he had spent *everything*, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

Jesus, help me see that usually something has to happen to wake me up to the truth. Help me keep in mind that none of these earthly *things* last forever; I can use up my body, my money, my resources, my time, my potential, and my life. I can do what “feels” good; or, I can allow myself to be trained on how to be victorious and win at life. Teach me that there’s a hard way of learning things; and there is an easy way. There’s a bad way to learn things; and there is a good way. Help me choose the easy and good way.

Did You Know Your Greatest Inheritance Is Your Father?

Like this young man, you have a Father that you can spend time with. You can learn *how* to be a person with a lot of resources, opportunities, and potential. You don’t have to go out and make mistakes and suffer lost in order to learn the meaning and purpose of life. You don’t have to fail at relationships, business, education, or life in general. You can spend as much time with Him as you want to. You can remain “home” or you can go out on your own.

Jesus, help me realize that just because I *think* I know how to win at life doesn’t make it true. Show me that just because I look around me at those I *think* are successful doesn’t make that true either. Help me always keep in mind that just because some “experts” tells me how to be a success doesn’t make them right. Teach me that I can be *sincerely* wrong and still get *the same* bad results as a person who squandered their life on purpose.

How Should You Learn Your Lessons?

Luke 15:15 (NIV) So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. This young man came from a house with a dad who was very successful. He could have taught him skills, professions, and life-lessons. Why didn’t he? Because his son wasn’t teachable (not **poor in spirit**), wouldn’t see his own faults (unable to **mourn**), didn’t consider his father to be an expert (no **meekness**), and he didn’t understand what righteousness was (no **hungering and thirsting for righteousness**), he was without skills and training (Mat 5:3-6); so, he ended up feeding pigs.

Do You Have God’s Power-Attitudes?

Jesus, create in me these four attitudes from the **Beatitudes** in Matthew 5:3-12. Show me that being **poor in spirit** empowers me to be teachable, **mourning** empowers me to be able to see my own faults and repent, **meekness** empowers me to allow God to be my expert and final authority, and **hungering and thirsting for righteousness** empowers me to love myself, other people, and God. Let these power-attitudes of God flow in and through me.

Are You Ready For A Change Of Life?

Who sent him to his fields to feed pigs: Jesus, help me not look back on my life and feel depressed, hopeless, and lost. Help me take advantage of my relationship with God now. Help me spent a lot more time with Him. Help me allow Him to teach me how to succeed and be happy. There are so many things I could have done sooner; but, I am pursuing Him with great intensity now. Don’t let what I *could* have done keep me from believing in what I *can* do now. Help me forget what is behind and press on to Your highest goal.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twelve

Seeing What Separation Does

Week Three Day Four

You are looking at a parable about two sons before you look at Jesus' parable of the vine concerning remaining or separating. This parable is teaching you the problems you face with *separation* the next one will teach you about *remaining* in Jesus. Things caused these two boys to separate. Their father succeeded in life by concentrating on *people* rather than *things*.

Heavenly Father, help me learn from Jesus and the Holy Spirit how to stay connected to You. Help me learn what it takes to be where You are, rather than where I think I should be. Teach me how to stay connected to You. Let me learn the principles that keep me in constant contact with You. I know how to physically stay connected to a person. But, I need Your help understanding how to spiritually stay connected to You and Your principles.

Which Word Motivates Your Goals?

The younger son didn't use people to get money; he spent all his money *on* people. Doesn't it look like he used money to help people? But, consider this list of *things*: money, possessions, positions, popularity, prestige, power, pleasure, and accomplishments. You can love other things. Let Jesus search your heart and see if any of these "things" are motivating you. This young son used his possessions to get people; and, he used people to get pleasure.

Jesus, teach me how to love others as You have loved me (John 15:12). As I study the son-parable and the vine-parable help me get this main truth. Teach me about this pleasure issue. Show me the difference between fun and joy. Reveal the difference between being addicted and being free. Teach me how to handle pleasure from things like sex, drugs, alcohol, gambling, partying, entertainment, games, eating, and spending money.

What Do You Think?

By God giving you a free will, it can give you the impression you are not only in charge of your life, you control the philosophies, facts, rules, and laws *for* life. The younger son thought this; he designed his own; and, they failed him. God controls the philosophies, facts, rules, and laws that make life work. But, this son didn't embrace these principles. He went out and wasted his inheritance; now, most of his inheritance is gone!

Jesus, help me not spend all my time, effort, and money on things that give me pleasure. Help me realize that just thinking about myself and what makes me happy is like a foolish son. Help me see that I am financing, encouraging, and partnering with people who are also selfish. We are spending all our time doing what is fun and beneficial for ourself only. Help me see this and be willing to make the right choices.

What Should You Do Now?

Jesus is taking you into what to do now! It isn't enough for you to *know* you should spend more time with your heavenly Father. It isn't enough for you to tell yourself that you *should* spend more time with Him. It isn't even enough for you to *decide* to spend more time with Him. You have to apply **The Three Keys To All Christianity** to this problem. You have to *ask* God to help you do it. Take a look at how God's system works in "real" life.

How To Spend More Time With God

1. Do you want to spend more time with your heavenly Father? Then you are on your way to having the *desire* you need so you can take your next step. But, until you apply the "*ask*" key to this, you will typically be trying to use human desire.

Father, you have helped me start wanting to spend time with You. But, I have made a lot of decisions and commitments to do this in the past and failed. I realize now that it is because I used my human desire to try to produce a spiritual result. So, I now come to You for Your *desire*. Give me Your *desire* that is supernatural and has the power to produce this commitment in my heart and life.

2. As you go through the Scriptures in this *study*, is it because you are *seeking* to find out how your heavenly Father thinks? If so, then you are using the right purpose for spending more time with Him. But, until you apply the "*ask*" key to your *studies*, you won't get your heavenly Father's supernatural input. That is why you need these prayers.

Father, I have set up schedules, made plans, and made commitments to read and *study* my Bible and Bible *studies* more; but, after a while, it gradually slips away. I now come to You asking for Your power to help me make time *studying* Your Word and Your Biblical principles. I know You alone can empower me to spend more time *studying* each day. Help me look to You for teaching me about how to live life.

3. Are you *praying* to your heavenly Father asking Him to help you always remember to apply the *ask* key to everything you do? If so, you are inviting Him to help you always look to Him for everything you do. Invite Him into your daily routines.

Father, help me ask You to assist me in spending time *praying* each day. Help me not forget to request Your help making sure I take out the time to *pray*. Also, remind me to not just think when I am making my decisions all day long. Help me remember to include You by asking You what You want me to do about each issue.

4. Are you asking Jesus to give you His faith so you *believe* you have the power to spend more time with your heavenly Father? Then you are fixing your eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of your faith (Heb 12:2). He will empower you to *believe* He has given you the power to spend more time with God. You will feel the assurance in your heart.

Jesus, help me not use *my* faith for spending time with my heavenly Father. Give me the patience and power to keep my eyes fixed on You. Give me Your faith to *believe* I have *Your* power to spend more time learning, growing, and getting guidance and answers.

5. Are you wanting to spend more time with your heavenly Father so you can help others spend more time with Him too? Then you are yielding to God's *love*. Are you wanting to spend more time with Him so you can grow in your relationship with Him? Then you are yielding to His *love* by using it to *love* Him more and more.

Father, help me yield to Your *love* instead of my human love. Teach me the difference between the 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 *love* and the emotions and human concepts the world teaches. Empower me to have all the characteristics and attitudes Your *love* produces in and through me. Help me *love* You, those around me, and myself with Your *love*.

6. Are you ready to start practicing living on the basis of the fact that God has given you the power to start spending more time with Him? Then you are ready to start learning how to practice *faith-action*. **James 2:17 (NIV) In the same way, *faith* by itself, if it is not accompanied by *action*, is dead.**

Jesus, *faith-action* is a new concept for me; teach me how to practice living on the basis of the fact that You have given me the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, power, and love to spend more time with my heavenly Father. Join me and show me how to use these things to make my mind, heart, and body take out the time to be with Him.

7. Once Jesus gives you all these wonderful things, are you ready to be *thankful* for His love and generosity to you? **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.**

Jesus, help me not just take for granted the power and opportunities to spend more time with my heavenly Father. Help me be very *thankful* for this miracle in my life. Help me praise and *thank* Him for His love and generosity to me. Heavenly Father I *thank* You for opening the doors of opportunity for me to spend more time with You; it is such a great privilege. Help me always be *thankful* for everything You do for me.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirteen

What Do You Do When You Are In The Wrong Place?

Week Three Day Five

You are continuing to study Jesus' parable: **Luke 15:11-15 (NIV)** Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

Should You Stay Or Leave?

Luke 15:16 (NIV) He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

Do You Try To Make The Best Of It?

He longed to fill his stomach with the pods: When things go wrong in your life, you usually see solutions that involve using what you have at the moment. You have heard that if life deals you lemons, make lemonade. But in this illustration, life dealt out pig food; that wasn't anything nearly as good as lemons. World philosophies *always* have holes in them. Like this young man, you need to look at your situation and see whether or not you should stay there any longer. You need to "do whatever it takes" to *be with* your heavenly Father.

Do You Get Ready To Make A Change?

But no one gave him anything: Where were his "friends?" Where were all those people who helped him spend his money? Were they his greatest assets? Did he gain any benefits by spending money on them? Were they friends he could turn to in a time of need? Didn't he *leave* the person who *really* cared about him and wanted the very best for him?

Jesus, like me, this man was born in a very rich, generous, and loving family. It wasn't a matter of him not realizing there were great provisions; it was a matter of what to do with them. What should I do with all these provisions of God that I am learning about? Help me spend time with my heavenly Father finding out what is the best way to *use* them.

Where Is Reality and Truth?

Do You Get Ready To Take A New Look?

Luke 15:17 (NIV) When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!’

When he came to his senses:

Jesus, when this young man got to a place where his mind went back to his father’s house, he started to appreciate what he had. He realized a *very* important truth: he didn’t have to stay in the pig pen. He didn’t have to try to make lemonade; he could go back home! Help me realize that no matter where I am, I can spend more time with my heavenly Father.

How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare:

Jesus, the way this young man used to feel about home was interfering with his appreciation. He couldn’t wait to get away from his home, brother, and father. He didn’t appreciate them. And he wanted to see the world, try new things, and get out on his own. Help me not get disgruntled with my life. Help me realize You are making everything work for my good. Give me a new appreciation for You and what You are doing.

Do You Get Ready To Take A Hard Look At Your Situation?

Here I am starving to death: There are things *you* want, are they the best for you? There are ways you look at life, are they the right way to see things? There are things you think are true, are they really truth? There are plans and goals you have set for yourself, will they bring the happiness and satisfaction you think they will? You can go ahead and test them out and find out the hard way; or, you can sit with your heavenly Father and let Him help you.

Jesus, make it clear to me how loving and generous God really is. Help me appreciate the body He gave me, the family, the resources and opportunities He provided, and the love He sent to me through You. I am through with getting out on my own and trying things “my way.” I am ready to come to my senses and realize God is a good and wonderful Father.

Do You Get Ready For A New Plan?

Luke 15:18 (NIV) I will set out and go *back* to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

I will set out and go back:

Jesus, it wasn’t until this young man **came to his senses** that he was able to get the help he needed. The answer was back home; that was the answer all along; but, he didn’t realize it until now. Why? Jesus, I have listened and allowed the world to tell me what life is all about. I have looked at it and thought I could get real happiness. So, I set the world up as my heroes, experts, and teachers. Untrain me from all this false information.

Do You Get Ready For A New Relationship?

I will set out and go back to my father:

Jesus, having God as my Father is a wonderful provision. Help me make a commitment to take anything I don't like, don't agree with, or don't trust Him to do it the way I want, and submit it to Him. Help me not leave Him over some petty thing I don't like.

I have sinned against heaven and against you:

Jesus, this statement is this young man's repentance. Help me see it as an attitude and an action that helps me make a U-turn and go back to the right direction. If I make a mistake, commit a sin, or am being tempted to do wrong, bad, or evil, help me run to my heavenly Father and get His help! Help know that He will show me what to do.

Do You Get Ready For A New Attitude?

It isn't always easy to admit you are wrong; some people have to get into impossible situations before they can repent and go the other way. Repentance is a way back to God that solves your problems in a wonderful and powerful way; but, you have to get to that place.

Sooner or later, *all* Christians make mistakes and bad decisions. *All* Christians fail to appreciate and take advantage of some wonderful provision of God. *All* Christians try to use God to give them something they want. It takes *all* Christians a certain amount of time to realize their greatest inheritance is their heavenly Father. At some point, money, pleasure, plans, or goals become so powerful that they draw *all* Christians away from Him. *All* Christians will eventually neglect their most important relationship. At some moment, *all* Christians become too busy or too distracted to spend much time with Him. Sooner or later, it happens to *all* Christians.

Do You Get Ready To Be Trained: Be Poor In Spirit?

Luke 15:19 (NIV) I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men. This is part repentance: Asking for forgiveness; and penance: Paying for your sin.

I am no longer worthy:

Jesus, when I get to the place where I am ready to get help from my heavenly Father, help me just repent. Help me admit I sinned, ask Him for forgiveness, ask Him to empower me to never do it again, and move on into my cleansed life. Teach me that penance is me trying to pay for my mistake, sin, or failure. You have already paid for it; there is nothing I can do to buy it, pay for it, or trade for it. It is a gift so I can learn to love my heavenly Father.

Make me like one of your hired men: You will be looking at the older brother next; this is what he thought was the way to live life. God doesn't want to make you one of His slaves or one of His **hired men**; He has a better relationship in mind. Yes, you have made mistakes; yes, you have done things to hurt your relationship with yourself, those around you, and God; and yes, you need to repent. But, you don't need demoting to a lesser relationship; you are still His child.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Fourteen

How Do You Spend Your Time With Your Heavenly Father?

Week Four Day One

How To Spend Time With Your Heavenly Father

Now, take a look at your attitude, when you come to your heavenly Father and spend more time with Him. If you spend a lot of time telling Him what you want, what you think, what plans and decisions you want Him blessing, and what prayers you want Him answering, your time with Him will be tremendously limited. How could you better spend your time?

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Be Open To Instruction

Luke 18:17 (NIV) I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it: You may not like coming to God without a plan, an idea, or a strategy for what you want happening to you. Even when you do start looking to God for His help, you can still want to have some idea as to how He might help you. Most of us do a lot of thinking, planning, and coming up with ideas we want God to approve. Rather than allowing God to give you the right idea or solution, you can ask Him to bless *your* plan.

Jesus, help me come to You in a “neutral” state; help me include You in on the very beginnings of my thinking, planning, and strategizing. Help me realize that if I include You in on the beginnings, I will get brilliant ideas, plans, and strategies. Plus, they will all be filtered through Your foreknowledge of the future. Show me that it will not only be a brilliant plan, it will be a plan that brings the very best results for me and those around me.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Have The Right *Desire*

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. You must ask yourself what you *want*. Are you trying to prove how smart you are? Do you want the solution to be yours so you can feel good about yourself? Do you want something so much that you are tempted to do it no matter what God says? Or, do you want the future that only your heavenly Father can provide?

Jesus, help me want the kind of future that only my heavenly Father can provide. Protect me from wanting to build my self-esteem and self-confidence. Set me free from pride that motivates me to seek glory, praise, and acceptance from humans. Help me want to bring praise, glory, and respect to You. Empower me to help people see how wonderful and great You are, so they too will turn to You for help. Only You can help them with their life.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Use “The Three Keys” To Deal With *Desire*

Mat 7:7 (NIV) *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.* Sometimes you get a personal *desire* rather than a godly *desire*. Sometimes you look at a situation; and, based on all you can see, the obvious solution or decision is the one you think is best. Your heart can get so determined, desirous, and set that it seems impossible for you to want anything else. This is a dangerous place to be.

Jesus, sometimes my heart and mind are in conflict with each other. I know in my mind that I should talk it over with You. You say in **2 Corinthians 10:5 (AKJV)**, **Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.** But, my heart refuses to submit to the truth; it wants what it wants and drives, insists, and pushes me to go in another direction. Help me win over my heart and *seek* Your power to get Your ideas and plans.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Get The Right Objective

Rom 7:23 (NIV) **But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.**

While feeling *very* strong feelings of desire and a drawing toward a certain plan, person, thing, or decision, you should *ask* Jesus to help you with this heart-battle. Your spirit is caught in the middle between what you know is right (talking the issue over with God), and what your heart is craving or pushing you toward. You take this “opportunity of a lifetime” and ask Jesus to help you *be willing* to bring the issue to Him. Sometimes being willing to be willing is the best you can give over to God; but, it is the start you need.

Jesus, help me take a step before the usual step I take. Before I ask You to help me with the plan or decision, help with the fact that my heart is too strong for me to come to You with that request. Help me be willing to become willing to bring it to You. I am in a battle with two wills; join me by helping me be *willing* to do the right thing. Give me the power to *be able* to bring the issue before You for yielded discussion.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand The Situation

Rom 7:24 (NIV) **What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?** When your heart has already *decided* it wants something and isn’t open for discussion, you are in a tough situation. You know you shouldn’t keep God out of the discussion and be this adamant about it. You know you can’t change your heart and its determination. But, that is where you are emotionally! However, you also know *God* can change it, if you can just *somehow* get it under His control. This is a time to cry out to Him in prayer.

Jesus, I get an attitude where I'm not willing to listen to You. I'm not open to listening to Your reasoning or plan. I get to a place where I can't hear *any* opposing views, opinions, possibilities, or potential problems with my decision. During those times, help me *ask* You to empower me to be willing to get willing. Help me bring my will to You for healing. Help me start feeling the need to listen to Your reasoning and a better way of doing things.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Pray The Prayer

James 4:9-10 (NIV) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up: While you are still being pushed and subjected to strong desires to take action without consulting God, simply tell Him what you are going through. Admit to Him that you are feeling this strong desire and determination to go your own way. Tell Him that you really don't seem to want His will or instruction on the matter. Share with Him that you aren't willing.

Jesus, help me with this desire, drive, craving, or determination. Give me Your love, power, and grace to ease the pressure. Help me get the strength to be *able* to come to You so I can openly and willingly accept other ideas, alternatives, possibilities, and plans. I can't seem to submit to Your leadership; I need Your help with this rebellion, resistance, struggle, and turmoil. Empower my will and desire to submit to Your will and desire.

7. Ask Jesus To Help You With The Suffering

Rom 8:17-18 (NIV) Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. This makes sense to your mind; but, it can't be reasoned out with your heart. It takes the power of God to help you give up something your heart *really* wants.

So, while wanting something with every fiber of your heart, you bring God into the struggle. While feeling the pain and drive to go against those things you have learned with your mind from the Bible, God empowers you to suffer willingly for the cause of Jesus. You get His help to refuse to go ahead and take action until you have been empowered to take the issue before Him. It may cause intense pain from your body; but, you keep asking God to help you not take action until you are brought to a place where you can discuss it with Him.

Jesus, I don't like suffering; one of the assignments I have given my heart and mind have been to do whatever is needed to avoid pain. Now I am faced with a situation where suffering is inevitable. Empower me to not make a move; help me to not make a decision; give me the strength to stay in the realm of suffering while waiting on You. Let me be able to endure the pain of the struggle until my will submits to Your will. I want to want what You want.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Fifteen

Heading In The Right Direction

Week Four Day Two

The Power Of Repentance

Luke 15:20 (NIV) So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Are You Ready To Make The First Move?

So, he got up and went to his father:

Jesus, when I do wrong, bad, or evil things, as a Christian, I have all kinds of reactions toward my heavenly Father. There are all kinds of satanic thoughts and feelings that try to keep me from going to Him. Help me always know that no one loves me like He does; no one is able to protect me like He can; and no one will give me the truth like He will. Teach me that the moment this young man left home was the moment he lost all the benefits of life. He lost direction, true friendship, true meaning for life, guidance and care, and protection.

Do You Believe God Loves You In Spite Of What You Did?

But while he was still a long way off:

Jesus, make it clear to me that when I finally decide to open my life to God, I will find that He has been waiting for me all along. He won't go get me; He won't try to force me to come back; He won't do anything that causes me to do anything against my will. But, show me that the moment I decide I want Him and His help, is the moment He starts coming to me.

Do You Know What Is Holding Up Your Help From God?

James 4:8a (NIV) *Come near to God and He will come near to you.* You must make the first move in order to invite God to help you. Since you have a permission-based relationship with God, He is waiting for you to come to Him first; that opens the door to the relationship. But, it only opens it to the *degree* you come to God. If you come to Him for salvation only, that is the degree of relationship God responds to; the more you come, the more He comes. The more you study, the more you know what to come to God for in prayer.

Dealing With Worthiness

Luke 15:21 (NIV) The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

1. Are You Ready To Be Untrained So You Can Be Trained?

I have sinned against heaven and against you: This was a new attitude found in this young man. His philosophies, belief systems, plans, and goals were all directed at living a life of selfish pleasure; but, he felt good about them all. At that time, he wasn't sorry or repentant about what he was about to do. He actually felt good about what he planned and how he was going to spend his money. It all seemed right to him; but, now he has a changed attitude.

2. What Is Better, Having To Repent Or Not Doing It In The First Place?

Jesus, show me what could have happened if the young man shared his ideas with his father in the beginning. He would have shown him a much better way. Help me see that repentance is good; but, prevention is much better. Show me how memories of sinful pleasure try to drag me back in. Memories of pain haunt me. And, the relationships I developed may still be in place. Help me take advantage of God's protection in the first place.

3. Do You Understand God's Grace Plan?

I am no longer *worthy* to be called your son: Grace is a concept God created and lives by. It takes the issue of worthiness and removes it from your relationship with Him. He calls you His child and removes all record of your past, present, and future sins, even though you don't deserve it. Then He ignores your worthiness and what you deserve and simply accepts you as His child. From that point on, everything you get from Him are gifts.

4. Do You Understand God's Forgiveness Plan?

Jesus' salvation provided forgiveness that opened the door for you to have a direct relationship with your heavenly Father. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, all your past, present, and future sins are forgiven. *But*, you cannot sin on purpose and remain forgiven. You now have a perfect record with God for as long as you don't sin on purpose. If you do, you *must* repent.

5. Do You Understand God's Gifts Plan?

Jesus, help me accept my *whole* relationship with God as gifts, grace, and mercy. Help me realize that I can't earn anything, buy anything, trade for anything, steal anything, or beg for anything from God. His gifts come to me because I am His child.

6. Are You Ready To Drop Worthiness and Establish Appreciation?

Jesus, help me see that if I reject God's gifts, grace, and mercy because I feel I don't deserve them or aren't worthy, I won't appreciate them. If I get them because I feel I do deserve them or are worthy, there's no appreciation because I don't see them as gifts. Whether feeling unworthy or worthy, the concept will cause me to reject the things God would have given me as gifts. I must accept God's generosity of forgiveness, grace, mercy, and love in faith.

No Inheritance But A Relationship

Do You Believe This Is The Way Your Father Feels About You?

Luke 15:22 (NIV) But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.” The young man’s wealth was gone; but, the most important inheritance and relationship he had ever had was still there. How did his dad get so wealthy? How did he get so successful? What made him such a generous dad with his sons? These are the kinds of things you need to consider.

Can You Start Over and Be Much More Successful?

This dad knew how to help this young man succeed with his finances, his emotions, his relationships, his physical, and his spiritual condition. It looked like the young man had lost everything he inherited. But, just because his inheritance was gone didn’t mean he would be poor for the rest of his life. His dad could teach him how to do what he couldn’t do before. Now that he was open to a close relationship with his father, he was about to learn all the life-principles that would make him win at life.

What Does Your Future Look Like?

Luke 15:23 (NIV) **Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.**

Jesus, help me understand that there was a great celebration in heaven when I was born again.

Luke 15:7 (NIV) **I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.** Help me forget what I did, who I was, and what I believed. Help me just believe in my heavenly Father and know He will transform my future.

Death Is A Separation

Luke 15:24 (NIV) **For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.** God looks at things different than you do. Be ready to be exposed to principles and concepts that are very foreign to you. Your future is dependent on you seeing things from God’s perspective. That is what the young man had to do.

Do You See Death as a Separation?

Jesus, help me not look at death as if I no longer exist. Help understand that God looks at death as a separation from You. He sees life as a connection to You. As I read my Bible, help me see that it will be difficult for me, if I don’t allow myself to start seeing things the way my Father sees them. Show me that part of my life’s problems are because I see things like the world sees them. Help me have life by remaining connected to You.

Do You See Life as a Connection?

Jesus, help me accept that relationships are the most important thing to You. My relationship to myself, my relationship with other people, and my relationship with God are the most valuable things in all the world. Help me put my priority on relationships over pleasure, wealth, accomplishments, and what the world considers success. Help me see that this is what the younger son finally discovered.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Sixteen

Did You Know You Control The Quality?

Week Four Day Three

How To Have A Relationship With God

1. Pray That Jesus Helps You Benefit From The Information

Jesus, help me get the chapters from **The Jesus Life** working in my day-to-day activities. But, help me realize that getting Your help can be a small trickle or a river. Teach me the principle that must be considered so I can get *all* You have to offer me.

2. Pray That Jesus Helps You Have Relationship *Growth*

James 4:8a (NIV) *Come near to God and He will come near to you:* You have times when your opinions, preferences, and desires are so strong you don't want to discuss them with God. You have to back up and get His help to be willing to be willing. But, when you are willing to discuss things with God, it doesn't mean you are open to His God-sized ideas.

You may want a business that is one size and God may want a bigger venture. You may want to start slow; and, God may want you to trust Him for doing things quickly. You may already have faith from Jesus to do things that are within your "comfort zone." But, when Jesus wants you to ask Him for faith for something that challenges you, you may close the door.

Jesus, You are God; Your ideas, plans, and goals are God-sized and supernatural. I can't think, desire, or dream things You think about all the time. Broaden my vision; increase my dreams; open me to supernatural plans You have for me. Set me free from my small, human thinking and planning. Empower me to join You and Your ways of thinking and living.

3. Pray That Jesus Helps You Get Relationship Growth Through *Time Spent Together*

James 4:8a (NIV) *Come near to God and He will come near to you:* Jesus, in Your parable of the two sons of a very rich, loving, and generous father, You showed the importance of the sons spending time with their dad. Help me see that the house servants had a better opportunity to succeed at life than the boys. Since they saw him in action all day long. Help me see that in God by spending all my days with Him.

4. Pray That Jesus Will Help You Go From Learning To *Living*

Come near to God and He will come near to you: Okay, you have looked at a relationship with God that allows God to give you *God-sized* assignments; you have seen the importance of spending *time* with God; and you have considered spending *quality* time with God. That is all important information. But, what do you do after you get the vital information? You agree with it "in theory" but don't have it "in reality." You may understand these concepts are truth; but, you may never get the freedom of them working in your life.

Jesus, I have a lot of problems starting to do something I have never done before. As I learn these new things, they come to me while I am already doing something else. I already have schedules, habits, strategies, principles, philosophies, systems, and plans in place. As I listen to God-sized goals, about spending more time with You, and making sure I am spending more *quality* time with You, I need Your help fitting it into my schedule, fitting it into my plans, and making it work in my life.

Pray That God Will Help You Face The Facts

Desire

Do you *desire* to allow God to increase your faith so you can believe for bigger things? Do you *desire* to spend more time with Him? Do you *desire* to spend more time praising, thanking, appreciating, and worshipping Him for all those things He has already done for you?

Jesus, help me be willing to be willing; help me bring my *desires* before You. Empower me to take my *desires* seriously. They decide what happens to me and what doesn't. You honor them with great intensity; You will even allow me to make eternal decisions through them. Help me see the important of me having *desires* that are yielded to You and Your *desires*.

Study

Are you willing to spend more time *studying* about God-sized works presented in the Bible? Are you willing to *study* the importance of spending more time with God? Are you willing to allow your *studies* to talk to you about the quality of your relationship with God?

Jesus, You and Your Word, the Bible, are my only source of truth. I will never learn how to spend quality time with my heavenly Father without You and it. Empower me to spend as much time as possible *studying* the Bible and spending quality time with You. I want to learn how to be empowered to spend time with You in Your Word.

Pray

Are you ready to start *praying* and *asking* God for giving you the ability to envision God-sized things to start happening in your life? Will you *pray* and *ask* Jesus to change your schedule so you can spend more time with Him? Are you willing to *pray* and *ask* Him to show you more and more things He wants to do to, with, for, in, and through you? This will make it so you have the information to yield to all He has for you.

Jesus, I ask You for the ability to envision God-sized things to start happening in my life. I ask You to help me change my schedule so I can spend more time talking with You. Help me see *prayer* as my way of having wonderful conversations with You. Help me spend much more time *praying* and talking to my heavenly Father about those things that are on His heart and mind. Help me see that *praying* and talking to Him is my greatest asset.

Believe

Will you start looking to Jesus for His faith to help get those things that empower you to *believe* that God-sized things are coming into your life? Are you ready to look to Him for the faith to *believe* you will spend more time with God? Are you willing to look to Jesus for the faith to *believe* that you will spend better quality time with your heavenly Father?

Jesus, help me wait until I get Your faith to *believe* I *have* God-sized things in my life, to be able to spend more time with You, and to believe it will be a better-quality time.

Love

Are you willing to let God search your heart so you can yield to His *love*? Are you willing to yield to God's *love* so you will do God-sized things and help more people? Will you allow God to empower you to spend more time with Him so you can *love* yourself, others, and Him more? Are you ready to yield to God's *love* so you can ***love your neighbor as yourself***?

Jesus, help me yield to God's *love* so I can do God-sized things to help more people. Empower me to spend so much time with You that I am able to *love* myself, other people, and You with God's *love*. Help me *love* God so much that I share Him and His truths with as many people as possible. Help me do God-sized things so others can see how great He is.

Faith-Action

Will you start practicing basing your life on the fact that God has given you all you need to start taking *faith-action*? Will you start practicing doing things that are bigger than you are used to doing? Will you start practicing spending more time with God? Will you start practicing working with Jesus so you can learn how to live a bigger and better life?

Jesus, empower me to start practicing basing my life on the fact that God has given me all I need to start taking *faith-action*. Help me start practicing doing things that are bigger than I am used to doing. Let me start practicing spending more time with You. Empower me to work together with You as we take *faith-action* together.

Thankful

Will you notice every thing your heavenly Father does for you so you will appreciate it? Will you realize that all He gives you is a gift and not something you deserve? Will you appreciate Him and His provisions so much that your heart is totally *thankful*? Will you keep a list of all those miracles He has worked in your life so you never forget how wonderful He has been?

Jesus, before I start griping, requesting, demanding, or expecting Your help, let me see all the benefits, blessings, miracles, and gifts I have already received. Help me **come near to God** with appreciation, praise, *thanksgiving*, and worship. Show me that, that is the only way I will have a love relationship. Help me spend quality time remembering all the wonderful things You have done for me already. I want to have a relationship that is enjoyable, pleasant, and beneficial.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Seventeen

The Older Son

Week Four Day Four

Do You Not Have Time For Fun?

Luke 15:25 (NIV) Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field: Jesus, help me see that the hard work of the older son was good. But, he was doing it because he didn't feel he was worthy of his father's inheritance. Help me work hard, but, not to try to *earn* my Father's attention and blessings. Help me not be like him, out in the field trying to do enough good things so as to get my Father's acceptance and love. Show me, that neither the younger son nor the older one were spending any time with their father. Show me that I don't have to be off in **a distant country** like the younger brother to not be in the house with my Father.

When he came near the house: You are looking at two distant poles or life-philosophies. These two approaches to life are the main reasons why many Christians aren't able to enjoy the wonderful blessings and provisions of God. Both of these concepts involve you looking to yourself for your answers. It has to do with how you look at worthiness; the younger son felt like he deserved wealth, pleasure, and fun. He didn't appreciate the *gift* his father gave him. The older son didn't feel like he was worthy of his father's *gift* so he never received them.

He heard music and dancing: The younger son only considered what he thought would make him *happy*. He felt entitled or *worthy* to have anything and everything he wanted. The older son thought he knew what would make him *happy*. He only considered what he could do to make himself *worthy* of value and confidence. He felt his accomplishments would make him worthy so he could be accepted, respected, and loved. Now you are going to see a type of *happiness* that God provides through *gifts*.

What Gets You Out Of Touch With Your Father?

Luke 15:26 (NIV) So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on:

Connection or separation decides whether or not you know what is **going on** with God and the things of God. Off in **a distant country** or out **in the field** both leave you *separated* from (not connected to) your heavenly Father.

Jesus, help me not be like this older brother. He had no idea what his father thought, what his goals were, what he was doing, or why he was so successful at life; *But*, he assumed he knew. Help me be pleasing to God by finding out what He wants me to do. Then help me not walk off and do it. Help me invite Him to join me in fulfilling every assignment He gives me. Help me maintain a relationship with Him that is hard work but with Him all day.

He called one of the servants: The servants lived *in the house*; they were around the father all the time. They got a chance to see him in action, to hear him talk, to receive instructions from him, and to be involved in what he was doing. They weren't his sons; but, the older son knew they knew what was going on. If you have to have someone else tell you what God is up to, then you aren't learning how to build a relationship with your Father.

Are You Struggling With Love Relationships?

Luke 15:27 (NIV) “*Your brother has come,*” he replied, “*and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound:*” Did the older brother miss his brother; did he love him; did he care what happened to him; or, did he only care about himself? These two boys didn't understand what their father knew. **But while he [the younger son] was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.**

Jesus, even if others do things I totally disagree with, help me want them to be saved. Help me not be thinking about all the things my Father hasn't done for me. Help me see that it isn't all about me. Help me see that others are suffering worse than I am. If they repent and want to come home to You, let me love them enough to be glad for all the rejoicing.

The Secrets Of Your Heart

Luke 15:28 (NIV) The older brother became angry and refused to go in. **So his father went out and pleaded with him.**

Are You Letting Your Emotions Build Up?

The older brother became angry: The anger was there all along; it was given an outward expression. Your philosophies, belief systems, goals, and plans for life may be way off base; but, you feel free to use them to measure other people and God. You can use them to hate people, disrespect them, judge them, and gossip against them. The problem with this is that your heavenly Father considers your treatment of these people as being your treatment of Him.

Where's A Good Place To Release Emotions?

The older brother became angry and refused to go in: Jesus, help me see who this son was really mad at. He was mad at his dad! He had a lot to say to his dad; but, he didn't have the relationship needed to say it. Help me see if there is anything in my life that I don't feel free to express to my heavenly Father. Open my heart so I keep my line of communication with Him flowing all the time. Heal any issues I have with Him or He has with me.

Being busy with work, play, or rest all take time. If they aren't spent with the people you need relationships with, then you are separated. If the needs and goals of your life draw you away from the people you need relationships with, then you are missing out on God's purpose for putting you on this planet. God wants you spending *time* with the *right* people, doing the right things.

Good Connections Heal Your Heart

So his father went out: It is easy to see why this dad was so successful; he knew what was important. Even though he was celebrating the return of his younger son, he still had time for his older son. Even though both of his sons had been choosing to separate themselves from him, he still loved them and wanted the *connection* of a close relationship. His life demonstrated *why* he was successful, why he had all that inheritance to share, and why he was his sons' most valuable asset.

Free To Be Healed Or Stay Sick

So his father went out and pleaded with him: Jesus, I see the honor of a God-given free will in this story. The father doesn't demand that he get in the house immediately. He doesn't threaten him or try to punish him; he reasons with him. Show me that this is my relationship with my heavenly Father. He honors my free will even if that means I spend eternity separated from Him. He is reasoning with me; but, I have to respond to His words.

You have the *right* to stay mad; you have the *freedom* to think and feel what you want to. You can run your life the way you want to; you can have the philosophies, goals, plans and *lifestyle* you choose. But, God is pleading with you, reasoning with you, and helping you understand what life is all about. The Bible is filled with all the reasons God does what He does. It is filled with Him explaining to you why He has set things up the way He has. It is just a matter of you being willing to pour your heart out so He can help you deal with all of it.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Eighteen

Are You Sure You Should Be Mad?

Week Four Day Five

How To Get Your Emotions Healed

James 1:19-20 (NIV) My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous *life* that God *desires*.

1. Ask Jesus To Help You “Do What It Takes.”

Jesus has exposed you to wonderful Bible concepts that give you love relationships. They are powerful and life-fulfilling. In the past, you could read these things and keep on reading. You could get familiar with the parables and teachings, memorize some of them, take notes on them, and even teach them to other people. But, have you ever examined your behavior and found little had changed? What puts the Bible in your behavior?

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Discover The Most Important Information In The World

My dear brothers, take note of this: God put this here; but, what if someone doesn't read this passage? What if they read it but don't **take note of this**? What if they **take note of this** but don't ASK for it to be put into their life? Will their behavior be changed?

Jesus, I only have so much time in a day and so much time before my life is over. Help me **take note of** those things that really matter. I want my life to count; I want it to be the very best I can be in You. Help me focus in on what really matters.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Get At The Truth Of The Matter

Everyone should be quick to listen: If you will just listen, you will learn things you didn't know. Since you have the power to listen, there will be a lot less misunderstanding and strife. You will be able to treat your spouse, friends, business associates, customers, clients, family, and people you don't like better. Listen rather than be thinking what your response will be.

Jesus, You, the Bible, my heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit, and Christianity are all about relationships of love. Empower me to care so much that I allow people to talk to me. Help me listen to them, ask them questions for clarification, and give their words the respect they need. Let me get to know them on a higher level than I typically do.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You With Love In Action

Everyone should be...slow to speak: What if it was your turn to talk and you asked a question instead? What if you postponed your time for getting your concerns out? What if you told them what you were hearing and then asked if that was what they were trying to say? What if you didn't speak until all involved knew you knew what was being said?

Jesus, heal me from only caring about my opinions, views, and rights. Give me Your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Let me so understand and appreciate others that I can have a relationship with them that is meaningful and godly. Empower me to live righteousness with myself, others, and You.

5. Ask Jesus To Give You Freedom From Excessive Emotions

Everyone should be... slow to become angry: What would happen to your dating, marriage, family, friendships, business, enemies, and other relationships if you didn't get frustrated, upset, agitated, mad, or disgusted with them? What if you replaced your short-fuse, impatience, quick responses, and off-the-cuff answers with your Father's attitudes?

Jesus, help me have the attitudes and character of my heavenly Father. He has every reason to not respect, love, or care about us humans. Yet, with all His greatness, He has an awesome attitude of love, grace, and mercy. Help me live my life with Your power to be **slow to become angry**. I open my heart to Your healing and power.

6. Ask Jesus To Give You A Righteous Life

For man's anger does not bring about the *righteous life* that God desires: We all know God stands for a life that is a lot different from the way we *live*. We all know we should treat people better than we do. We all know there are ways of dealing with things that would make *life* much better than it is. But, knowing and doing are two different things!

Jesus, I am glad that, as I read Scriptures like this, it isn't putting the demand on me. Emotions, like anger, are too powerful for me to be able to handle on my own. But, I now look to You for Your power-relationship that helps me obey these verses in the Bible. Even though I know that **anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires**, I won't be able to do anything about it without You helping me live Your life through me.

7. Ask Jesus To Help You Handle Strong Emotions

The older brother became angry: This anger was there all along; but at this point it was given an outward expression. You don't just "fly off the handle;" you don't just "flare up at a moment's notice." Anger doesn't just explode for no reason; even if you get mad at one person but take it out on someone else, you had a reason you were angry. A lot of people try to suppress, bury, hold in, control, or resist these feelings. But, sooner or later they will come out. If you don't "do what it takes" to get Jesus' healing for each thing buried in your heart, it will show up somewhere in your behavior.

Jesus, there are things in my heart that I have suppressed, buried, hidden, and tried to control my feelings on. They are down there just waiting for an avenue of release. I don't remember what most of them are or what happened to create them. But, You know and can bring healing to each and every one of them. Help me get set free from them through the intercession of Your Holy Spirit. Let me yield to His guidance in prayer.

8. Ask Jesus To Help You “Do What It Takes” To Be Healed From Emotional Problems

If you are like this older son, you get mad about circumstances and people. What would you have to do for God to help you with this emotional problem?

DESIRE: 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, help me *desire* what the Holy Spirit wants rather than what my body wants.

STUDY: 2 Tim 2:15 (AKJV) *Study* to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **John 8:31-32 (NIV)** To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, “If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Jesus, help me **hold to** what You teach rather than what the world teaches so I can be set free.

PRAY: James 4:2 (NIV) You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not *have*, because you do not *ask* God. Jesus, help me get my needs met through You rather than trying to get them met through human effort. Help me *pray* and *ask* for Your help and supplies.

BELIEVE: 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. **Heb 12:2 (NIV)** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus, help me *believe* in You rather than in myself. Let me know I have “what it takes” to win over life issues.

LOVE: 1 John 2:15 (NIV) Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the *love* of the Father is not in him. **Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)** *Love* the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘*Love* your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these. Jesus, help me *love* myself, other people, and You rather than loving things. Help me yield to Your *love* so I can *love* rather than covet.

FAITH-ACTION: James 2:17 (NIV) In the same way, *faith* by itself, if it is not accompanied by *action*, is dead. **Luke 6:46 (NIV)** Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not *do* what I say? Jesus, help me live the Bible rather than just know it.

THANKFUL: 2 Cor 9:11 (NIV) You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in *thanksgiving* to God. Jesus, as you provide for me and bless me, help me see the importance of being *thankful*. Help me see that a lack of *thankfulness* will keep me from seeing that everything is coming to me through grace, mercy, love, and generous gifts.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Nineteen

The Healing Process Starts

Week Five Day One

How To Bring Healing To A Relationship

Luke 15:29 (NIV) But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been *slaving for you* and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never *gave me* even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

1. Release The Bitterness To God

All these years I’ve been *slaving for you*: This young man didn’t have any idea what was being expected of him. Like his younger brother, he had developed his own criteria for life. His father saw him as his beloved son; but, he thought his father wanted him to be his slave. However, he finally started talking with his father and telling him what he thought and felt.

Jesus, teach me that the key to a close and intimate relationship with my heavenly Father is an open and honest prayer relationship. Since He already knows what I am thinking and feeling, help me not keep it bottled up inside me. Sometimes, I feel the pain and suffering like this older brother was going through. I too am filled with misunderstandings and erroneous philosophies; but, there are times when I hold them in. Help me see that it wasn’t until he finally *opened up* that he started getting help.

2. Reveal Your Philosophies

And never disobeyed your *orders*: When you read the Bible, you can see God giving *you* orders. It can feel like all the responsibility is on you; it isn’t clear that God wants to work *with* you. Prayer invites your heavenly Father into your life and gives Him your permission to work together with you. He makes it clear how He wants you to live; *but*, He doesn’t want you to do it *alone*; however, if you misunderstand this, you can feel a lot of pressure.

Jesus, help me see that the reason You gave me The Three Keys To All Of Christianity was so I wouldn’t carry my burdens alone. I can *ask* You to help me with the requirements of the Bible and Christianity. I can get Your help with those things I think and feel. And through them, I can get help with the circumstances I am having to face. Help me see that all I have to do is apply The Three Keys and I will have a wonderful relationship with You.

3. Reveal Your View Point

Yet you never *gave me* even a young goat: You can see that this young man didn’t understand his inheritance at all. He was a slave and a hired hand because of his *own* belief system, philosophies, and principles for life. His father wasn’t looking at him this way; he respected him as his son. But, he couldn’t treat him like a son because his son wouldn’t accept it. Your problem isn’t with God; it’s with your belief system, philosophies, and life-principles.

Jesus, help me see that there are a lot of things I don't understand about my inheritance. Help me realize that as a child of God, there are major changes I need to make in my *lifestyle*. Help me not keep working out in the field with the hired hands when I am supposed to be learning how to live in the spirit realm with my Father.

Healing By Identifying The Offense

Luke 15:30 (NIV) But when this son of yours who has squandered *your* property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!

1. Express The Broken Relationship

But when this son of yours: This young man had rejected his brother as being his brother. He had mulled these issues over and over in his mind; and, it killed all relationship and love for his brother. His brother was just the son of his father. The younger brother didn't get any of the older brother's money. The younger brother had the right to spend *his* money any way he wanted to. But the older brother measured the younger brother by his own philosophies for life. Your broken relationships can come from a distorted view of the way life works.

Rom 12:18-19 (NIV) If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is Mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. Jesus, help me see that if the way someone else is living is a source of agitation to me, help me see that my attention is in the wrong place. Show me that the way they live is between them and God. What I need to deal with is where I am struggling with God.

2. Express The Reason For The Broken Relationship

Who has squandered *your* property: The gift that the father had given the younger son was an inheritance. Even though it typically wasn't given prior to a father's death, it was still the younger brother's inheritance. Once the father divided his property to both of his sons, the property belonged to those two boys and not the father. The younger brother squandered his own property, not his father's property. But, the older brother didn't understand this principle.

Jesus, teach me that when God gives me a gift, it is mine to do with as I wish. Even though others waste their salvation and treat me like sinners treat people, they will hurt me, offend me, and not be able to love me; but, that is between them and God. **Mat 6:14-15 (NIV)** For *if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Two Bad Philosophies

You kill the fattened calf for him: Here are the two brothers who have had two wrong types of relationships with their father. And, these two types of relationships are similar to the wrong concepts you can get with your heavenly Father. God wants to give, bless, love, and care for you; but you can waste it on pleasures of your body, or try to earn it by human effort.

1. The Demanding Relationship

The younger son demanded that he be given his inheritance. He didn't realize the Father didn't have to give him anything. The father could do anything he wanted with his property as long as he was alive. And, the father could have made a will that dispersed it any way he wanted, after he died. This demanding attitude kept him from being able to appreciate the gift. You need to appreciate God's gifts; *and*, that can only happen if you see them *as* gifts.

Father, help me love You. Help me have a relationship with You that doesn't demand anything from You. Let me realize that You have already done much more than I will ever deserve. Give me a thankful and respectful heart that loves You not on the basis of what You can give me, but, based on how wonderful and loving You are to me.

2. The Waiting And Wishing Relationship

The older son just kept waiting and wishing that his father would allow him to have some of his inheritance to enjoy. His father had already **divided his property between them**. The gift had already been given; the ownership had already be transferred; and the rights and privileges had already been established. But, like a lot of Christians, the older son didn't understand the principles of an inheritance.

Father, help me see that even though I may not be demanding in my relationship with You, that doesn't mean I respect you. I can be obedient, faithful, productive, and self-sacrificing and still not love or respect You. I can have misunderstandings, bitterness, frustrations, and anger built up between me and You. Help me lay everything I feel out before You so You can help me understand how you really feel and what our relationship really is.

The younger son couldn't appreciate the gift because he saw it as his right. The older son couldn't appreciate the gift because he thought he had to earn it. What they needed to do was see it as a gift and then open their heart to allow the generosity of their father sink into their emotions and thoughts. Then they needed to allow their father to teach them how to use it.

Father, help me learn as much as is possible from these people in this parable. Open it up to its fullest meaning so I can see how Your Kingdom works, what my inheritance means, how my relationship with You and my other fellow Christians is supposed to be, and how to get my attitudes and character healed. Help me not only understand the meaning of all these things, help me allow them to transform my *lifestyle*.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty

Are You Sure It's God's Fault?

Week Five Day Two

How To Stay Close To God

1. Release The Bitterness To God

Luke 15:29 (NIV) But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been *slaving* for you and never disobeyed your *orders*. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. When you have bitterness in your heart, there are three steps needed for you to be healed. First, you need to release the bitterness to God. Second, you need to reveal what you believe and think the rules are for life and your relationship with God. Third, you need to reveal the way you see how your relationship with Him has been going.

- **DESIRE:** Jesus, I don’t want to keep the bitterness and keep feeling sorry for myself; I want Your healing; help me be willing to be set free from it.
- **STUDY:** Jesus, rather than thinking I know how life works, help me study the Bible and learn the truth about the way things really are.
- **PRAYER:** Jesus, rather than praying prayers that are complaints and gripes about the way I am treated, help me be set free from bitterness.
- **BELIEVE:** Jesus, rather than me being convinced I know what is happening to me, give me faith to believe that God is telling me the truth in His Word.
- **LOVE:** Jesus, rather than using human love and feeling sorry for myself, help me yield to God’s love so I can see things from His and other people’s perspective.
- **FAITH-ACTION:** Jesus, rather than acting on the basis of feeling like I am being cheated and wronged, help me practice living on the basis of the fact that God is forcing everything to work together for my good (Rom 8:28).
- **THANKFUL:** Jesus, rather than me looking at all the bad things in my life, help practice making a list of all the things I can be thankful for.

2. Reveal Your Philosophies To God

And never disobeyed your *orders*:

You are basing your life on a lot of beliefs, philosophies, laws, concepts, and ideas that are wrong. You can get mad at God, out of sorts with people, and frustrated with your own life because you think and believe a lot of wrong things. How are you going to find out how life works in your relationship with yourself, others, and God? How are you going to discover how God really feels about you? How are you going to get your heart healed so you can enjoy your relationship with your heavenly Father?

- DESIRE: Jesus, first I ask for the *desire* to find out how relationships and life work.
- STUDY: Second, I ask You to help me *study* and expose myself to Bible truths.
- PRAY: Third, I ask You to help me *pray* and express to You what I currently believe. And then I ask You to help me get the truths established in my heart and mind.
- BELIEVE: Fourth, I ask You to help me look to You for faith to *believe* that this new information *is* the truth. Help me doubt those things I was previously thinking.
- LOVE: Fifth, I ask You to help me learn how to see all philosophies, rules, ideas, concepts, and opinions through the eyes of God's *love*. Help me see things from a win/win perspective so God's way will make sense to me.
- FAITH-ACTION: Sixth, I ask You to help me practice taking *faith-action* for changing the way I treat myself, other people, and You by taking advantage of the power-relationship I have with You.
- THANKFUL: Seventh, I ask You to help me stop and look back on all of this and see how much You have heard and answered these prayers. Help me not just accept them, live on the basis of them and not be *thankful*. Help me be excited, appreciative, and impressed with Your incredible love and generosity to me.

3. Reveal Your View Point To God

Yet you never *gave* me even a young goat:

Whether you struggle with feeling like you deserve God's gifts or you feel like you don't deserve anything from God, you have to see what an inheritance means. **Rom 8:17 (NIV)**

Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory. All God's provisions come because you *don't* deserve them. That may seem wrong; but, it isn't until you see that you don't deserve them that you will see what grace means and what gifts mean.

God is doing you a favor. God is being nice to you. God is being gracious to you. God is being merciful to you. God is being generous to you. God is giving gifts to you through Jesus. God is taking you, who deserve to be punished for the way you have treated yourself, other people, and His wonderful plan and treating you with grace, mercy, and gifts.

Grace is a favor you don't deserve. And, mercy is you not getting the consequences you do deserve. These attitudes and character traits originated from God and are gifts. You can be like the older son. He said: **"Yet you never gave me even a young goat."** What was the truth? **He (the father) divided *his property* between them.** How are you going to start living on the basis of the fact that you **are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ?**

1. DESIRE: Jesus, I haven't desired to live on the basis of the fact that I am one of the **heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**. Help me learn what it means so I will.
2. STUDY: Jesus, I haven't studied and learned what it means to be **heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**. Help me adequately study the Bible and allow You to teach me what it is (knowledge), what it means (understanding), and how to use it (wisdom).
3. PRAY: Jesus, I haven't prayed and asked You to help me live as one of God's **heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**. Help me live in the basis of the fact that I am one of Your **heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with You, Christ**.
4. BELIEVE: Jesus, I haven't looked to You to give me faith so I can believe I am one of Your **heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**. Give me Your faith to believe I am one of Your **heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with You, Christ**.
5. LOVE: Jesus, it has been hard to believe I am one of Your **heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**. Help me yield to God's love so I can see how generous He is to me.
6. FAITH-ACTION: Jesus, I haven't been living on the basis of the fact that I am one of Your **heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**. Help that *fact* to be installed in my heart and mind so I can join You and start practicing faith-action.
7. THANKFUL: Jesus, as You answer these prayers, help me see how wonderful it is to be able to talk directly with You and request these things. Help me be watching for our answers to these requests and be thankful for You providing them to me. Help me praise You and worship You for being so loving and generous to me.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty-One

The Faith Relationship

Week Five Day Three

Luke 15:31 (NIV) “My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.”

Faith Because Of Sonship

My son,’ the father said: Inheritances are based on *sonship*; but, they are *also* based on *gifts*. The father could have used all his money and possessions on himself. Or, he could have given it all away to anyone or any place he chose to bequeath it. Your relationship with your heavenly Father is also based on sonship; and is based on His great love and generosity.

Jesus, make it clear to me that God can run the universe, the world, and me based on any system He wants to. Show me that all this inheriting Him, being co-inheritor with You, salvation, justification, and sanctification are coming to me as gifts. But, help me understand that the only reason they are coming as gifts is because God decided to do it that way. If *He* weren’t this kind of a loving, generous, gracious, and merciful God, *none* of these things would be available to me.

Faith Because Of Generosity

‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. One of the biggest aspects of your relationship with your heavenly Father is faith. When the Bible says God has already done something, He expects you to accept it as true. This son’s father had already **divided his property between them.** But *he* believed his father hadn’t even given him a goat. As you read your Bible, watch out for this kind of an attitude in you.

Jesus, help me read my Bible and believe it as I am reading it. Let each truth I read be real and accepted as a fact. Help me stop and spend time praying, if there is something it says that I am having a hard time accepting. If I read something as if it is only true in the Bible and not in my everyday life, help me stop and let you take it out of my fictional box and put it in my reality box. Help me live the Bible verse-by-verse as I go through it.

Faith Because Of A Perfect Record

You are always *with me*: The older son never actually **set off for a distant country**. In his mind, he had stayed in connection with his father. But, there were several areas of separation that existed between him and his father.

- He was separated in his faith; he didn't believe it was true that his father had **divided his property between them**.
- **But when this son of yours:** He was separated in his attitudes and character. He didn't agree with the way his father was handling his younger son or him.
- **I've been *slaving* for you:** He was separated in his philosophies, principles, and activities; he would leave the house each day and go out in the fields with the hired hands, rather than spend time with his father.

Jesus, like this older brother, my father is graciously crediting my record with me always being with Him. Like him, when my father tells me something I should have already known help me believe it. He can tell me something that *could* heal my heart and heal my relationship with Him. It is something that *could* change my whole approach to life. It is something that *could* help me be set free from being a slave and a hired hand. It is a *truth* that *could* set me free from those things that are controlling my life.

Faith Because Of The Gift

1. **You are always with me:** This son's father was right there ready to have a close and intimate relationship with his son. The proximity was there, the opportunity was there, the love was there, and the truth was there. But, the son wasn't available in his heart.
2. **Everything I have is yours:** This is a sad situation; all the anger, frustration, hatred, and lack of forgiveness were eating up this older son's life.
 - He was rich but lived like he was poor.
 - He was the owner of all the property and yet he was out working with the hired hands.
 - He was mad at his father because he wouldn't give him **a young goat so he could celebrate with his friends**. And yet, his father had given him the rest of all he had.

Jesus, teach me that demanding relationships are so sad because I end up **squandering my wealth in wild living**. And, teach me that waiting, wishing, and earning relationships are so sad because I end up mad because people and God don't appreciate and respond to all my efforts. Keep teaching me what kind of a relationship my Father want to have with me.

The Grace And Faith Relationship

Luke 15:32 (NIV) But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.

The younger son had faith in pleasure bringing him happiness. The older son had faith in his accomplishments bringing him happiness. The father had faith in the love of God and it *brought* him happiness. You *get* happiness when you love yourself, other people, and God with God's love. You are to use money and possessions to *demonstrate* your love.

It's All About People

We had to celebrate and be glad: Jesus, help me see that the problems these two boys had were with “things.” They were both connected to money and possessions. Their attention and focus were centered on what “things” could do for them. They both put all their plans, goals, efforts, and life into trying to get happiness through these *things*. Help me be free from a life of things. Help me be a person with a priority on relationships.

It Is About Who Or What You Use

But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again: Jesus said in **Matthew 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. You cannot serve both God and Money.”** It is like trying to ride two horses that are going in opposite directions. You are to love people and use money; you aren’t supposed to love money and use people; these are opposing concepts and conflicting ways of life.

The *distraction* of money, possessions, positions, power, popularity, prestige, pleasure, and accomplishments pull your focus onto things. You *concentrate* on them; you set them as goals; you make all your plans around them; you build your relationships so you can get them; and you ignore *anyone* who can’t help you fulfill them.

But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found: God has a much better way for you to live life. He has a much better way for you to look at things and people. He has a way of life that gives you eternal life.

Jesus, I have an awesome Father! He has already done so much for me. Help me love Him for Who He is rather than what He can do for me. Help me see all the decisions He has made for Who He has decided to be and what He has decided to do. Help me never forget that He has absolute power, authority, and control. Help me understand what all that means so I will never take for granted His greatness, love, generosity, grace, mercy, and sacrificial provisions. Open my heart to my heavenly Father so I can love and respect Him with all my heart.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty-Two

Did You Know You Inherited God?

Week Five Day Four

How To Live In Your Inheritance

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Choose Your Approach To Life

Suppose you read the Bible through many times. But, you read it only wishing you had the things it told you about? What if you read it as a book of fiction and lived in an “imaginary” world while reading it? It would be fun thinking about what “could” be, if only it were true for you and your life! But, it would only be a dream that was out of your reach.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That “*Everything I Have Is Yours*”

- **Rom 8:17a (NIV)** Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. Jesus, help me start living as an heir.
- **Phil 4:19 (NIV)** And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Jesus, help me look to my Father as my source of supply.
- **Mark 11:24 (AKJV)** Therefore I say unto you, What things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them. Jesus, help me help me start desiring, praying, and believing for what my Father wants for me.
- **Mat 11:28 (NIV)** Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Jesus, help me live my life based on rest rather than on stress.

Bible filled with all these wonderful promises and truths. Are you living as the **heir** your Father want you to be? Are your **needs** met where your Father wants to **meet** them? Are you **desiring, praying, believing, and receiving** those things your Father wants you to have? Are you living the **rest** Jesus is offering you? Ask your heavenly Father; and He will tell you.

Yet You Never Gave Me Even A Young Goat

DESIRE: Jesus, You won't give me what I don't want; give me Your desires.

STUDY: You won't give me things I don't know are mine; teach me the truths of the Bible.

PRAY: You won't give me things I don't ask for; help me ask for all You have to offer.

BELIEVE: You won't give me things I don't believe for; give me Your faith for all of them.

LOVE: You won't give me things I am not motivated by love for; help me yield to Your love.

FAITH-ACTION: You won't give me things I won't put into practice. Help me live it!

THANKFUL: You won't *keep* giving me things, if I don't appreciate them. Help me be thankful.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Get The Keys

Why do you lock the doors to your house, your car, and your valuables? Which people do you give the keys to all of these things? Why will the bank give money to one person and not another? Why do some people get God's blessings, healing, truths, and help and not others?

Mat 28:19-20 (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Jesus, teach me why it isn't enough to know everything You have commanded; teach me why I must obey them. Teach me why people are blessed by the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12. Teach me why I can't be blessed without them.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Not Be Locked Out Of Your Own Inheritance

You can be locked out of your *own* car or home, if you lose or forget your keys. You can be refused *your* money from the bank, if you don't "do what it takes" to get it. You can be kept from benefiting from all *your* rights and privileges in your *own* town or country, if you break certain laws. You must fill out forms, prove your identity, get licenses, do work, and fulfill obligations before you get all kinds of things in this world; and, you accept that as normal.

Jesus, set me free from getting frustrated with You, when You require me to follow Your systems for getting those things You have provided me. Help me realize that the things You require make me qualified to be able to get them. If I am not qualified, not certified, or not authorized to get, have, and use a certain provision of God, help me know there is a very good reason for it. Help me accept that it would either hurt me, other people, or Your wonderful plan. Help me be willing to get the right attitudes, training, and character before certain things *can* come to me from You.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You *Know* He Is Faithful

If God gave you His provisions and you didn't have the right attitudes, character, and training for them, it would cause you to be faced with temptations of pride, misconceptions, abuse, and harm. Every person, everywhere would use God's provisions for the wrong reasons, on the wrong people, and get the wrong results. ***But, God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear (1 Cor 10:13).***

Jesus, help me yield to You making sure I am a person who can handle the power-relationship with You. You are doing it before You start giving me those things *we all* need. Help me appreciate Your incredible love and wisdom that You are using in our relationship.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Be Healed From This Human Decision

Luke 15:11-12 (NIV) Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. This opened the doors to the youngest son where he **squandered his wealth in wild living**. He wasn't trained enough to handle the provisions because he spent his time planning how HE wanted to spend his inheritance. This opened the door for the older son to doubt the honesty and integrity of his dad. He missed the whole point and told his dad he didn't even give him a goat. He wasn't trained enough to handle the provisions because he spent his time doing what *he* thought was necessary for him to get his inheritance.

Father, You are smarter, wiser, more powerful, and much more capable of making decisions for me than this dad. When I ask for things that would hurt me, those around me, and Your special plan, You tell me, “no!” If I am like the younger son, I would get mad at You for “not answering my prayer.” If I am like the older son, I would be glad You said, “no.” I would be thinking I needed to earn the right to get the inheritance. I wouldn’t know my inheritance is based on gifts. Help me appreciate the fact that You tell me “no” sometimes.

7. Ask Jesus To Help You See His *Gifts* In Seven Ways

- **DESIRE: 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, I thank You for this gift of *desire* and **mind-set** at the moment of salvation (Romans 7:15-25).
- **STUDY: 2 Tim 3:16 (NIV)** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Jesus, I thank You for this gift of *studying* the Bible that transforms, trains, empowers, and sets me free.
- **PRAY: Heb 4:16 (NIV)** Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive *mercy* and find *grace* to help us in our time of need. Jesus, thank You for these gifts of grace and mercy given to me even though I don’t deserve them. When I come to God with Your gift of *prayer*, I **approach the throne of grace with confidence**; thank You for free access to my heavenly Father!
- **BELIEVE: Rom 10:17 (NIV)** Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Jesus, I thank You for the gift of faith that You speak into me so I can *believe* I received salvation, all its benefits, and all those things that have come through my inheritance.
- **LOVE: Rom 5:5 (NIV)** And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us. Jesus, I thank You for the gift God’s *love* at salvation.
- **FAITH-ACTION: James 2:20 (NIV)** You foolish man, do you want evidence that *faith without deeds is useless*? Jesus, I thank You for the gift of Your life; it makes it possible for me to join You. It empowers me to live in cooperation with You. Your power-relationship enables me to take faith-action in putting all the Bible principles into practice in my life.
- **THANKFUL: Heb 12:28-29 (NIV)** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be *thankful*, and so *worship* God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.” Jesus, I *thank* You for showing me all these things as gifts so that I am able to praise and *thank* You for them.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty-Three

Sin Separates; Salvation Connects

Week Five Day Five

How To Remain Connected

The parable about the two sons of a very rich, loving, and generous father is first about disconnection. And then there is a gradual work on becoming connected. You are looking at the older brother who separated himself from his father by going out and working with the hired hands every day. He was mad at his father and mad at his brother and was refusing to come into the house because of his anger. But, his father came out to reason with him; he is working with his older son trying to help him move into a connected relationship.

Separation

This brother of *yours* was dead: When you fight, hate, cheat, lie against, gossip about, or steal from people, you create a gap or separation between you and them. Once again, God considers death to be a separation. When you die, your spirit is separated from your body. When you die spiritually, you are separated from God. Because the younger brother had **set off for a distant country**, he separated himself from the family.

Jesus, help me see that so many people are “dead” to each other; not because of a geographical distance; it is because of their lies, cheating, coveting, jealousy, hatred, and fighting. Show me that these spiritual diseases of sin are hurting them, damaging them, separating them, and killing them. Help me appreciate You for Your salvation which came at a great cost so I can have meaningful and enjoyable relationships.

Connection Brings Life

This brother of *yours* was dead and is alive again: God’s major objective is to bring people back together in love. Just as separation is death, connection is life; when you connect to yourself, others, and God, it is life; that is when you *really* start *living*. If you love with God’s love, that He has poured into your heart (Romans 5:5), you will discover the real meaning of life. *It* will define success, happiness, purpose, and meaning as to who you are and what you should be doing in *life*.

Finding The Lost

This brother of *yours* was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found: Jesus, You can easily create universes and all kinds of things; *But* when it comes to people, with a God-given free will, help me see that it takes major miracles to bring them together in love. It took all the work, suffering, and death by You to make it possible for me to move from a love for things to a love for relationships. Help me *really* take advantage of this great provision of Your salvation?

What Is Important?

In Jesus' parable, there was a father, an older son, and a younger son. The father knew what was important; the older and younger sons didn't know what was important in *life*. The father was very successful at *life* and relationships; the two sons weren't. What weren't the two sons doing that would have brought great success and joy to their life? They didn't know how to handle *things*.

Who Is Important?

Jesus, You are most important in my life. Show me what I should be doing, that would help me avoid the pitfalls of these two examples. Teach me the **way** for me to spend time with my heavenly Father. Teach me the **truth** that I can gain from my heavenly Father. And teach me the **life** I can live with my heavenly Father. You are my **way**, my **truth**, and my **life** to my heavenly Father

JESUS

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the *way* and the *truth* and the *life*. No one comes to the Father except *through Me*.

Jesus Is The Way

Jesus is kind of like the road or path that led back to these two sons' dad. There was a way or road that led both sons away from their father. The younger son **set off for a distant country** by taking a road that led him into sin and suffering. Then he took a way or path back to his father. **I will set out and go back to my father.**

The older son walked down a way or path that led him away from his father each day; **the older son was in the field.** Then there was a way or path that led him back to his father. **When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.** This way or path brought him close enough so as to bring his father out to talk with him.

Jesus Is Your Way

Just like these two sons had to travel down a path or road back to their father, you have to travel spiritually down the salvation path through Jesus. He is your way into being helped, healed, blessed, and given the victorious Christian life. Jesus isn't *just* the **way** to your heavenly Father, He is the **truth** about Him, and He is your **life** with Him.

Jesus, in order for me to get *connected* to a wonderful relationship with my heavenly Father, and in order for me to spend quality time "at home" talking to Him, help me "travel" through You. Just like the two sons in Your parable needed to spend a lot of time in the house with their father, I need to do that too. Help me not only get to Him through Your salvation, help me flow through You into spiritual growth. Help me grow into the most incredible love relationship with Him that is possible.

Jesus Is Your Truth And Life

Jesus is your way into the “house” where your heavenly Father is. He can “transport” you down a spiritual path to the *truths* that set you free. He can *provide* you with an eternal **life** that is lived in connection with your heavenly Father. And it all involves you staying connected to Jesus *so that* you can be connected to your Father.

Jesus, teach me *how* to gain greater access to God through You. Teach me *how* to be constantly connected to my Father. Teach me that the concept of being and *staying* connected are expressed in the word “remain.” Show me that staying connected or remaining in You is my next series of training. Help me see that the healing process of connection is accomplished through Your training in John 15:1-17. Let me learn what it will take to stay connected or remaining in You.

Jesus Is The Vine

Remain In

In John 15:1-17, the words “remain in” or the concept representing them are going to be used thirteen times. We all understand what “remain in” typically means; but, this time it is in reference to *staying* connected to, *staying* in contact with, and *staying* in a relationship *with* Jesus to your heavenly Father. Staying connected is the training here.

The Grapevine Illustration

In John 15:1-17, Jesus uses the example of a grapevine; He explains, in this example, that He is the vine, His Father is the gardener, and you are the branch that grows off of this vine. You can understand that branches can only stay alive for as long as they are *attached* to the vine; that is what is meant by “remain in.” He is telling you that you have to stay attached to, dependent on, and looking to Him for going the right **way**, for living based on the **truth**, and being able to live the Christian **life**.

Dealing With Life Issues

Jesus, help me be fully trained in the purpose of Your training in the passage in John 15:1-17. Help me see what it is going to take to get healed, helped, and changed with the issues, struggles, and difficulties I face in life. Help me see that just like grapevines contract diseases, get attacked with insects, and struggle with hot sun and cold weather, I get attacked with temptations, circumstances, people, and personal struggles. Help me learn how to remain in You so I can win over these things.

Winning Over Life Issues

By yielding to Jesus as your source of nourishment, provisions, and power, you will get the healing, help, and miracles you need. This is so you can become victorious over all life’s problems and relationships. Jesus will help you make decisions and head in directions that help you see your dreams fulfilled. All you have to do is follow Jesus’ instructions and you will be on your way into the solutions you need. All you have to do is follow Jesus’ instructions and you will reach the best goals possible.

Learning What Jesus Has To Say About Grapevines

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, “I am the *way* and the *truth* and the *life*. No one comes to the Father except *through Me*. Your path from where you are now to where you need to travel into a special relationship with your Father is Jesus. No matter if it is from a **distant country** or from a **field** where you are trying to serve you Father, Jesus is your way to remaining in your Father. He is going to teach you how to take the spiritual journey using spiritual legs to make the trip.

Jesus, help me understand that if I am going to stay “in the house” and spend time with my heavenly Father, I am going to have to travel down the path or WAY that You provide. If I am going to be taught the *truths* of my heavenly Father, I have to learn them *through* You. If I am going to spend time with my heavenly Father, I am going to have to have the **life** that comes from You. You are the only **way**, the only **truth**, and the only **life** I gain by staying “in the house” with my heavenly Father. Help me get ready to listen to what You have to say about being connected to You and my Father.

Your Guide Into Jesus and Your Heavenly Father

John 16:13 (NIV) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.

John 16:14 (NIV) He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you.

John 16:15 (NIV) All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you.

The Holy Spirit inside you is ready to connect you to Jesus Who will connect you to your heavenly Father.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty-Four

Are You On The Right Path?

Week Six Day One

How To Travel With Jesus

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Choose Your Path Wisely

Today, you will be looking at how your life-path; roads, streets, avenues, paths, highways, turnpikes, and expressways *control* your destination, when you get on them. If you get on the wrong one, it takes you where IT is going. Making sure you get on the right path is very important. When you *think* you are on the right path, you don't look for a way to get off.

Both the younger and the older sons in Jesus' parable *thought* they were on the right path. The younger one found out he was wrong by experiencing the consequences of reaching his destination. The older one found out by discussing it with his father. However, both of them suffered for quite some time before they discovered they were on the wrong road!

Jesus, I am already on a road, it is already taking down a career path, a relationship path, an emotional path, a financial path, and a life path. If I am on the wrong road, help me find a way off. Help me get on the **way** You want me to travel.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand Destination Consequences

Salvation puts you on the right path; but, it doesn't have walls on each side of it. You can wander off, make a turn, or veer off onto a path that takes you away from your heavenly Father. What if you get a job "opportunity" and decide to take it without talking to Jesus? What if you start a relationship with someone that you didn't talk to Jesus about?

Jesus, there are so many "opportunities" in life that look good to me; but, they end up taking me in directions I didn't mean to go. I get results I didn't think I would get. I get trapped on a turnpike or freeway that doesn't have an exit for miles and miles. Help me realize that the job, the career, the person, the contract, the commitment, or the decision will prove to be more difficult to get out of than I thought. Help me consult You before I make my decision.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand Destination Benefits

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" Yes, Jesus is the way into your relationship with your heavenly Father; but, what happens when you don't stay there? Jesus was your way to get to your heavenly Father; and, He still is! Jesus was your truth about your heavenly Father; and, He always will be! Jesus led you into a **life** with your heavenly Father; and, He is willing to continue to do so!

What if you drove up to a house address where you wanted to spend some time, but, you drove right past it? You got on all the right roads and streets and headed in all the right directions; but, you didn't stop and stay there, once you got there. What can draw you away from the destination you needed to arrive at? You can get distracted; you can get confused; you can get wrong information; and you can change your mind.

Jesus, I don't just need You to help me get on the right path; I need You to help me stay on it. Help me **remain in** You. Show me how to get connected to You and stay connected to You. This is a totally new way of life for me. I don't always understand how to live this life of truth and spiritual power. I need Your training, Your guidance, and Your power-relationship. Teach me how to live by joining You in Your life and staying there.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Know What To Do When The Right Road Looks Wrong

Have you ever taken the right turn and got on the right road or street but it just didn't "feel" or look right? Somehow things didn't look the way you remembered them. It is at that point you can wander off and try other paths; or, you can get a map, ask someone who knows, find a road sign, or check your GPS.

Using Romans 7:15-25 let's pray about the kinds of decisions you should make about **remaining** in Jesus so you can *stay* in constant contact with your heavenly Father:

What if you took the path or way into Jesus' salvation, got up the next day, went to work and did a bunch of things you knew you shouldn't be doing? So, you reasoned *with yourself* and said: "**I do not understand what I do.**" All day long **what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do (Rom 7:15)**. Then you say to yourself, I must be on the wrong road!

Jesus, like the Scripture in Romans 7:15, I make so many mistakes; and, I don't just make them once. I do some of the same things over and over again. Help me realize that You are still my answer. Help me remain in constant contact with You. Help me believe that You will teach me a **way** to live a **life** that will be based on **truth** that *will* set me free.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Not Neglect All The Right Information

What if you didn't know anything about Romans 7:15-25? What if you became a Christian and didn't know that **if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good (Rom 7:16)**. What if you **do what you do not want to do** and you think you didn't actually get saved? So, you get off of that road and go back to your old life.

Jesus, help me realize that all Christians start out not knowing how to take advantage of the **way** You do things. We all start out not knowing Your **truth** that sets us free. We all lack the training and power to live the **life** You have given us. Help me **remain in** You and know that You will show me the **way** into Your **truth** so I can live Your **life**.

What if you discovered salvation but didn't learn anything about justification? You wouldn't know Jesus gave you a clean record through justification; you wouldn't know that: **“As it is, it is *no longer* I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me (Rom 7:17).** Since you didn't know these truths, you might drive right on past salvation and go somewhere else.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand New Or Untrained Christians

What if you didn't know what God is looking for in a true, new or untrained Christian? What if you were like the younger son and thought that once you did what it took to become a Christian, you could go out and live any way you wanted? Or, what if you were like the older son and thought you had to work your way into being a Christian?

Your heavenly Father is waiting on those who are purposely going out and sinning to realize that isn't the way a Christian is allowed to live. And, your heavenly Father is waiting on those who are doing “their very best” at doing what they think it takes to be a good Christian. He is waiting for both types of people to realize three things found in Romans 7:18:

Jesus, teach me that I am not my answer for getting my life straightened out; only You can do that. Teach me these three Bible principles in Romans 7:18 so I can keep moving forward in my spiritual growth.

1. **I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.** Jesus, help me accept this truth: Let me realize that there is nothing good in me. My body wants to experience extreme pleasure. And, it wants to work its way into salvation so it can strengthen its self-esteem and self-confidence. But, only You, Jesus, can set me free from this **body of death**.
2. **For I have *the desire* to do what is good.**
Jesus, THIS is what You are looking for in all new and untrained Christians. Teach me that neither those who go out and sin *on purpose*, or those who try to work their way into salvation will be accepted as Christians in Your sight. Show me that only those who **have *the desire* to do what is good** are true Christians. Help me believe You gave me this desire, when I received salvation.
3. **But I cannot carry it out.**
Jesus, teach me the main point of Romans 7:15-25; make this truth real to me; **I cannot carry it out**. Show me that, if I am going to live the Christian life, I am going to have to put my faith, trust, reliance, and dependency on You, Jesus, and keep it there. And, keeping it there is what I am asking You to teach me in John 15:1-17.

You will be taking each verse in John 15:1-17 and seeing how The Three Keys To All Of Christianity will bring you into a close, intimate, and *permanent* relationship with Jesus. That is when you will get victory in life through the life of Jesus. Whatever you need, whatever you want, whatever the plan of God is for your life, the Jesus-life is the answer you are looking for.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty-Five

Following Jesus' Teachings In John 15:1-17

Week Six Day Two

John 15:1 (NIV) I am the *true* vine, and My Father is the gardener.

Living Out Your Purpose Through Matthew 5:3-12

You grow grapevines to produce grapes; if the branches don't do that, they cease to fulfill their purpose. God's purpose for creating humans is to produce good relationships. And, good attitudes and character produce good relationships, which are the good fruit God is looking for.

Poor In Spirit – Open To God's Teaching: Matthew 5:3

Jesus, teach me that good attitudes open my heart and mind to me being willing to learn things from my heavenly Father. Help me see that the two sons, in Your parable, had bad attitudes. They were unwilling to sit down with their father and learn all the wonderful things he knew. Make it clear to me that the reason they weren't teachable was because they lacked the first power-attitude found in the Beatitudes called, "**poor in spirit.**"

Mourning – Open To God's Correction: Matthew 5:4

The two sons in Jesus' parable had a bad attitude about facing their mistakes and weaknesses. They weren't able to improve because they weren't willing to see that they had any problems or made any mistakes. There were things wrong with them that were hurting them deeply.

Jesus, help me understand that the two sons lacked God's power-attitude of **mourning** to be able to see these weaknesses and personal flaws and repent. They had to go through a lot of suffering because they lacked it, weren't able to feel bad about it, couldn't cry over it (release the pain and damage in their heart), and repent (make a U-turn).

Meekness – Open To God's Leadership And Expertise: Matthew 5:5

Jesus, the two sons in Your parable had a bad attitude about who was an expert and a reliable source of information. They considered themselves to be the one who had all the answers. Show me that the power-attitude of God's **meekness** would have empowered them to see that their dad was really the expert. It would have shown them that he had the experiences, training, attitudes, and character needed. *He* would have advised them and helped them *avoid* all the mistakes, pain, and suffering they went through.

Righteousness – Only Doing Good: Matthew 5:6

The two sons in Jesus' parable had a bad attitude about how to treat themselves, other people, and God. The younger son led himself and others into the spiritual diseases of sin. He used his money to corrupt and pervert himself and those around him. The older son convinced those with him to work hard rather than follow the father to be successful in life.

Jesus, teach me that righteousness is putting people and relationships above anything else. Its priority is to make sure everyone is able to win and that no one is sacrificed in the process. Selfishness, bitterness, a love for accomplishment, things, and money all tore the two sons away from righteousness. Help me learn from your illustrations and examples how to yield to these power-attitudes of God. Let them open my heart to all the truths that set me free and change the very fiber of my life.

The Beatitudes: Learning The System Of God

Your success or failure in life all depends on your attitudes and character. God wants you to grow in this area by making it your priority so your relationships will be very rewarding and beneficial.

The way to keep a grapevine from just growing branches and producing leaves is pruning. The purpose of a grapevine is to grow grapes; but, it has a tendency to spend all its time and effort on growing more branches and leaves. When this happens, the gardener cuts off the excess growth. This causes the branches to put more of their effort into producing grapes.

Jesus, show me that if I just grow “leaves” I am a person who only does those things that benefit me. My focus is inward, selfish, prideful, and even destructive of others. If I do succeed, I will do so at the expense of other people. Help me produce fruit as well as leaves.

Associating With Good People

All the people on this planet are like a large vineyard; God evaluates each person like a gardener evaluates branches on a vine. He looks at the way each person treats themselves and others. If they are “branches” who are yielding to the “sap” provided by Jesus, they will have all the supply they need for doing good things and not bad things to themselves and others.

Jesus, protect me from getting my training, character, and attitudes from sources that cause me to start mistreating myself and others. Show me that I will not be able to produce the “fruit” of good things in my behavior. My emphasis, goals, plans, and efforts will be about “things” rather than people and relationships. Help me stay connected to You.

Getting The Training And Power You Need

As you go through this vital set of instructions for how to succeed in life, you will see that Jesus is your source of power to “bear fruit.” Which means He is the only One Who has the information. And, He is the only One Who has the power to live the information that helps you treat yourself and others the right way.

Father, help me see that You are my enhancement in “fruit” production. You are the One Who will be helping me do *a lot* of good things to myself and other people. Jesus is giving me all I need in training and power, and helping me be a person who is able to live a life of doing good. You are deciding who will be a part of Your “vineyard.” Empower me to not only be a branch in Your vineyard but a top producer in it.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty-Six

How Are You Going To Be Open To All Jesus Has?

Week Six Day Three

How To Be Receptive To Jesus' Teachings

John 15:1 (NIV) I am the *true* vine, and My Father is the gardener. As you look again at the four main Beatitude items in Matthew 5:3-12. Let Jesus help you understand that these power-attitudes functioning in your life open the door to the things of God. They are doors in your heart that give you the attitudes and power to be receptive to what Jesus is teaching.

1. Ask Jesus To Help You With Your Attitudes

You will be praying about four power-attitudes that God gives people; they empower you to live a victorious life. As you can see, the two sons in Jesus' parable would have been greatly helped if only they had these four power-attitudes from God. The big issue is, a lot of people read about these in the Bible, see Jesus says all who have them will receive special blessings from God, and then move on. Or, they try to install them in themselves by their own efforts.

When you are on a reading schedule where the goal is to read a certain number of chapters in the Bible a day, you don't have time to "do what it takes" to get them. If you don't read the Bible regularly, you never find out about these power-attitudes that bring God's special blessings. If you are on a study program that is aimed at teaching you what the Beatitudes are and what they mean, you may learn *a lot about* the Beatitudes. But, it is *only* when you have *a way* to get them flowing in your life that you *get* these four power-attitudes from God *and* the blessings they bring. Why read or study the Bible, if it doesn't change and transform you?

Jesus, deliver me from schedules, rituals, systems, and procedures that don't apply The Three Keys to my life. I want Your power to use Your three keys to all of Christianity. Show me that without them, I just read, study, memorize, take notes, and even teach them to others without the power to live them. As I pray once again over these four power-attitudes of God, help me see that they are going to help me be open to all I read in the Bible.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Take His Word For It

Mat 5:3 (NIV) *Blessed* are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:4 (NIV) *Blessed* are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Mat 5:5 (NIV) *Blessed* are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Mat 5:6 (NIV) *Blessed* are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Get His Power-Attitudes

There is a big difference in being gullible and being teachable through the power-attitude of **poor in spirit**. There is a big difference in feeling bad about your words and deeds and the power-attitude of **mourning**. There is a big difference in choosing your professionals and experts and having the power-attitude of **meekness**. And there is a big difference between being a good person and having the power-attitude of **hungering and thirsting for righteousness**. If you read the Bible, read a commentary on what being poor in spirit is, and then take all that information and try to *apply it* to your life, you will get something else other than God's power-attitudes.

Jesus, help me not try to get Your power-attitudes through anything other than desiring them, allowing You to teach me what they are by receiving them through the Bible, praying and asking for them, waiting for You to give me the faith so I can believe *You* gave them to me, receiving them and living them through Your love, and then joining You as You empower me to live them through faith-action. I want God's real power-attitudes in my life.

Even if you don't have a full concept of what these four power-attitudes from God are, you can still start the process of getting them into your life.

1. Jesus, I don't know exactly what these power-attitudes are; but, since You told me that the people who have them get special blessings, and since I trust You, I *desire* them. Put a deep *desire* in my heart for them.
2. Lead me into *studying* those Scriptures that explain what they are. Help me yield to the explanations from the Holy Spirit as to what they mean and what they will look like in my life.
3. I want to know what each of these four Beatitude power-attitudes from God are. So, I am *praying* and *asking* You to teach me what they are and what they do.
4. I don't want some attitude that I or other people say I need. I want the kind of power-attitudes that *only* You can give me. You will give me attitudes that aren't flawed, weak, prone to failure, or will mislead me. So, I ask You to give me Your faith to *believe* I am receiving *the real* Beatitudes that God intended for me to have.
5. Jesus, if I want or get *anything* that isn't motivated by *love*, then, according to 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, it will be useless to me, others, and God. So, I ask You to give me these Beatitudes for the purposes of me benefiting from Your *love*; and, help it flow through me into others and to You.
6. Jesus, You and I are now at the place where together we are ready to start practicing living on the basis of the fact that I *have* received these power-attitudes from You. So, I now ask You to help me practice *faith-action* and start living out the four power-attitudes from You.
7. Jesus, since you have given me these power-attitudes, I *thank* You for allowing me to have such wonderful gifts. Help me always appreciate them, be *thankful* for them, and praise You for what they are doing to my character and attitudes.

4. Ask Jesus To Use These Power Attitudes To Help You Be Receptive

Poor In Spirit – Open To God’s Teaching: Matthew 5:3

Jesus, create good attitudes in me; let them open my heart and mind to being willing to learn from You, the Holy Spirit, and my heavenly Father. Set me free from the bad attitudes of the two sons, in Your parable. Make me **poor in spirit** so I am willing to sit down with my Father and learn all the wonderful things He knows. I want to have the teachable and humble spirit from this power-attitude in the Beatitudes called, “**poor in spirit.**”

Mourning – Open To God’s Correction: Matthew 5:4

Jesus, help me accept the fact that there are times when I have a bad attitude about facing my mistakes and weaknesses. Show me that I won’t be able to improve if I am not willing to see that I have problems and make mistakes. I have things wrong with me that are hurting me deeply. Teach me how to **mourn** over them until my heart and life are healed.

Reveal to me that I lack Your power-attitude of **mourning**. Show me that without it I will remain unable to see my weaknesses and personal flaws. Teach me that as long as I lack it, I won’t be able to feel bad about it (listen to my conscience), cry over it (release the pain and damage in my heart), and repent (make a U-turn); that will improve my future.

Meekness – Open To God’s Leadership And Expertise: Matthew 5:5

Jesus heal me from the bad attitude about who are my experts and reliable sources of information. Keep me from considering myself to be the one who has all the answers. Give me Your power-attitude of **meekness** so I can see that my heavenly Father really is the expert. Teach me that He had the experiences, knowledge, attitudes, and character needed. *He* can advise me and help me *avoid* all the mistakes, pain, and suffering I go through.

Righteousness – Only Doing Good: Matthew 5:6

Jesus, I have a bad attitude about how to treat myself, other people, and You. I have involved people in sin. I have caused myself and those around me to use money and other resources to spend a lot of time damaging ourselves. Forgive me for the bad influences on myself and others. Give me Your life so I only do good to myself, others, and Your plan.

Jesus, I lived my life and influenced people to concentrate on the cares of this world. I went beyond that which was necessary to live on this planet. I used time I should have been spending with You to pursue more and more of the things of this world. Help me see what my priorities need to be so I can win here on earth and in eternity.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty-Seven

Who Is Setting The Rules?

Week Six Day Four

John 15:2-3 (NIV) He (the Father) *cuts off* every branch (person) in Me (Jesus) that bears no fruit (lacks love relationships), while every branch (person) that does bear fruit (has love relationships) He *prunes* (removes bad character traits and attitudes) so that it will be even more fruitful (has even more love relationships). You are already clean because of the *word* I have spoken to you.

Behavior Inspection

Sometimes you don't know what God wants. This verse tells you what is important to Him, what He is looking for, and what He isn't. He doesn't want *things* that only benefit you; that is like you only producing leaves and no grapes. He checks your behavior *with people*; that is where you produce fruit. He checks for the good things you do to yourself, other people, and His plan; that is righteousness. That is you producing the "grapes" God is looking for.

Father, You know what makes me happy, victorious, fulfilled, and satisfied with who I am and what I have done. Teach me what will meet the needs of my life. Help me find peace, satisfaction, happiness, love, respect, appreciation, and fulfillment Your way. Help me understand that I must care about others, as look for what is good for me.

Bad Behavior

Those who try out Christianity but fail to produce fruit (good behavior in relationships) through the power of Jesus are cut off. Why? These are people who try to use Jesus and Christianity to get money, possessions, positions, power, prestige, popularity, pleasure, and accomplishments for themselves only. They are like a cancer that absorbs all of a person's resources on its advancement and growth but not contributing to the benefit of the body.

Father, examine my motives; even though I came to Jesus with wrong motives at first, even though I became a Christian with my own agenda, as I learn these important principles, I am allowing You to change my reasons for being a Christian. Help me see that, that makes me a true Christian. Show me that those who get cut off are those who won't allow You to change their motives, attitudes, and character. Help me yield to your pruning process.

Bad Behavior Transformed

Those who *do* bear fruit (good behavior in relationships) are pruned (bad attitudes and character removed). God doesn't expect you to join Christianity with good motives. He knows that good motives have to be installed in everyone who comes to Him. The way He solves you having bad, selfish motives is, He gives you a good desire the moment you are saved; the Holy Spirit pours His love into your heart. But, you have to learn how to yield to it.

Jesus, teach me that as a true Christian, I yield to the Holy Spirit's desire for good and allow it to become my desire. Then You honor my new desire by giving me Your power. That produces the good behavior I now want. Show me that this keeps me from being cut off. You make me into a true Christian that only needs to be pruned.

The Solution

The answer to your problems, struggles, sins, habits, and addictions is through bearing fruit (having good relational behavior). Bearing fruit is to learn how and be empowered to treat yourself and others with good thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds. This produces the "fruit" of good relationships that bring happiness, satisfaction, love, respect, and appreciation.

Jesus, help me bear this fruit of good behavior to myself and other people. Let it transform my life and heal, bless, and empower me in every other way. Teach me that the solution to ALL my problems is coming to me through this set of instructions and prayers on why and how to **remain in contact** with You. Help me see that the solution to all my problems is coming through me learning how and then being empowered to live a good, victorious life.

What Is Helping You?

John 15:3 (NIV) You are already clean *because of the word I have spoken to you.*

1. Salvation Is Helping By Connecting You To Your Source

Jesus' cleansing words gave salvation to your life. Salvation was like a grafting; originally, you were connected to your body, the world, and even the devil. Jesus grafted you to Himself; now your assignment is to **remain** connected to Him. It is your choice; so, He spends this time telling you how important it is and what to do to remain or stay connected.

Jesus, help me stay connected so I can get Your flow, words, and love into my life. Let these benefits give me the preparations for me bearing fruit that produces freedom from and victory over my problems, struggles, sins, habits, and addictions. Let them *greatly* enhance my relationships with people. Instruct me in how to get the victory and how to be successful in *life*. Give me God's four power-attitudes so I will be ready to learn and grow in bearing fruit.

2. Justification Is Helping By Keeping You Connected To Your Source

You are already clean: What about all the errors, mistakes, failures, misdeeds, and sins you commit against yourself, other people, and God? When you get salvation, you also get justification. *No one* becomes a Christian and then lives a perfect life; but *all* want to.

You are already clean because of the Word I have spoken to you: Jesus, Your death forgave *all* the sins of *every* person. Every human that takes advantage of Your salvation is forgiven of all their past, present, and future sins. So, help me understand that God is simply looking for a special want or desire that He gave me at salvation. Show me that it is a deep *desire* to do good to myself, other people, and Your plan.

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, make it clear to me that God is looking for this “want” and hatred. Show me that as long as this is in my heart, He credits it to me as being perfect; that is the provision of justification. Teach me that this clean record gives me the *time* I need to learn how to get the actual behavior or fruit into my life. Teach me that remaining in You is where I am empowered to get that way of life; and that is being call “fruit.”

3. You Are Being Helped By Choosing Justification Rather Than Sin

He (the Father) *cuts off* every branch (person) in Me (Jesus) that bears no fruit: As with new grapevine branches, none of us start off with fruit on us. Being cut off doesn’t apply to people who *want* to produce good behavior but don’t know how *yet*; this doesn’t apply to the “fruitless” people in Romans 7:15-25. It isn’t talking about new and untrained Christians who haven’t learned the principles of Romans chapter eight. It’s about those who *want* to live a life of sin and *don’t want* to be set free from it by remaining in Jesus.

Rom 6:15 (NIV) **What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!** Jesus, help me not want to use God’s grace and mercy so I can go on sinning. Help me not try to excuse myself, justify myself, forgive myself, explain away my sinful life, and still claim to be a Christian. Help me not accept the shortcomings and failures in Romans 7:15-25 while ignoring the want, desire, hatred, and frustration found in it.

4. You Are Being Helped By Understanding Why Some Get Cut Off

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out (Rom 7:18). Those who want to sin but want to get the benefits of eternity will point out the parts of this Scripture: **I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.** And they will point out: **I cannot carry it out.** But, they will ignore: **For I have the *desire* to do what is good.**

Rom 6:16 (NIV) **Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?** Jesus, make it clear to me that the *desire* to do good things to myself, others, and God’s plan is the one **which leads to righteousness.** Help me understand that the desire to do good is the first fruit God is looking for in every new and untrained Christian.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty-Eight

Did You Know You Can Live A Righteous Life?

Week Six Day Five

How To Live A Righteous Life

John 15:2-3 (NIV) He (the Father) *cuts off* every branch (person) in Me (Jesus) that bears no fruit (lacks love relationships), while every branch (person) that does bear fruit (has love relationships) He *prunes* (removes bad character traits and attitudes) so that it will be even more fruitful (has even more love relationships). You are already clean because of the *Word* I have spoken to you.

The only people who get concerned about losing their salvation are those who *don't want* to lose it. Those who are just using it for selfish motives don't care if they lose it. Those who read John 15:2 and worry about being cut off, *that* attitude is their proof that they are just being pruned. The fact that you *don't want* to be cut off from Jesus, the Vine, and the fact that you *want* to learn how to bear fruit means you are a true Christian.

1. Ask Jesus To Use Justification To Keep You Connected To Him Your Source

You are already clean: *What about all the errors, mistakes, failures, misdeeds, and sins you commit against yourself, other people, and God? When you get salvation, you also get justification. No one becomes a Christian and then lives a perfect life; but all want to.*

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you: Jesus, help me not abuse justification and my clean record that credits me as one who is bearing fruit. Help me realize that justification only helps my relationship with You. Show me how much I need sanctification so I will have a behavior that is good for me, those around me, and Your plan.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Go From Justification To Sanctification

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. God is looking for this “want” and hatred; as long as this is in your heart, He credits it as you being perfect; that is the provision of justification. This perfect record, through justification, gives the new and untrained Christians the *time* they need to learn how to get the actual behavior or fruit into their lives. So, remaining in Jesus is where you are empowered to get that way of life; and this is being call “fruit” in this illustration.

Jesus, help me cooperate with the purpose for my perfect record through justification. Help me take advantage of the time I need so I can learn how to start *living* a successful life in my relationships. Help me realize I have a clean record *with You*; but, I am still doing things that hurt me, those around me, and Your plan.

Only God accepts you as perfect; you and those around you still see the imperfections and damage you do because you lack righteous *deeds*. It isn't until you take advantage of your clean record and "do what it takes" to get God's provision of sanctification, that you and others start enjoying the new you. Your behavior, in justification, is pretty much the same as before you were saved. The only *real* change is your want, desires, hatred, and confusion with getting and keeping good behavior with yourself and others (Rom 7:15-25).

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Succeed With Him *and* With Humans

Salvation and justification successfully established a close, open, easily accessed relationship with your heavenly Father. You are no longer being invited to **come** to Jesus, you are being asked to **remain in** Him. This invitation is your way to successful *human relationships*. It solves your business, dating, marriage, family, friendship, and enemy relationships. But when you do have a relational failure, it doesn't damage your relationship with God. This is because you *want* to not have a relational failure; this desire is what God is *always* looking for.

Jesus, help me believe in my God-given desire to not have relational failures. Keep speaking faith into me so I will never doubt that my wants and desires are always to do what is right with You, myself, and other people. Help me not confuse my desires with those desires of my body. Its desires are not my desires; I have Your desires in my spirit.

Taking Advantage Of Justification

Here's what new and untrained Christians' lives look like in business, dating, marriage, family, friendship, and enemy relationships. But, you can take advantage of your justification-relationship with God and move into your sanctification-relationships with yourself and others.

1. Pray For Help With The Fact That It's A "Little Bit" Confusing

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, there are areas where I am still mistreating myself and others in various ways. Teach me how to start doing those wonderful things I could be doing together with people. Heal me of this confusion caused by ignorance of Your Word.

2. Pray For Help With The Fact That You Are Agreeing But Failing

Rom 7:16 (NIV) And if I *do* what I do not *want* to *do*, I agree that the law is good. Jesus, You have empowered me to agree with all the information, laws, rules, guidelines, commandments, and truths I read in the Bible. You are showing me that they would drastically help my human relationships. Help me learn how to work with You to incorporate them into my behavior. I agree with them; teach me how to live them.

3. Pray To Understand Justification's Perfect Record

Rom 7:17 (NIV) As it is, it is *no longer* I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. Jesus, help me not use this as an excuse for my failures and mistakes. Help me see it as a grace period for taking advantage of my relationship with You. Empower me to appreciate this time so I can join You in Your life and succeed in all my relationships.

Salvation and justification make this statement possible: “**it is *no longer* I myself who do it.**” Your God-given, sincere **want** and **hate** keep you in your power-relationship with God. You are learning how to use The Three Keys; and, you are practicing living a better way of life. You are keeping your faith and trust in God rather than in yourself.

4. Pray To Understand That Sanctification Requires A Faith Transfer

Rom 7:18 (NIV) I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the *desire* to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. Jesus it is hard for me to agree with this: “**I know that nothing good lives in me.**” Heal me from only feeling good about myself through my performance. Help me learn how to live in grace, mercy, and gifts.

5. Pray To Understand That Sanctification Requires The Power Of God

Rom 7:19 (NIV) For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. Jesus, justification feels good in that I know my failures aren’t hurting my relationship with You. But, my relationship with myself and others is hurting me. Let me establish a power-relationship with You that solves this problem.

6. Pray To Understand That Sanctification Requires Believing in Justification

Rom 7:20 (NIV) Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. Jesus, *desire* is vital to my justification. If my “want” fails or doesn’t stay headed in the right direction, I get disqualified for justification. My relationship with You is based on “**If I do what I do not want to do.**” Help me believe You have given me a desire that will not fail me or You.

7. Pray To Understand That Sanctification Requires Facing Your Problem

Rom 7:21 (NIV) So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. Jesus, this sounds like I will live in this condition for the rest of my Christian life; and, I see many Christians that do. Help me go beyond only knowing about salvation and justification; let me know about salvation, justification, and sanctification. Take me from living far below the victorious, successful life, to the life my heavenly Father wants to help me live. Help me face my problems and take advantage of my power-relationship with You.

8. Pray For Help Understanding That Sanctification Requires “Divorcing” Your Body

Rom 7:22 (NIV) For in my inner being I delight in God’s law. Jesus, help me realize I am a spirit being living in a body. Teach me that I am *not* a physical being that is made up of a body, soul, and spirit. Teach me that the *real* me is my **inner being**, a spirit. Teach me that salvation and justification came into my spirit and awakened a real and sincere *desire*. This desire came from You so I can take advantage of the law of God. Teach me that the spirit me can see the logic, benefits, potential, and blessings that come my way, as I *live* according to the law of God. Convince me that my body doesn’t see things that way. Show me that it is much more animalistic in its approach to life.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Twenty-Nine

Are You Ready To Be Pruned?

Week Seven Day One

How To Bear Fruit

John 15:2-3 (NIV) He *cuts off* every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He *prunes* so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the Word I have spoken to you.

Cut Off Or Pruned

Reminder: The only people who get concerned about losing their salvation are those who don't want to lose it. Those who are just using it for selfish motives don't care all that much about whether or not they lose it.

When a person reads John 15:2 and gets concerned about being one of those who might get cut off, *that* attitude is their proof that they are just being pruned. The fact that you don't *want* to be cut off from Jesus, the Vine, and the fact that you *want* to learn how to bear fruit means you are a true Christian. Let's look at and pray about the wonderful provision of justification through salvation.

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Be Clear On This Point

He (the Father) *cuts off* every branch in Me (Jesus) that bears no fruit: Typically, most Christians get concerned about who this is that is being cut off. Obviously, the only ones who get concerned are those who don't want to be cut off! “**want**” and “**hate**” are what your heavenly Father is looking for in His children (Romans 7:15); and, you have that!

Jesus, thank You for making me a concerned Christian who is cares about being cut off. Thank You for making that concern the evidence I need so as to prove I won't get cut off. Help me keep understanding this principle so I will always know I am okay. But, help me be a Christian who has a justified relationship with You and doesn't *want* to stay there; I *want* more in my relationship with You; I don't want to just know it; I *want* to live it.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Get A Power-Relationship With Him

Sanctification has been discussed before; it is a process of spiritual growth. It is more thoroughly described through the study and prayer book, **Committing To The Christian Life**. It goes through the Scriptures in Romans chapter eight. They move you from only basing your life on justification. Sanctification empowers you to start living out the words of Jesus. In it you look at some very important Scriptures; they explain how the Holy Spirit helps you. You then move into the actual *life-behavior* that Jesus provides through sanctification.

Jesus, help me know, understand, and have the wisdom to live the Scriptures in these studies and prayers. Then empower me to join You in applying them to my life so I will be ready for the next Scriptures in the next studies and prayers. I want You and Your life to flow in and through me so You and I can live Your life together.

John 15:2 (NIV) He (the Father) *cuts off* every branch in Me (Jesus) that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He *prunes* so that it will be even more fruitful.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand The Condition Of No Fruit

He (the Father) *cuts off* every branch in Me (Jesus) that bears no fruit: This is the way the family and Kingdom of God work. If God can get you to *allow* Him to separate you from sin, then He will *allow* you to be a member of His family and a citizen of His Kingdom. But, if you won't *allow* Him to separate you from sin, then you and your sins are quarantined from His family and Kingdom; sin keeps you from bearing fruit.

Jesus, I am thankful that my record credits me with bearing fruit. But, You want me to go beyond justification and bear fruit in my relationships with myself and other people. I am thankful that justification keeps me from being cut off; but, I now ask for the process of being pruned. Cut off all those things that are keeping me from bearing fruit in all my relationships.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand More About The Principle Of Being Pruned

While every branch that does bear fruit He *prunes* so that it will be even more fruitful:

Jesus, You have taught me that sin is the process whereby I mistreat, abuse, and damage myself and other people. You have evaluated *every* behavior we humans can produce and have identified those things that are harmful to me and my relationships. You have labeled them as sins; I ask You to speak to me through the Bible and the Holy Spirit. Draw out and make every one of them clear to me so I can allow them to be cut off of me.

Salvation and justification change the power of sin. They keep your thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds that *used to be* sins from being sins; God sees them as mistakes. They are *still* just as damaging, hurtful, and abusive to you and your friends. But, since God is giving you the clean record of justification, *He* stays in a close and intimate relationship with you *anyway*. But, what is your reaction going to be about the fact that you have a clean record with God? Will you react with the attitudes of Romans 7:15-25; or, will you *want* to go on sinning but justified?

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That Pruning Is The Process Of Sanctification

Sanctification is you growing spiritually; you learn how life works; you give up certain world training and philosophies. You yield to the truth about life; you reevaluate human effort. You become more involved in working with Jesus and Him with you. As this process increases, you start including Jesus in all your plans, strategies, decisions, and actions of the day.

Jesus, give me a different purpose for doing everything I do in all my relationships. Give me a life that is based on everything being win/win situations. Help me care about everyone I am involved with. Set me free from things like, beating out the competition, climbing to the top, only networking with those who can advance my career, and using people to get money, possessions, positions, popularity, prestige, power, pleasure, and accomplishments.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Get Pruned Rather Than Cut Off

John 15:2 (NIV) He (the Father) *cuts off* every branch in Me (Jesus) that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He *prunes* so that it will be even more fruitful.

Again, Romans 7:15-25 makes it clear that your want or *desire* is what God is looking for in your Christian life. However, pruning and sanctification deal with taking that desire and fulfilling it by using The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. You *ask* for a desire to follow God's truths about your life. Then God helps you *seek* Biblical truths that help you live them. If you understand that God is looking for behavior *He* produces, and if you understand His isn't looking for behavior *you* produce on your own, it will clear things up.

If you try to live the Christian life while looking to your abilities, skills, talents, training, and experience, all you will produce is a long branch and a lot of leaves. If you apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity to the truths of the Bible and the Christian life, you will produce the fruit of godly attitudes and character. You will have businesses, dates, marriages, families, friends, and associates that are based on the philosophies, love, and power of God.

7. Ask Jesus To Help You Apply The Three Keys To Being Pruned

1. Jesus, I *ask* You to give me the *desire* to be regularly pruned.
2. Help me *seek* the truths of the Bible and *study* how to go about getting all my relationships pruned so they will be based on win/win decisions, plans, and goals.
3. I *pray* and *ask* You to keep trimming off all principles in my daily life that are wrong.
4. I *ask* You to keep pruning off all my doubts, fears, unbelief, and rebellion, so my heart can be filled with Your Faith, that empowers me to *believe* I am constantly getting all the wrong teachings removed from my heart, mind, and life; and that You are protecting me from new ones.
5. I *ask* You to keep pruning off all my human love efforts; help me yield to God's *love*. Let it empower me to care about every person I have a relationship with.
6. I *ask* You to keep pruning off all my human efforts to live the righteous, Christian life. Empower me to keep taking *faith-action* by joining You in practicing living on the basis of the fact that I have been and am being pruned.
7. I *ask* You to keep pruning off all lack of appreciation and lack of thankfulness that keeps me from *thanking* You and praising You for doing all this for me.

From now on, God will be constantly cutting off principles that are causing you to feel competitive, selfish, money oriented, and willing to lie, cheat, steal, gossip, mislead, commit adultery or fornication.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty

What Is Your Responsibility?

Week Seven Day Two

How To Accept Your Responsibility

John 15:4 (NIV) *Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me.*

1. Your Responsibility Is To “Do What It Takes.”

You are now being given Jesus’ instructions on “what it is going to take” for you to be healed, helped, delivered, and blessed in your relationships and in your life. If you remain connected to Jesus, then He says He *will* remain connected to you. If He remains connected to you, all His supernatural training and power will flow from Him into you; that will produce “fruit.”

Jesus, make it clear to me that my assignment in all of this is to find out how to remain in or stay connected to You. Show me that the answer to this assignment is for me to love others. However, help me see that the dilemma is, how am I going to get Your help to love others?

In other words:

1. You aren’t staying connected to Jesus if you don’t love those around you.
2. You can’t love those around you, if you aren’t connected to Jesus.
3. You need a way to be connected to Jesus *before* you qualify to be connected to Jesus.

Jesus, this is one of those “don’t go near the water until I learn how to swim” issues. I can’t get it because I don’t have it; and, I don’t have it because I can’t get it. But, help me see that You solved this dilemma through salvation and justification. They credited me with loving one another; and they keep me connected to You *before* I am actually loving others.

2. Your Responsibility Is To Believe You Are Remaining In Jesus

Here is the solution to this dilemma; salvation starts off with giving you a clean record through justification. This clean record, through the grace of God, credits you with remaining in Jesus and credits you with loving one another. This clean record lasts long enough for you to start bearing fruit (actually *doing* those righteous things you have been graciously credited for).

Jesus, help me understand that I start out only qualifying as loving one another, during my Romans 7:15-25 life, by it being credited to my record. And, I remain in You because loving one another is credited to my record. My attitudes and relational behavior need a lot of work all during this time. But, show me that because it is being credited to my record, You are remaining in me and empowering me to remain in You so You can help me love others.

Your Romans 7:15-25 life isn't you loving yourself, others, and God like you should. It is you **wanting** to love yourself, others, and God like you should. And, God gave you this "**want**" through salvation and justification. He honors this attitude so as to give you time to learn the appropriate lessons and make the appropriate changes. He honors it so you can *be* connected to Jesus and Jesus *be* connected to you. Once salvation and justification connected you to Jesus, His power to love one another starts to cause you to "**bear fruit**" in your relationships.

3. Your Responsibility Is To Learn How To Love

As you are being trained by studying the Bible and praying, you are empowered by your connection with Jesus. You start *actually* loving yourself and other people as yourself (Mark 12:31). You *bear* fruit instead of it just being credited to your record. Once this happens, your heavenly Father starts pruning you by cutting off wrong, bad, and evil attitudes and character traits. This enables you to start bearing much more fruit of loving yourself, others, and God.

Jesus, help me actually start thinking things, feeling things, saying things, and doing things that bless and heal me and those around me. Let it help me with my relationships in things like dating, marriage, doing business with people, advancing in my career, developing friendships, and dealing with people I don't like.

How Does This Connection Help You?

John 15:5 (NIV) I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man *remains* in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.

1. Staying Connected Helps You Love One Another

Christianity consists of you loving one another so you can remain in Jesus and Him remain in you. Christianity consists of you remaining in Jesus and Him remaining in you so you can love one another. It is a circular, intertwined relationship. The more you **remain in** Jesus the better your relationships are with relatives, family, a spouse, friendships, business associates, customers, employees, employers, children, strangers, clients, and yourself.

Jesus, help me learn how and be empowered to love myself and live this way with others. Let it change everything about me and my life. Let my pursuit of happiness be redirected into those things that work. Rather than trying a whole bunch of things that don't work, get me started off on the right foot. Help me enjoy my life because I am "doing what it takes" to build relationships that are meaningful, beneficial, and successful.

2. Staying Connected Helps You Know How To Start This Way Of Life

God's law of love starts you out with the commandment for you to love Him. **Mark 12:30 (NIV) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.** However, God immediately points you back to people just as soon as you start trying to do this. **Mark 12:31 (NIV) The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."**

God's law ties you and your love for Him to the way you love one another. **1 John 4:20-21 (NIV)** If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Jesus, teach me that Christianity is a love relationship with God. He empowers me to love those around me by loving them with His love I use on myself. Let it produce a circle of relationships where I, other people, and God are all included in good behavior. Let it connect me to others with a bond of love that empowers me to do those things that help everyone win.

3. Staying Connected Helps You See That Jesus Takes Your Behavior Personal

Mat 25:40 (NIV) The King (Jesus) will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you *did* for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me."

Mat 25:45 (NIV) He (Jesus) will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you *did not do* for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me."

Jesus, as I go about my normal life doing those things it takes to survive and get my needs met, help me see that God is evaluating it. But, help me understand that He isn't just watching and evaluating me, He is inviting me to connect to Your power to live this life with results. He is telling me how He wants me treating myself and other people. Help me accept the opportunity to connect and stay connected to You so I can *do it*.

4. Staying Connected Helps You Show Your Love For God

Mark 12:30 (NIV) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The more you stay connected to Jesus the more you love one another; and, the more you love one another, the more you are able to show God how much you love Him. And, the more you love this new self, God has given you, the more you can love one another *as yourself*.

Mark 12:31 (NIV) The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these. You have to learn *how* God wants you to fulfill this assignment. He requires you to *demonstrate* your love for Him by loving others. In other words, you are going to fulfill Mark 12:30 about loving God by fulfilling Mark 12:31 about loving others *like* you love yourself.

Jesus, help me not look at the verse in Mark 12:30 and try to love God while neglecting or ignoring the next verse, Mark 12:31. Show me that, that type of love for God would pull me away from my spouse, family, friends, relatives, business associates, customers, clients, employees, employers, strangers, and people I don't like. I would be trying to spend all my time with God. Teach me that God doesn't want me trying to show Him I love Him by separating myself from this life and these people. He wants me to live life by demonstrating His love to people.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty-One

Did You Know You Are In Jesus?

Week Seven Day Three

How To Remain In Jesus

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Have *Life* Through Being Connected To Him

John 15:4 (NIV) Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me.

If you cut a branch off of a grapevine, it will soon die. The grapevine has its connection to roots that gain moisture, nutrients, and minerals out of the ground. It is also providing *life* to the branches. Consider the difference between a dead tree and a living one. In a tree that has just died, all the parts of the tree are still there. It has everything it had when it was alive; but, that mysterious element of *life* is gone.

Jesus, as long as I am connected to You, I can *grow* spiritually. If I die spiritually, all I can do is *build*; help me see that live things grow; show me that dead things, like dead trees, can only be used to burn or as *building* material. Reveal to me that dead things can be nailed, screwed, glued, or fitted together; but, they will never grow. Teach me that, once something is dead, I cannot bring it back to life. Only You can give life to something that is dead.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Take The Steps To Remaining In Him

Remain in Me, and I will remain in you: In all your relationships with God, you must make the first move. You first accept salvation and justification before Jesus does His part.

1. Jesus, It is my *desire* to remain in You. Empowering me to take my first step by *desiring* to remain connected to You.
2. Jesus, I am *studying* the Bible by passionately looking for those things You want me to learn. Empowering me to take my second step to learn how to remain in You.
3. Jesus, I am *praying* by *asking* You to empower me to remain in You. Help me to take my third step of *prayer* for remaining in You.
4. Jesus, I am waiting for You to give me Your faith to *believe* I *am* remaining in You. Helping me take my fourth step into *believing* I *am* remaining in You.
5. Jesus, help me to yield to God's *love* in all the aspects of my life. Empowering me to take my fifth step of *love* so I can remain in You.
6. Jesus, help me practice taking *faith-action* by joining You in living these things I have, Help me take my sixth step of *faith-action* into remaining in You.
7. Jesus, let me always be *thankful* for You helping me take this seventh step and all the other steps into remaining in You. *Thank You* for being so generous and loving to me. *Thank You* for teaching me these steps that are empowering me to remain in You for now and into eternity. *I thank You* for the privilege of remaining in You with all I am.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That He Honors Your Steps

The thing for you to realize is, for every human step you take toward Jesus, He takes the same step toward you but on a *supernatural* level:

1. Jesus, all I can do, according to Romans 7:15-24 is to use human *desire*. It is weak, powerless, and can't produce the things I *desire*. I bring my human *desire* to You for You to give me Your supernatural *desire*.
2. Jesus, when I *study* the Bible, I read it like a human book. I only get bits and pieces of human information. I bring my human *study* to You for Your supernatural Bible truths that works miracles, healing, transformation, and eternal life when I *study*.
3. Jesus, when I *pray*, my *prayers* are motivated by misunderstanding, selfishness, and weakness. I want the things of God so I can use them for my purposes, plans, goals, and wants. I bring my human *prayer* to You for Your supernatural step toward me so I can *pray* Your *power-prayers* that bring the great things of God into me.
4. Jesus, when I try to *believe*, I have faith sometimes and doubt at other times. I bring my human *belief* to You for Your supernatural step toward me giving me Your faith. Empower me to *believe* that I have received those things You have helped me desire, study about, and pray for.
5. Jesus, I when I try to *love*, my heart keeps twisting it into something selfish. I bring my human *love* to You for Your supernatural power to use *God's love*, by providing people with win/win solutions and provisions.
6. Jesus, when I try to take *faith-action*, I seem to be living the right way sometimes and other times I don't. I bring my human *faith-action* to You for Your power *faith-action* so I can do supernatural things I couldn't do before.
7. Jesus, I try to be *thankful*; but, I struggle with taking God's provisions, blessings, and miracles for granted. I forget to go back over all He has done for me and praise Him for them. I bring my human *thankfulness* to You for Your supernatural step toward me empowering me with Your *power-thankfulness*. Help me be constantly aware of all God is doing in, for, to, with, and through me and *thank* Him for them all.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Do This: “*Remain In Me, And I Will remain In You.*”

As you try to remain in Jesus using your best efforts, and even though your best efforts aren't good enough for accomplishing the goal, Jesus honors them because of your *desire*. Your *desire* is honored *as if* you are remaining in Him. So, He remains in you by giving you His supernatural counter parts that give you a life that is filled with the attitudes and character of Him. Your desires start being fulfilled, your studies brings transformation, your prayers are answered positively, your faith is a constant and stable *belief*, you *love* through the power of God's love and you *live on the basis of the fact* that you now have Jesus' supernatural provisions through Jesus' *faith-action*. Then Jesus empowers you with a supernatural *thankfulness* that builds a close and intimate relationship with your heavenly Father.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That You Are Connected For A Purpose

No branch can bear fruit by itself: Just like a branch on a grapevine must stay attached to the vine, so your life here and in eternity is through an attachment to Jesus. But, Jesus isn't just talking about life, He is also talking about fruit. You are alive for a purpose; you exist so you can accomplish something very important. Being alive, means you can influence the things around you. If you were dead, you wouldn't be able to accomplish anything.

Jesus, I don't know what my purpose is; I am alive but I just grow longer and have a lot more "leaves" on me. My heavenly Father is looking for "grapes;" I am only looking for a "long" and "successful" life; I want lots of "leaves" so I can "soak up" all the blessings and provisions of God. I mainly only want things for me and my needs and wants. Help me take these seven steps so You will take Your seven supernatural steps toward me. Join me so I can take the faith-action of actually bearing fruit.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Bear *Fruit*

No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must *remain* in the vine: What if you spent all your time seeking money, possessions, positions, power, prestige, popularity, pleasure, and accomplishments as your priority? Then your "branch" would get long and filled with leaves; but, you wouldn't have any "grapes" flowing out of your *life*. All your focus, goals, strategies, efforts, and accomplishments would only have to do with *life* here on earth.

Jesus, help me spend all my time seeking money, possessions, positions, power, prestige, popularity, pleasure, and accomplishments, for bearing fruit. Help me *use them* by helping everyone around me get their needs met in a win/win fashion. Help me use The Three Keys to feed the hungry and thirsty, help strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the prisoners (Matthew 25:31-46). Help my *life* produce fruit that brings great blessings to me and others now and give me and others a *life* that will last forever.

7. Ask Jesus To Help You Live Out His Purpose

Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me: Once you know what life is all about, it changes your goals, purpose, plans, strategies, focus, and methods. Jesus wants everyone's needs met; Jesus wants you to have the same desire. **Rom 8:5-6 (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. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.**

Mat 19:29 (NIV) And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. Jesus, You aren't giving me a life of poverty, lack, and failure. You are giving me "things" so I can use them for helping people. Rather than "things" being my goal, make them my tools for helping people get their needs met and their life changed.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty-Two

Do You Know How To Succeed In Life?

Week Seven Day Four

How To Use The Vital Ingredient

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.

Let's say you wanted to be successful in a business venture. You would set your goals in that direction. You would lay out your plans so you could see what you would need to do to reach your goals. You would start implementing or fulfilling your plan so as to reach your goals. It all starts out with you deciding what your goal is. If you don't know where you are heading, you can't know which way to go or what to do to get there.

Jesus, make Mark 12:30-31 to be my goals. Help me see that if I accomplish the three things of loving God, my neighbors (those around you), and myself, all other goals will be empowered to be reached. Help me understand that I will be successful at those things I try to do. People will like me, enjoy my company, want to do business with me, trust me, respect me, and appreciate who I am and what I do.

How To Setup For Winning

You do get the most powerful love in all of existence at salvation. God gives you *His love* as a gift to His children. But, you don't start out knowing how to yield to it or take advantage of it. It is like having a million dollars in the bank and not knowing how to access it. Training is vital to learning how to yield to God's love. The other part is remaining in Jesus.

Jesus, help me understand that bad motives can control my behavior. Even if I treat people really good, if I am doing it out of selfish or bad reasons, the end result will be bad for the person I am working with. I have been cheated by people who said things I wanted to hear. People have promised to do things for me and then failed me. Make it really clear to me that, that is because God's love wasn't applied to the relationship.

Taking The First Step

Victorious living only comes through Jesus' salvation because of what salvation does to your motives. **Jer 17:9 (NIV)** The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? Even when you feel you are on your best behavior, your heart is skewing your attitudes and motives. It is designed to protect your best interests. Your heart is like a lawyer representing you; even if you are guilty, the lawyer will use every law, every loophole, and every technique to get his client off. That is what your heart is willing to do for you. It doesn't care if you are right, good, or righteous, it wants to make sure you get what you want.

Taking The Second Step

Father, You said in **Jeremiah 17:10 (NIV)** **I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.** You are the Gardner, my Father, that decides who gets pruned and who gets cut off. You can see my *real* motives. You know what I am up to, why I am doing what I am doing, and what my true goals are. You can't be fooled, even if I am completely fooled by my own heart. You know I want to do the right things even though my heart may have me fooled into doing the wrong thing. Help me remain in Jesus so I can get my heart changed.

Remaining Is A Personal Decision

Trying Christianity out was a personal decision; and, remaining a Christian is a personal decision. There is a way to be eternally secure in your salvation life. It is for you to move from just trying Christianity out to deciding to "do what it takes" to **remain in** Jesus. Once again, your relationship with God is permission based. You can't make God do anything He doesn't want to do; and, He *won't* make you do anything you don't want to do.

Jesus, You spent a lot of time in John 15:1-17 trying to talk me into being willing to **remain in** You. You are trying to get me to see the benefits of remaining in You. Now that You have helped me see all the advantages, show me what remaining in You looks like.

You Are Back To The Goal

How are you going to stay connected to Jesus so you can get His training and power? **John 15:17 (NIV)** **This is My command: Love each other.** These are the final words in this study, with Jesus; they have to do with a love relationship. Are you willing to open your heart and life to such a relationship? Do you want to arrive at a successful life by applying love rather than using world systems for getting what you want?

Jesus, teach me that true Christianity only works by God giving me His love. I am willing to yield to God's love as I approach the way I date, marry, do business, play sports, get entertained, and live life through it. I want to establish a permanent, remaining, constantly connected relationship with you forever. Empower me "to do what it takes" to fulfill this.

Why Do Some Get Rejected?

John 15:6 (NIV) **If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.**

1. They Are Rejected Because They don't want To Live A Life Of Love

Those who try out Christianity and refuse to learn how to love others, are those who do not bear fruit. Since you **want** to grow in your ability to love other people, you are secure. However, in Romans 7:15-25, it covers a type of failure that makes a true Christian look like they should be cut off from Jesus. If you don't understand this principle, it can cause you a lot of pain and suffering. Just concentrate on your want and not on your behavior.

Jesus, help me know I am secure in you because **Romans 7:22 (NIV)** says: **For in my inner being I delight in God's law.** I believe that is me, a spirit being. I believe You have given me the right desires and even though I am struggling like Romans 7:15-25 shows, I believe you are training and empowering me to learn to live the Romans chapter eight life.

2. They Are Rejected Because They See Failure And Give Up

Just because a new or untrained Christian *looks* like they are failing and need to be cut off by their Father doesn't mean they are. *All* new and untrained Christians are people that just haven't learned how to bear the relational fruit God wants for them. So, believe that Jesus has given you a perfect record that stays in place for as long as you desire to live a sinless life.

Jesus, show me that I am not a fake Christians who **don't want** to stop sinning. Help me see that I just haven't learned how to use my "want" to get the help I need from You. You *will* help me start winning over things I couldn't win over before. You *are* rewarding my "**want**" with the instructions, procedures, and power to grow in my ability to love other people. Empower me to *never* give up or quit. I am using Your Three Keys To All Of Christianity and believing that Matthew 7:7-8 is telling me the truth.

3. They Are Rejected Because They Get Confused And Give Up

You can feel indications in your heart, when you do things out of selfish motives. You can see people's reactions to you, when you brag. You have proof of its results in your life, as you try to succeed through worldly procedures. You know you are falling short in things the Bible is telling you to do and not do. But, you know you want to live Biblically!

Jesus, even though salvation gave me the "want" I need by pouring God's love into my heart (Romans 5:5), there are times when I get discouraged with my life. Since this "want" is only in my spirit, my body fights me all the time. Sometimes I get confused as to where these desires are coming from. This causes me to get frustrated, upset, overwhelmed, or unhappy. Sometimes I feel like I don't have the right desires. Help me realize that I have two conflicting desires. Teach me that the good one is my spirit and the bad one is my body.

4. They Are Rejected Because They Refuse To Get Healed From Selfishness

Some Christians quit because of their lack of performance. Some think they didn't really get saved and go back to their old way of life. Some think they must not really want to change. And, some give up because they feel it is all just too hard. We all fail a lot before we learn how to use The Three Keys effectively.

Jesus, help me see that failures aren't caused by selfishness by itself, it can be by lacking all God's truths that heal that selfishness. But, if I give up before You are able to bring me to the place of victory in life, You will honor my God-given free will. **Gal 6:9 (NIV)** **Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.** Empower me to never give up no matter what happens.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty-Three

Did You Know Jesus Offers Victorious Living?

Week Seven Day Five

How To Succeed At Life

John 15:5-6 (NIV) I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man *remains* in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

The World Does Not Know How

There are all kinds of books, magazines, seminars, and training classes on how to succeed in life. If any of these sources are aiming at getting great at getting money, possessions, positions, popularity, prestige, power, pleasure, or accomplishments as evidences of success in life, they are setting you up for failure at life. How do you get success in life?

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Identify What Success Is

I am the vine; you are the branches: Jesus, I had been trying to succeed in life but didn't know my source of life and victory are in You? I later "heard" these words but didn't know what they really meant. I was still running my business, career, marriage, family, dating, friendships, associations, and other relationships using principles You don't approve of? So, I ended up growing a long branch and a lot of leaves but did not produce any fruit. Let Your supernatural power of wisdom and revelation teach me this truth.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Accept Him As Your Success Authority

If a man *remains* in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit: Your heavenly Father is looking for fruit; Jesus defines fruit as: **Love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12b)**. The world's definition of success is to accumulate lots of things. If you apply Jesus' definition of life success, you will "do what it takes" to demonstrate a lot of love.

Jesus, teach me that **much fruit**, is life success. **Much fruit** comes when I am living life and accomplishing incredibly wonderful things. **Much fruit** comes when my attitudes and character have been transformed by You. **Much fruit** comes when I am living such a great and meaningful life that I am not only winning myself, I am helping a lot of other people win at life too. Let me help all kinds of people find success and happiness through Your help.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Accept His Words As Truth

Apart from Me you can do nothing: What if you don't accept this statement as being truth? What if you think you can do a lot of things without living on the basis of His teachings? That is where you find yourself disconnecting from Him and trying things on your own. You stay connected by believing *every* word He says.

If anyone does not remain in Me: Jesus, help me accept that You know exactly what You are talking about. Protect me from those things that would cause me to not **remain in** You. Protect me from things like social pressure, me always insisting on making my own decisions, me thinking I know what is best for me, me believing that human "experts" know what success is, and me wanting to win by defeating others.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand That The "Best" Get Tossed

If anyone does not *remain* in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers: Companies, "achievers," spouses, bosses, corporations, family members, and friends all have a tendency to want to be the "best," reach the top, get ahead, cross the finish line first, take the lead, be number one, or keep the advantage. Instead, we want everyone to win, succeed, get their needs met, benefit mutually, and find true happiness through win/win methods.

Jesus, in this world, bosses won't allow me to devote myself to always creating win/win situations. Companies won't allow me to help all the "other" companies succeed. People won't join me in making sure everyone gets across the finish line before we do. My friends won't give up competition and join me in promoting compassion, unity, love, friendship, and mutually beneficial relationships. But, teach and empower me to do it anyway.

5. Ask For Help Understanding That The Jesus-Connection Has Power And Benefits

If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned: If you join Jesus in only being involved in win/win situations, will you lose your job? Will you have to give up your career? Will you become a door mat in dating, marriage, family, and in friendships? How are you going to go out into a selfish, self-esteem, self-confident, competitive world and survive?

If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit (John 15:5b): You can read this and forget that the answers, solutions, decisions, and changes aren't accomplished by you. Jesus isn't telling you to produce win/win solutions, decisions, plans, and accomplishments. He isn't asking you to change jobs, "buck the system," start living the right life, start treating people better, or any of the things you may try to improve; it's a connection.

Jesus, I get concerned about how I am going to always be involved in win/win situation. I forget that I am not the one who produces this life. Keep my eyes fixed on You as the Author and Perfecter of my faith. Let me yield to You and Your knowledge, foreknowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power. You will change my life; I don't have to. All I have to do is **want** it changed into this kind of life and then "do what it takes" to make it happen.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Not Take Matters Into Your Own Hands

John 15:6 (NIV) If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

“If anyone does not remain in Me” can be a well-meaning Christian who decides to make some changes in their life. Remaining in Jesus is to stay right where you are and not change anything. Jesus will use situations, circumstances, people, ideas, miracles, and all kinds of things to *lead* you in the changes *He* wants. If you are in a situation where you are involved in theft, prostitution, or adultery, for example, you would need Jesus to help you make some immediate changes. But, in most cases, you are in situations where you can wait for Jesus to show you what to do. It isn’t what you can do for Jesus; it’s what He can do for you; **remain!**

Jesus, help me not doubt, worry, take matters into my own hands, or try to figure this new way of life out. Help me allow You to reveal the plan, work the miracles, and lead me into the steps that get me where I need to go. Give me the power to just trust You to take care of this and all other Biblical principles. Let me remain in You as we take faith-action together. But, give me a deep and powerful desire to start living the win/win life.

7. Ask Jesus: What Was I Thinking?

Rom 7:24 (NIV) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Since we are *all* trained by the world as to what life and success are, we *all* got involved in contracts, relationships, habits, addictions, behavioral flaws, jobs, careers, debt, commitments, or partnerships we can’t easily get out of. Jesus didn’t find any of us sitting around waiting for salvation to come our way.

Jesus, I’m involved in things that aren’t good for me, others, or Your plan. They cause me pain, frustration, guilt, depression, anxieties, and confusion. Get them out of my life immediately; please set me free. I know I can’t make myself do it. And I can’t make You take them from me. I am sorry that I got involved in them in the first place. I wish I knew then what I know now. Help me trust You to do what is best for me and those around me.

8. Ask Jesus To Help You Not Forget About Justification

Rom 8:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death: Remaining in Jesus is to allow Him to tell you what to do next. He isn’t holding any of your past commitments, habits, addictions, contracts, relationships, lifestyles, or careers against you. Jesus isn’t condemning you concerning your past decisions.

Jesus, help me trust You whether You deliver me gradually or immediately. Help me trust You to make changes that cause love, win/win, and true success be a part of my *life*. Be the One Who leads, empowers, speaks faith and wisdom into me, and supernaturally forces my circumstances to work together for my good. In the meantime, all my past, present, and future sins, mistakes, weaknesses, failures, and problems are covered by You.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty-Four

Do You Pray Prayers That Work?

Week Eight Day One

How To Pray Effective Prayers

John 15:7 (NIV) *If you remain in Me and My words remain in you*, ask whatever you *wish*, *and it will be given you*.

1. You Have To Qualify

What would happen, if sinners could ask for anything they wished and get it from God? If they prayed in selfishness or evil, and if God gave them whatever they wanted, supernatural power would be unleashed on us all, bringing great pain and defeat. But, we are all protected from the supernatural power of God being used for selfishness or evil because of the requirement of, “*If you remain in Me and My words remain in you.*”

Jesus, help me see that it isn't until I *remain in* You *and* Your words *remain in* me that I can **ask whatever I wish, and it will be given** me. Help me understand that it is because remaining in You will bring me into such a power-relationship of love that I can be trusted with this kind of prayer. I will be willing, trained, and empowered to only pray for good things for myself, others, and God's plan. *Then* I can **ask whatever I wish, and it will be given** to me.

2. You Have To Qualify Through Grace And Mercy

You need some of your prayers answered; but, it would be disastrous for you to get them all answered. You aren't trained on how to always **remain in** Jesus and His words; and, you don't yet know how to get Jesus and His words to **remain in** you. So, you can't just **ask whatever you wish, and it will be given** to you. But, because of salvation and justification, Jesus credits you as one who is remaining in Him; and, He *credits* you as having His words remaining in you. This opens the door for *some* of your prayers to be answered.

Jesus, teach me the difference between credited and actual. Show me that “**IF you remain in Me and My words remain in you**” isn't something I am doing constantly. Therefore, **ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you** only applies to me some of the time. Show me that those areas where I am remaining in You and Your Words, my prayers are effective.

How Does The Perfect Record From Jesus Work?

Eph 2:8-9 (NIV) For it is by *grace* you have been saved, through *faith*--and this not from yourselves, it is the *gift* of God--not by *works*, so that no one can boast: Your *total* relationship with God is based on grace, mercy, faith, and gifts. Those are things you don't see much of in the world system. So, since most of your training has come from the world, these are areas where your training is very weak.

Jesus, keep me aware that I got salvation, justification, and am *getting* sanctification through grace, mercy, faith, and gifts. Teach me that salvation and justification deal with crediting; and, sanctification deals with actual. Help me see that I *have been* credited with perfection; and I am *being* transformed through sanctification. It is me actually living righteousness. But, I must learn about grace, mercy, faith, and gifts for sanctification to keep happening.

1. Grace And Mercy

As was said, grace is a creation from God; it is a powerful procedure that allows new and untrained Christians to get *a lot* of the benefits of Christianity. Jesus *credits* good to their record and removes all evil deeds from it, even though **what they *do* is not the good they want to do, rather the evil they do not want to do--this they keep on *doing* (Rom 7:19),**. This *crediting* comes through grace and mercy in salvation and justification.

This grace and mercy power-procedure is what Jesus uses; He uses it to *consider* or *credit* the new and untrained Christians with them remaining in Him and His words remaining in them. It is a gift of grace and mercy; but, it starts opening the doors for the *actuality* of a lot of their prayers to be answered. Later they will start *actually* remaining in Jesus and His words *actually* remaining in them through a grace and mercy system called sanctification.

Jesus, as my prayers start getting answered, that moves me in the direction where my *actual* behavior begins to improve. The answers to these prayers start creating wonderful changes in my thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds. And these changes will all be provided to me through the gifts of grace and mercy. Show me that this gradual prayer and growth procedure is how I am getting the doors opened to a lot more prayers being answered.

2. Faith For The Right Things

Many of the new and untrained Christian's prayers aren't answered because they pray for the wrong things (Romans 8:26-27) or they pray with wrong motives (James 4:3). But, the Holy Spirit keeps helping them with subjects to be prayed for as He speaks to their conscience. He also helps them with their prayer subjects by speaking to their heart (emotions) and to their mind (reasoning) with Biblical ideas. This moves them into becoming trained and mature Christians, which causes the credited to become actual.

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we *know* that in *all things* God works for the *good* of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. New and untrained Christians don't like God not giving them everything they pray for. The world taught them that they are the authority on what is best for them. They often think God is "messing up," rejecting them, neglecting them, doesn't love them, is mad at them, or is too busy for them.

Jesus, help me accept, in faith, God's refusal to give me *some* of the things I pray for. Help me *believe* that the only reason He says "no" is because it wouldn't be good for me or wouldn't be good for those around me. Let this help me trust Him more and more. Help me realize that my heavenly Father has the wisdom and love I need so I can be protected.

3. Gifts Without Appreciation

New and untrained Christians typically evaluate God. They think they qualify to decide what is best for them. Usually, they come to God to see what kind of God He is. If He fails their test, they reject Him based on their evaluation. However, God can't be evaluated or tested. It is like getting on scales to see how wrong the scales are.

Jesus, even though I am not *qualified* to test and evaluate God, He has still given me a lot of gifts to prove Who He is. These gifts have helped me see His love, generosity, grace, and mercy. This has helped me consider that God passed my tests.

4. Misunderstanding Gifts

Many new and untrained Christians test and evaluate themselves based on their performance. The world taught them to believe their accomplishments are what make them qualified for things and valuable to others. A lot of them try to impress God with how much they deserve to be accepted by Him. However, this isn't what their relationship with God is all about.

Jesus, help me always remember that my relationship with God is about grace, mercy, faith, and gifts. Let my past, present, and future sins, mistakes, failures, and shortcomings be my proof that my performance isn't going to help me. Help me look to God's performance; He isn't looking for what I can do for Him; He wants me to be looking for what He can do for me. Help me see what the Bible says about this issue.

5. Good Works Produced Through You

Eph 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to *do* good works, which God prepared in advance for us to *do*. These are good works that are going to be produced through you rather than by you. This is going to be a good-works relationship with your heavenly Father. Your connection to Jesus is bring you into a way of you working *together* with Him. He is helping you change the way you live and the way you get along with yourself, other people, and Him. You *will* do good works; but, they will come out of a power-relationship with Jesus as gifts, grace, mercy, and faith.

Jesus, help me understand that I will think the thoughts, feel the feelings, say the words, and do the deeds; but, You will be supplying the faith, power, ideas, feelings, and wisdom. I will be *connected* to Your great knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power so I can do wonderful things and live a wonderful life. Through You, I will be able to do all those good things I wasn't able to do through my own works or efforts. But, the *only* reason I will be able to do these things will be because You are doing them in and through me as gifts, grace, mercy, and Your faith.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty-Five

Do You Qualify For Praying Effective Prayers?

Week Eight Day Two

How To Wish For The Right Thing

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Arrive At The Goal

John 15:7 (NIV) If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. Things are starting to work for you in a wonderful way. The results of remaining in Jesus and His words give you great and unlimited things from God. The reward is for you to get whatever you wish. To **remain in** Jesus and His words is to be in complete harmony with the will of God. And, Jesus and His words took you there.

As you learn how to **remain in** Jesus and His words, the more the benefits and provisions of God are available to you. As you set your goal at **remaining in** Jesus and His words, you enter the path that takes you into nothing being impossible for you.

Jesus, help me **remain in** You. Give me Your attitudes and character so I can **ask whatever I wish, and it will be given me.** Set me free from doubts, fears, patterns, and fictionalizing that came from me praying for a lot of things and not getting them. Help me realize that all my past failures in getting results from You came from the fact that I didn't qualify for getting those things I asked for. I believe Your Word is true and works!

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Find Out Why You Failed

In Matthew 17:14-19 Jesus' disciples had just failed at being able to help a person with a very important need. Then Jesus had to do it for them. So, they asked Jesus why they had failed. **He (Jesus) replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."** This answer applies to us all; if you don't stay connected to Jesus, many of your efforts will fail. Or, they will produce results that are only a long branch and a whole bunch of leaves, but no fruit. If you fail, ask Jesus why?

Jesus, a lot of the time when I fail to get the results I see in the Bible, I either listen to myself or the devil. Either I come up with a reason for why I failed at Bible results, or I allow Satan to tell me what he thinks is the reason for my failure. Help me come and ask You for what the real reason is for the failure. Then empower me to get You help with the problem.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Pursue The Reward

Phil 3:14 (NIV) I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. This is the right goal, attitude, desire, determination, and commitment. And, **pressing on** is how you move into these right goals, attitudes, desires, determinations, and commitments.

I Press On Toward The Goal

1. Jesus, help me *desire* all God has to offer me; help me *desire* to set my goal to be to **remain in** You and Your words.
2. Help me *study* the Bible so I can learn *how* to **remain in** You and Your words.
3. Help me *pray* for the right things that help me **remain in** You and Your words.
4. Help me fix my eyes on You and look to You to speak faith in me so I can *believe* I *have* received the knowledge and power to **remain in** You and Your words.
5. Help me yield to *God's love* by **remaining in** You and Your words for the right reasons, purpose, and motivations. Help me share these wonderful things with others.
6. Jesus, join me as I start to take *faith-action* so I can take advantage of the fact that I *have* the knowledge and power to **remain in** You and Your words.
7. Jesus, as I **remain in** You, help me be *thankful*. Help me not take it for granted that You were so loving, gracious, and merciful to give me this wonderful gift.

Use these steps over and over again so you can move into the realm where you can **ask whatever you *wish*, and it will be given you**, and into the life where **nothing will be impossible for** you. It's like going through an eight-year training program so you can get a degree. All the time, effort, and money spent will be worth it so you can have a career for the rest of your life based on that degree. Everything you put into this training with Jesus is worth getting all the results it brings for the rest of your life here and in eternity.

4. Ask Jesus To Empower You To Always “Do What It Takes”

John 15:7 (NIV) If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you *wish*, and it will be given you: You now know “what it takes” to get the things you need from God. You now know what causes the promises and provisions in the Bible to be yours. You now know what to use The Three Keys To All Of Christianity on so you can live a victorious life here and in eternity. You just have to keep “doing what it takes” to **remain in** Jesus and His words. This is *how* to reach your *goal*.

5. Ask Jesus To Teach You How To Always “Do What It Takes”

John 15:7 (NIV) If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you *wish*, and it will be given you: It becomes a frustrating thing for the Bible to keep telling you what you need to be doing and not tell you how. If you will just **remain in** Jesus *and* His words **remain in** you, you can **ask whatever you *wish*, and it will be given you**. Without the Three Keys To All Of Christianity, you will *try* to do what the Bible says. Trying was *how* you entered into the Romans 7:15-25 life and got frustrated, confused, and discouraged. But, “trying” and failing revealed to you that you needed something else to help you. **Rom 7:24 (NIV) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

Crying Out To Jesus

Jesus, You have made it easy for me to *desire* You and the things You have to offer. Help me not lose that *desire* over time. Help me not get distracted by the responsibilities of life. Help me want to **remain in** You and Your words for the rest of my life.

Jesus, as I read and *study* my Bible, it isn't written like any book I have ever read. Help me allow You to speak transforming power to create change in me. Help me read the promises and the commands in the Bible as power that is creating in me the ability to **remain in** You.

Jesus, I have always consulted my mind and heart for those things I wanted. If I couldn't come up with the answer I was looking for, I would always look to other humans for additional help. Help me allow You to help me by me *praying* and *asking* for Your input. Let me see that this is a part of me **remaining in** You.

Jesus, I have been taught in a lot of ways to *believe* in myself, to trust my heart, to have confidence in my own skills, abilities, talents, and potential. Help me fix my eyes on You for Your faith to help me *believe* in You and Your words so I can always **remain in** You.

Jesus, I have also been taught in a lot of different ways that sex is love, that I am motivated by sexual drives, that pleasure is happiness, and that the love of money, possessions, positions, power, popularity, prestige, pleasure, and accomplishments are the kind of love to have. Help me yield to *Your love* so I can **remain in** You and Your words.

Jesus, I have always tried to do those things I wanted to do. I got a lot of cooperation from my body, when I was living the life of the world. But, just as soon as I tried to live the Christian life, my body did exactly what Romans 7:15-25 says it does. Help me join and **remain in** You by taking *faith-action* so we can work together to fulfill the goal of me **remaining in** You and Your words.

Jesus, I have always tried to believe in myself, help myself, give things my best efforts, and then be proud of myself for achieving such great accomplishments. My self-esteem and self-confidence needed my and other people's praise for what I did. Now that I am putting my total trust in You, help me see that I need to be humble and honest. Help me see that You accomplished these things in me and that You deserve my *thankfulness* and praise.

Jesus, help me **remain in** You by realizing that I don't need praise. I need people to see how great You are. I can't meet their needs; they need me to be transparent and allow them to see You doing great things in my life. Then they will see what You want to do in their life. Help me not only be *thankful*, help me give you the glory and the praise as I tell others what You did for me. Let them realize that You don't love me any more than You love them.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty-Six

Do You Believe You Are Being Trained And Empowered?

Week Eight Day Three

How To Be Trained And Empowered

John 15:8 (NIV) This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.

This is to My Father's glory: When you **remain in** Jesus, He helps you live a life of blessings, victory, and miracles; that shows how great your Father really is. Your transformed life shows everyone that He is loving, caring, and compassionate. The more He does in and through you, the more people are able to see how much He is willing and able to help *them*.

Jesus, help me realize that as I **remain in** You, You help me live a life of blessings, victory, and miracles so that my life shows how great my Father really is. Let my transformed life help others see that He is loving, caring, and compassionate. Teach me that the more He does in and through me, the more people see how much He is willing to help them.

This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit: The fruit you are bearing is to love one another; this means you are living a life that brings great relationships. Great relationships bring great success in life; great success in life brings powerful proof that Christianity is the way to live the life you have always wanted to live. Loving one another is the answer to the challenges you have in trying to win at life.

This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples: Jesus, make me a disciple who is Your student. As a student, help me use The Three Keys To All Of Christianity so I can get, have, and live God's power-attitudes in the Beatitudes of Matthew 5:3-12. Then let the power-attitudes in the Beatitudes lead me into Your character found in **the fruit of the Spirit** in Galatians 5:22-23. Then let **the fruit of the Spirit** empower me to yield to God's love described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Let that bring me to the place where I can **ask whatever I wish, and it will be given [to me]**.

So:

- Before you go out to deal with the public,
- Before you start business transactions,
- Before you try to succeed at a dating, courtship, marriage, or family relationship,
- Before you put demands on a friendship,
- Before you meet people you haven't met before,
- Before you address issues with people you don't like,

Get all your emotional needs met through your constant connection with Jesus. You are no longer a person who is trying to establish relationships *to get* your needs met; Jesus met them.

What Does Accepting Jesus' Love Do For You?

John 15:9 As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now *remain* in My love.

1. Accepting Jesus' Love Gives You Relationships From Your Heart

A lot of your struggles in relationships are caused by you not feeling loved, appreciated, and respected. As long as you feel like people don't care much about you, you react to them in suspicious and reserved ways. If you think people aren't able to understand and appreciate you, it keeps you from trusting their reasons for interacting with you.

Jesus, help me realize that people can feel my attitudes of distrust and reservation; and it keeps them from trusting me. There are little messages I send out in my tone of voice, my eyes, my facial expressions, and my body movements and posture. Let me remaining in You, Your Words, and Your love change this message into a message about my heavenly Father.

2. Accepting Jesus' Love Teaches You How To Be Real

You may try to act like you are fine; you may try to get training on how to fool people into believing you care about them; you may even go to great lengths to try to convince yourself and others that you have their best interests in mind. But, Jesus is the only One Who can provide your heart with a love that is real and very effective in relationships.

Jesus, help me see that everything I do has to do with relationships. And, everything I do in my relationships need to be inspired and motivated by love. Whether it is a relationship with myself, other people, or with God, let love help me be able to enjoy life. Let me remaining in a connected relationship with You make me real rather than me acting real.

3. Accepting Jesus' Love Gives You Healing For Your Heart

As the Father has loved Me: God loves Jesus with a supernatural love; He loves Him in a way that is far beyond anything you can comprehend. Even though this love is way above your abilities, you can at least imagine how wonderful, powerful, and consistent it must be. You would be the most blessed person on the planet, if you were loved with this love.

4. Accepting Jesus' Love Gives You Relationships From A Healed Heart

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you: You are now finding out that you *are* loved with the same love God loves Jesus with. Let this fact penetrate your heart and heal it so you can start demonstrating real sincerity with your family, relatives, friends, business associates, clients, strangers, and people you don't like.

Now *remain* in My love: Jesus, since all my life is based on relationships, and since all relationships are enhanced by love, let this raise my life to a whole new level of purpose, meaning, and fulfillment. Empower me to *really* care about those around me, help me have their best interests in mind, let my heart send out a message of sincerity to everyone so they can truly trust me. Empower me to *remain* in Your love.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty-Seven

What Kind Of Person Do You Want To Look Like?

Week Eight Day Four

How To Look Like Jesus

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Help Others

John 15:8 (NIV) This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples. What are you trying to accomplish in life; what is your main goal; what would make you happy and give you feelings of great accomplishment? Would it be for you to be loved, appreciated, respected, admired, envied, praised, and very popular? Or, would it be that you pointed a lot of people to the *true* source of all happiness and success?

Jesus, in the world, I have to convince people that I am someone who can “get the job done,” “be the go-to person,” “be relied on,” “do it right,” and “always come through.” If they don’t “believe in me,” they won’t hire me, do business with me, marry me, be my friend, work for me, or give me opportunities. If I lack what they want or they *think* I lack what they want, they will go somewhere else. Show me how to move from this to the way You are teaching.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Give Him The Glory

This is to My Father's glory: If you know about a good brand of product that has served you well, you tend to tell others about it. If you know a good professional that has done a good job for you, you will usually tell others about them. If you buy something that you are really proud of, you will typically show it to all your friends and maybe to a few people you don’t like. It is in your nature to spread the “good news” about those things you know about, buy, use, own, or make. It is fun to share the information about things you know to be worthwhile and beneficial.

Jesus, You are the greatest being in all existence; You are the greatest experience and relationship I have ever had. You are more worthy of my admiration, respect, appreciation, thankfulness, and praise than anything or anyone. You are telling me *how* to get the word out about my heavenly Father. You are explaining *how* to **remain in** You and Your words. You are introducing me into a way of life that points to the greatness of God. Give me all these gifts of success, happiness, and fulfillment in *life* and in eternity so I can praise You.

What Do You Look Like When You Are Bearing Much Fruit?

1. You Look Like A Person Who Remains In Jesus And His Words

This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit: In the grapevine illustration; you looked at branches on a grapevine, and, a gardener. Jesus is the vine you must **remain in**. God is working with everyone who is attached to Jesus. He has a goal for every branch attached to Jesus. His objective is for you to not only bear fruit, He wants you to **bear much fruit**.

Jesus, the fruit You want from me are wonderful relationships with myself, other people, and with You. **Much fruit** means that I and the people around me are all benefiting from all of those relationships. These are the things I and all honest, sincere people want. Help me with world training that has pitted me against those around me. Heal me from selfishness, greed, covetousness, envy, and cheating people. I want Your kind of **fruit** growing out of my life; help me want it just like You do; and help me start bearing **much fruit**.

2. You Look Like A Person Who Joined God's Purpose For You

"This is to My Father's glory" means you are fulfilling God's objectives; you are living a life that is fulfilling His purpose for giving you a *life*. Some people think that God just wants praise and glory for praise and glory's sake. God doesn't *need* your praise, glory, worship, or thanksgiving; you need to give them! If you fail to appreciate, respect, love, give praise and worship, and be thankful, you get cheated out of realizing how wonderful God really is.

Jesus, empower me to see, understand, and appreciate all You are trying to get flowing in and through my life. Help me realize that what You want is a far better fulfillment than what I would try to produce in my life. Help me see that this **much fruit** is a supernatural way to succeed in life and in eternal life. Fill my heart with praise, thanksgiving, glory, worship, and appreciation. Help me feel all these things and express them.

3. You Look Like A Person Who Shares How Wonderful God Is

"That you bear much fruit" means you will not only be filled with love, respect, appreciation, thankfulness, and joy concerning all God has done for you, you will share all God's greatness with those who need to know about Who He really is. For you to *grow* in appreciation, respect, love, praise, worship, and thankfulness is for you to become a long, leafy, branch. And, that is okay, if you *grow* a whole bunch of "grapes" on the full length of that branch.

The first step in sharing your appreciation, respect, love, praise, worship, and thankfulness is to get them in your heart first; you can't give what you don't have. But, once you have them, you need to share them with those around you. You need to allow God to make you so blessed, excited, and thankful, that you want to tell everyone you know about Him and His provisions.

Jesus, it seems like no matter how excited I get about You and all You have done for me, I find it hard to share Your greatness with those who don't know You. Heal me of all fear of social pressure, people's reactions, and people's opinions. Help me have the freedom and power to share all the wonderful things You have done for me no matter what the results are.

4. You Look Like A Person Who Is Jesus' Disciple

This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples: Disciples are trainees; they learn how to **remain in** Jesus and His words. They listen, believe He speaks truth, and allow Him to create things in their lives. Plus, they share all they are living with those around them. Jesus' "grapes" have a seed; in other words, they aren't seedless grapes. Each Christian has a message that is alive and life-giving like a seed. If you plant a grape seed, it *grows* and produces a new plant that is *alive* and *growing*. If you share how wonderful God has been to you, you share the *life* you have with others. Then that seed grows inside them and gives them a chance to join and **remain in** Jesus and His words in them.

Jesus, help the **much fruit** I bear to not be "seedless." Help me bear the kind of fruit that has the creative power to change people's lives just like You are changing mine. Let me be open and honest about how great You are. Empower me to speak words that contain Your transforming, creative power. Speak through me to those people around me. Speak faith through the words I speak so they can believe like You have empowered me to believe.

5. You Look Like A Person Who Shows Yourself

"Showing yourselves to be My disciples" means you are revealing something to those around you. **This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit.** You don't get saved, justified, sanctified, blessed, healed, receive miracles, and have your heavenly Father forcing your experiences and circumstances to work **for the good of those who love Him** as a private experience. You *show* and tell others about Him and what He has done for you.

Why would God want you to **bear much fruit**? That means a whole lot of people who have no idea how wonderful He is get the wonderful news about Him. The world lies to them, fights Jesus in front of them, persecutes them for trying to believe Him, makes fun of all Christians, and tries to keep them from coming to Him. But, you have the truth and you are sharing it.

Jesus, show me that the **much fruit** You want me to bear isn't just words presenting the good news. **Fruit** is a life of love that influences the way I do business, treat employees and employers, treat my friends, treat my spouse and family, and treat my enemies. Give me life that demonstrates Your love so that when I do present the good news, people will believe.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty-Eight

Are Your Love, Emotional, And Personal Needs Already Met?

Week Eight Day Five

John 15:9 As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love.

What Does It Take To Have Healthy Relationships?

Now *remain* in My love: What if you entered into marriage, family, business, friendships, new contacts, and enemy relationships with all your needs met? *Most* people put demands on relationships that those people can't meet. Your relationship with Jesus is designed to meet your needs so that it keeps you from putting these demands on yourself and other people.

1. Get Healthy Relationships By Remaining In Jesus And Him Meeting Your Needs

Remaining in Jesus and in His love and Him and His love remaining in you help you to enter a relationship with your needs *already* met. It is a love issue; Jesus is demonstrating His love for you by giving you all the tools or principles you need for loving yourself, other people, and Him. He is *loving you into* being able to bear fruit, which is Him *loving you into* being able to love others. This helps you to establish win/win relationships that offer Jesus' love, power, and healing to other people.

Jesus, help me always keep in mind that branches connected to a grape vine get their ability to grow and bear grapes from the vine. Help me always realize that I get *my* life's needs met through You, not others. Just like branches produce grapes and those grapes are eaten and meet people's needs, give me Your knowledge, understanding, wisdom, love, and power. Let them flow into me and through me to my relationships with others.

2. Get Healthy Relationships By Remaining In Jesus' Love And Get Jesus' Life

Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, *Who loved me and gave Himself for me*.

Jesus, teach me that the *power* to live a victorious life over things hurting me comes from yielding to Your abilities, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and skills. Your decisions in my dating, marriage, family, friends, business, career, and life in general are totally different. Let my influence on *others* come from Your life. I am getting Your thoughts and feelings. As I learn to yield to them, empower me to treat people in a totally different way.

3. Get A New Life Of Faith And Confidence, Producing Healthy Relationships

“I live by faith in the Son of God” is you looking to Jesus for all of His resources to become your resources. When you allow Jesus to speak faith into you, you know what to do. Your relationships are based on faith and confidence.

Jesus, help my faith and confidence be controlled by love. Even when I know what to do, help me be patient and kind. When my faith and confidence are struggling, help me not be envious of someone else’s faith and confidence. Keep me from being boastful or proud of my faith and confidence. Help me not come across as being rude, self-seeking, or easily angered (1 Cor 13:4-5). Let others experience God’s love through me.

4. By Remaining In Jesus’ Love, Bring Blessing To Those Around You

Who *loved* me and gave Himself for me: When a needy or selfish person is brought into a relationship with Jesus, He meets their needs and heals their heart; that makes it possible for them to be able to love others. All of a sudden, needy and selfish people become healthy people who care about others. Rather than using people, they become a blessing to them.

Jesus, as I start a new relationship, help me make it a three-way relationship. Even if the other person doesn’t have a relationship with You, as they establish a relationship with me, let them also be establishing a relationship with You. As You and I build a relationship with them, let them experience what it is like to have a relationship with You themselves.

5. By Remaining In Jesus’ Love, Brings Truth To Your Relationships

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, “I am the *way* and the truth and the *life*. No one comes to the Father except *through* Me.

Jesus, You tell me the truth because that is Who You are. As I yield to You, help me tell others the truth. If those around me don’t know the truth about life, help me lead them into it. But, as they associate with You and me, help them experience the truth about life. Let Your words of love flow into me and then out to those around me. Let me show them a way of life that approaches the issues of life victorious; and that is a win/win relationship.

6. By Remaining In Jesus’ Love, Brings The Spirit To Your Relationships

John 6:63 (NIV) The Spirit gives life; the flesh (our body and its motivations) counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are *Spirit* and they are *life*.

Jesus, Your love and words are teaching me how to live Your life. I am learning how to live in the spirit realm. You are introducing me into a way of thinking that is bringing great power. You have elevated my life that is now operating on a supernatural basis. Miracles, blessing, healing, and transformation has started flowing into me. Help me be able to share all of these things with those I establish a relationship with.

7. By Remaining In Jesus' Love, It Brings Freedom To Your Relationships

John 8:32 (NIV) Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Great truth flows into you and your relationships because you are remaining in Jesus' love. Truth is based on love because it must be presented in love. **Eph 4:15 (NIV)** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him Who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Jesus, each truth I learn from the Bible addresses an issue in my life that brings freedom. Each truth that sets me free, is a breakthrough that I can share with others. As I grow in truth and love, the quality of my relationships grows. Let Your truth and love bring freedom to my friends. Help me share your freedom with them so they can experience your love.

8. By Remaining In Jesus' Love, You End Up Winning At Life And Relationships

John 8:36 (NIV) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. The way you remain in Jesus' love is by waiting for His love to give you the thoughts and feelings He wants you to have. His love-thoughts and love-feelings will inspire new decisions, new words to say, and a better way of responding to the people and circumstances you face. Your problems are solved by you yielding and remaining in Jesus' love as you make each decision in your day. Jesus will help you make decisions that will show others what He is capable of doing.

Jesus help me make love-decisions:

1. Help all my love-decisions unite me with people.
2. Help all my love-decisions empower me to handle difficult relationships.
3. Help all my love-decisions increase my influence of good for me, others, and God's plan.
4. Help all my love-decisions provide me with a kind of life that succeeds through information, training, and special influences from You. And, let it be where I can show others what You, Your words, and Your love can do for them.

The end result of love-decisions is a life based on decisions that work and bring good results. Waiting on Jesus' love-decisions before you speak or do something, keeps you from having to go back and try to correct or solve unnecessary conflicts, problems, and mistakes.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Thirty-Nine

Do You Know How Much Jesus Loves You?

Week Nine Day One

How To Feel Jesus' Love

John 15:9 (NIV) As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love.

1. Ask Jesus For His Flow Of Words And Love

As the Father has loved Me: Just like water, nutrients, and minerals flow through the roots of a grapevine into the vine, and then flow from the vine into the branches, and then flow from the branches into the grapes, so does God's love flow from the Father into Jesus and from Jesus into you, and from you into the lives of others. That empowers your relationships to exist with your needs already met; *and*, others get *their* needs met through Jesus and you.

Jesus, help me not be the blockage as You, Your words, and Your Love flow from my Father, to You, and into me. Let them flow through me to many people around me. Teach me how to be open, receptive, yielding, and cooperative. Let me be readily available where ever Your love and words need to be shared. Help me stay available to You for every situation where You need me to be there for someone.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Know You Are Loved And Blessed

Rather than you being a needy person going around trying to get other people to meet your needs, you are a healed person ready to help others with their needs. The potential of being that kind of person gives you a lot to be applying The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. You have read about it, studied it, and seen what your life can be like. But, you are now ready to *feel* it in your heart; and, you are ready for Jesus to make it real for others through you.

Jesus, help me realize that I am a healed person. Set me free from trying to get things I already have. Teach me that Your faith has to do with what You have already accomplished in me, for me, with me, and through me. Show me that I am not involved with You so You can start it or bring it into existence; You have already produced a finished work. Now, all I have to do is learn how to accept it and believe I have it. Help me do this for all my needs.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Feel His Love And Blessings

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you: You are loved by Jesus; Jesus proved you are loved through His demonstrations of love. **John 15:13 (NIV)** **Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.** You are Jesus' friend that He laid **down His life for**. He died on the cross so you could have all your needs *already* met. Now He is asking you to lay down your life but not on a literal, physical cross. He is asking you to lay it down by devoting it to the needs of others. This is so they can find out that they are loved.

Jesus, help me get those things I know in my mind to be transferred to my heart. I know I should feel Your love because I can see how wonderful You have been to me. But, my heart doesn't seem to respond to the facts and the truths like my mind does. But, I know You have access to my heart and can bring it into such an experience that it will be ready to let Your love and your words flow through me into others. Give me empowered emotions to share.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Use What You Have

When you think about laying down your life by devoting it to the needs of others, you may think about someone, somewhere other than where you live, where you work, or where you have your current influence. You may think you will have to change jobs, careers, locations, or your lifestyle. But, what if you simply change your purpose for why you do what you do? What if Jesus uses you where you are and what you are doing to help the people around you?

Jesus, I am going through life-classes so I will know how to help people by using those things You put in my job, my career, and my training. Help me see that I don't have to make major changes in what I am already doing. You put me where I am, doing what I am doing, so I can use those things. You put me in life-classes to train and create them in me. Show me how to help people through who I am, what I am doing, and where I am.

5. Ask For Jesus' Words And Love To Flow Through Your Career

What if you got up in the morning to do everything you have always been doing? But, what if you did all of it for a different purpose? What if it was a purpose of making sure all those people around you got their needs met? What if you started applying The Three Keys To All Of Christianity by *knocking* on the door of opportunity to share Jesus and all He has to offer to those people around you? The *knock* key is motivated by your love.

Jesus, teach me how to use the *knock* key to pray for opportunities each day to share You and Your provisions to those around me. Help me understand that it is a key that brings people into my life who realize they need Your help. Show me that it keeps me from spending all my time with someone who isn't ready to benefit from you. Help me use it by asking You before I start my day to lead me to those You want me sharing with.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Know How To Follow His Instructions

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love: Without you allowing The Three Keys to guide you into **remaining in** Jesus' love, you are left with a command from Jesus that you don't know how to respond to or obey. But, the Bible provides you with these keys to guide you in what to do. The *seek* key gives you a passion to search the Bible for how to **remain in** Jesus' love. The *knock* key guides you into asking Jesus to provide you will opportunities to demonstrate His love through you. The *ask* key is used by itself and with the other two keys. It is always there keeping your eyes on Jesus for help.

These three keys keep you from imagining some big, scary change taking place in your way of life. They keep you from *trying* to decide what it is Jesus is wanting you to do. They give you some small, simple steps that lead you into a *gradual* change of approach to life. You don't have to guess what to do, you don't have to "take a leap of faith," you don't have to prepare yourself for some "unknown" sacrifice, or imagine some major change of life.

Just *ask* Jesus what He wants you to do. Just *seek* the truths in the Bible for indications of things He is speaking into your heart. Just *knock* on the doors of opportunity to open so you can walk into the place where Jesus wants you to go. For as long as He doesn't make it clear, all you have to do is keep *asking*, *seeking*, and *knocking*. In the meantime, let Jesus keep working on your attitudes and character through these devotions.

Rather than a day filled with trying to get your needs met, ask Jesus to change your purpose:

1. Jesus, help me *desire* to be able to go through my typical day caring about the people around me. Help me not change anything in my life; help me to allow You to change my purpose and goals for the day.
2. Help me *study* the Bible, with You pointing out verses that guide me into better love and care for people, especially those I am around during my day. Help me just look for Scriptures so You can speak to me about the way I could live out my day.
3. Help me always *pray* and *ask* You to guide me through my day. Help me *pray* so that I will be able to show Your concern, love, care, help, and friendship to those around me. Help me not try to talk or act different. Help me just *pray* for win/win situations for everyone involved. Help me wait on You to show me what to be *praying* for.
4. Help me have the faith I need, so I will be able to *believe* You have, are, and will continue to show me how to be healed, blessed, and loved. Help me share Your love for me with others. Help me *believe* You are giving me what to say and do. You may just be having me do good things, caring things, helpful things, and loving things that produce win/win situations for those around me; but, help me just follow Your lead.
5. Empower me live a life of *love*. Flow through me with Your *love* during my day. Let me be open to Your *love* all day long as I live like I have always lived. Let Your *love* guide me all day long.
6. Empower me to start looking to You to help me know what, when, where, to whom, and how to take *faith-action*. Help me live on the basis of the fact that You will be guiding me, empowering me, and helping me be a benefit to those around me. Let this be a new way of approaching life; guide me moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue. Let my eyes stay fixed on You, so I won't try to change things myself.
7. As You start using me to be a blessing and a help to others, help me remember to be *thankful*. Help me see what You are doing through me into the lives of other people and *appreciate* it. Fill me with the *excitement* for being used by You to bring You into other people's lives. Help me spend time *praising* and *thanking* You for allowing me to be involved in Your work of love.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty

Did You Know Freedom Comes Through Obedience?

Week Nine Day Two

How To Obey Commands

John 15:10 (NIV) If you *obey* My commands, you will *remain* in My love, just as I have *obeyed* My Father's commands and *remain* in His love.

1. Understand Vital Commands

Most of us struggle with demands or someone trying to command us to do something. A command from Jesus doesn't force you to do what He says, because He said: ***"If you obey My commands...."*** However, Jesus doesn't make suggestions; what He says is vital to you. If He said, I think this way would be best for you, then you would get the impression that it was good but not vital. What Jesus says is a matter of life and death--eternal life and eternal death.

Jesus, if a car was about to hit me and someone commanded me to get out of the road, I could get offended and get hit. I could argue with them and get hit. I could disagree with them and get hit. Or, I could obey their command and get saved from being hit. Make it clear to me that if You say something, it is an eternal issue; it comes as a command because it is vital to my life and survival. But, show me that I can decide whether or not I will obey.

2. Understand Who Jesus Is

If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love: This is Jesus telling you *how* to remain in His love. The thing new and untrained Christians don't understand is: ***"apart from Me (Jesus) you can do nothing."*** That is something they find hard to believe. Jesus is the Creator of the universe and the Creator of humans; He knows what He is talking about.

John 1:1-3 (NIV) In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), 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, I don't even exist without You. Help me not see myself as being independently capable without You. Me having a God-given free will can cause me to think I am able to achieve success in life and relationships without You; but, set me free from that concept.

3. Understand The Instructions

If you bought an electronic device and the manufacture provided all the instructions on how to use and maintain it, you can see the instructions as optional or you can see them as commands or rules. Those who *obey* them will be able to use the device *successfully* for a long time. Those who ignore those "commands" will fail to get the true benefits from the device.

Jesus, help always keep in mind that You are the One Who “invented” life and all the “natural” laws of the universe. You own it and all of us in it; I am Your creation and I owe all I am and all I will ever be to You. However, You chose to allow me to be my own person and let me make my own decisions. Help me not take the gift of freedom for granted. Help it not keep me from realizing that **apart from You, Jesus I can do nothing**. Without You I wouldn’t even be here; and, where I live wouldn’t be here either.

4. Understand God-Given Free Will

Jesus could say, “**Obey My commands!**” and those words could create a force inside you that made you obey His commands. Instead, He said: “***If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love.***” As Jesus deals with your God-given free will, He spends a lot of time offering help for you making the right decisions. But, you have to want to do what He commands. He won’t force you to obey.

Jesus, Your commands are coming from a voice of love. I tend to go in the wrong direction; I typically don’t see things the way I should. I lack the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and foreknowledge of the future that You have. Help me see that your commands are for my benefit, blessings, and healing. But, even though they are vital necessities, you have made them were I can resist them by giving me a free will.

5. Understand That Free Will Needs Commands

You can take your God-given free will for granted. Every one of us used our free will to go out and do things the wrong way. Everyone has a drive that pushes them; it can be money, possessions, positions, power, prestige, popularity, pleasure, or accomplishments. You tried to get happiness and love through whatever was driving you. If you hadn’t had someone who loved you enough to command you to change, you would have been stuck in that rat race for the rest of your life.

Jesus, I thank You for commanding me to repent of my sins. I thank you for commanding me now: **My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12)**. Help me be willing to be commanded to do things by You. Set me free from pride and arrogance. Help me submit to You Who know exactly what I need. Let me be empowered to respond immediately when you command me to do something so I won’t get hurt and damaged.

How To Obey Jesus' Commands So You Can Remain In His Love

1. You Obey Jesus' Commands By Being Willing To Trade

2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is *in Christ*, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! What if you had a body that was addicted to drugs and alcohol, had all kinds of diseases, your limbs and organs weren't working very well, and your life was filled with pain and disappointment? What if there was a way for you to get a new body and a new life? But, what if you had to die first before you could get your new one?

Jesus, teach me that getting Christianity is like me having something I like and value; but, I find something else I like better. If I am going to trade something of value for something I like better, then I am going to have to give up the one thing so I can have the other. Help me realize that trading doesn't allow me to keep what I have. I must give what I have so someone will give me what they have. Help me see that You are requiring me to make a trade. But, once I make the trade, the old has gone, the new has come!

2. You Obey Jesus' Commands By Knowing How The Trade Works

Mat 13:44-46 (NIV) The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Jesus, help me see that You aren't allowing me to continue to live in my old life. You are expecting me to make a clean break from my old life and embrace my new life. Help me see how valuable my new life is so I won't want to go back to my old one. Help me see that trades don't allow me to keep both things. Let me feel the joy, happiness, and excitement that comes by me seeing how great a trade I made.

3. You Obey Jesus' Commands By Actually Making The Trade

Therefore, if anyone is *in Christ*: You have been looking at remaining *in* Jesus and learning how to do it. You have seen the benefits that come from you being *willing* to allow Jesus to provide you with the love you need. He is no longer asking you to come to Him; He is asking you to remain in Him. That means you like being in Him, His love, and His Words.

Jesus, I love my new life and I hate my old one. I am remaining in You because I want to advance into all You have for me. Help me see that remaining in You isn't a life of staying where I am. To remain in You is to advance into the greatest way of life in existence. Help me forget what was behind me in my old life and press on into all You have prepared for me.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty-One

Did You Know Commands Create Transformation?

Week Nine Day Three

How To Be Transformed

Mat 28:19-20 (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to *obey everything I have commanded you*. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. You are to take the commands of Jesus and help people embrace and learn how to live them. You are to teach them to *obey* everything Jesus commanded you to do; that is the job of every mature Christian.

Jesus, help me cooperate with Your mature Christians, as they teach me **to obey everything You have commanded** me to obey. Help me see these commands as words that are coming from eternal knowledge, foreknowledge, understanding, wisdom, and love. Help me see them as being vital, powerful, and transforming. Speak faith into me so I receive Your commands as creative power that changes my life into good works of righteousness.

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand The Reason For These Commands

John 15:14 (NIV) You are My friends if you do what I command. The problem is, Jesus' commands and teachings are too overwhelming and impossible for you to live. If you take all the commands of Jesus and just learn them, they will cause you to feel inadequate and weak. They become too frustrating, too demanding, and too strict. But, if you understand the creative power of Jesus' commands, you will receive a miracle into your life.

Jesus, You commanded the universe and the earth to come into existence. You commanded the storm to calm down. You commanded demons to come out of people. You commanded the dead you arise. And, you commanded a prostitute to go her way and sin no more. Help me see the supernatural, transformative, and creative power in your commands. Help me see that they aren't putting demands on me, they are expecting me to believe and receive.

2. Ask Jesus To Speak Faith Into You Based On His Commands

John 15:17 (NIV) This is My command: Love each other. You start getting somewhere, when you deal with the commands of Jesus like power. Jesus' commands become a healing power when you see Him speak against your weakness creating you to be willing to love someone when you really don't like them. You feel like one of those sick people that just got healed, when He commands you to do what you couldn't do before. Faith in the power of His commands will make all the difference in the world.

Jesus, help me see your commands as the healing words you spoke to sick people. Help me see Your commands as deliverance from my struggles like You spoke to the storms. Help me see your commands as setting me free from difficulties with sin like you spoke to the prostitute setting her free from sexual addiction. Speak faith into me for each and every command I come across in Your Word.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand Why You Should

John 12:49 (NIV) For I did not speak of My own accord, but the Father Who sent Me commanded Me what to say and how to say it. You can see the Father empowering Jesus Who in turn is speaking creative power into you. If Jesus obeyed His Father's commands, you can see the vital necessity of getting commands. The Father wasn't just bossing Jesus around. Jesus isn't doing that to you either. There is a creative power-flow that commands provide.

Jesus, heal me from attitudes that keep me from being willing to be commanded. Free me from pride that raises up when I am told what to do. Show me that You aren't like us humans that enjoy exercising power over people. You are doing what it takes to expose me to spiritual procedures that bring results into my life. Since You are my Savior, Lord, and King, help me be willing to be told what to do, even if You were bossing me around.

What Does Jesus' Love Look Like?

Why should you obey Jesus' commands? The first thing you need to consider is, what do you feel is most important, most challenging, and if you were helped with it, would give you the most benefit? Let's take a look at Bartimaeus' life and see what was important to him.

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Know He Has What You Want

Mark 10:46-47 (NIV) Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and His disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" What do you think he wanted? Why was he trying to get Jesus' attention? People tried to get him to shut up and leave Jesus alone. Why wouldn't he shut up and leave Jesus alone? Jesus had something he needed *and wanted*. Jesus has so many things you need; and, He wants to give them to you.

Jesus, Bartimaeus had a specific need; he had a special opportunity to get that need met; and, even though he was faced with obstacles, he made his request known to You. Help me see what my needs are, see my window of opportunity to get them met, and push through any obstacles that try to keep me from getting them met through You.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Know You Must Do What He Asks

Mark 10:49 (NIV) Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, **“Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.”** Jesus, if Bartimaeus had insisted that You come to him, or, if he said, “no, He can stay where He is and just heal me from there,” he wouldn’t be doing what he was told; he would have remained blind. Help me be like Bartimaeus and obey what You told the people to tell him to do. Help me realize that obeying Your commands are vital!

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Respond Immediately

Mark 10:50 (NIV) Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. Jesus, Bartimaeus’ didn’t just obey and come to You. He **jumped to his feet and came.** Help me to be like that and be ready to not only obey but to do it with haste. Help me to so love you and be in a remaining condition that my whole heart is devoted to doing what you require of me. I want to have such a love and respect for You that it is a privilege and an honor to be commanded to do something by You.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Be Ready To Respond To His Questions

Mark 10:51 (NIV) “What do you want Me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, **“Rabbi, I want to see.”** Jesus, help me understand why You would ask a blind man what he wanted? Show me that I have to be specific because You are always honoring my God-given free will. Help me not think Your question is unnecessary or obvious. When You ask me a question, help me honor Your incredible wisdom and thought processes.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Know You Have To Have The Faith To Receive The Answer

Mark 10:52 (NIV) “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” **Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.** Jesus, sometimes The Three Keys seem like they are too much trouble; Sometimes I just want to get my Bible reading over; I don’t want to learn how to obey Your commands. I feel like Christianity doesn’t take all this “stuff.” But, help me be like Bartimaeus, and “do what it takes” to get the faith I need for the results I am looking for. Help me be *totally* obedient to Your slightest requirement.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Know You Have To Be Willing To “Do What It Takes”

If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father’s commands and remain in His love: Jesus, it was a complicated, very involved thing that You had to do in order to obey Your **Father’s commands and remain in His love.** Why should You leave heaven and come down here as a baby? Why should You have to go around teaching, healing, preaching, and training people? Why should You have to go over all those “long, drawn out” sermons and teachings? Why couldn’t You just come as a man, go to the cross, get crucified, be buried, raise from the dead, and go back to heaven and get it over with? Help me be obedient like You were; I want to yield to Your commands.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty-Two

Are You Taking Full Advantage Of Your New Life?

Week Nine Day Four

How To Trade Happiness For Joy

John 15:11 (NIV) I have told you this *so that* My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

You have to see your old life for what it is and your new life for what it is. If there is any confusion as to the wrong, bad, and evil of the old life, then it will try to draw you back in. If there is any misunderstanding as to what your new life offers, then you won't appreciate it enough to want to keep it. It is all dependent on how *you* see your new and old life.

Hunting For Happiness

You have to see your old life for what it was: Are you still doing what you think it will take to get happiness? Jesus is offering you a way to get something far superior to happiness. Jesus is telling you how to get joy; it is an experience that is much more powerful, much more lasting, and much more rewarding than happiness.

Jesus, help me believe that my new life is far superior to my new life. Help me see that even though I am getting a lot of advantages for being set free from my old life. That isn't all You have to offer. Help me see that even though my new life is giving me a lot of benefits that, that isn't all it has to offer either. Make it clear to me that as God, You have plans and provisions that are far beyond anything I am able to think about or anticipate.

How Do You Get Joy?

You have to see your new life for what it is: Joy is the emotion that can take you through circumstances that would typically make you unhappy. Happiness comes and goes depending on what is happening to you. Joy is a positive feeling that keeps you upbeat so you will be able to handle and defeat those things that are making you unhappy; joy stays with you even when happiness is gone. It defeats sadness, depression, fear, helplessness, and hopelessness.

1. You Get Joy Through The Words Of Jesus

I have told you this *so that*: Jesus, teach me that when I face problems, struggles, temptations, difficult circumstances, and unhappiness, joy keeps me excited, filled with faith, having great expectations, and ready to face all issues. Show me that it gives my heart a powerful, positive emotion that it can hold onto all during the absence of happiness. The reason You are telling me these things is so that I can *receive* it from You.

2. You Get Joy Through Your Relationship With Jesus

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you: Jesus, You have been taking me through John 15:1-17 so that I might get Your joy! These verses are Your instructions for how I can get You joy into my heart. Show me that it is a *new* emotion that my heart has never had before. It is a powerful and positive emotion that works totally different from the way my heart typically works. Help me see that it is a power to help me face those things I have to have faith for. It is the power for me to face things I would typically worry about, fear, get depressed about, be filled with doubts concerning, and be defeated by.

3. You Get Joy Through The Power Of Jesus

The emotions that typically come from your heart are *based* on experiences and events. You can find yourself sad, depressed, feeling hopeless, upset, mad, or frustrated at a time when you need to be able to take positive actions. You need your heart to be supplying you with an emotion that will *help* you feel good enough to be able to deal with the problem, relationship, or issue.

4. Stop Doing What You Think Would Bring You Happiness

Jesus, since happiness fails me because I am looking at the circumstances, help me stop hunting for it. Since the power of Your joy helps me because I am looking at You, help me embrace it. Show me that joy doesn't fail me because I am not thinking about what the circumstances can do to me; that would create fear. Joy empowers me because I am thinking about what You are going to do to me, for me, with me, and through me.

5. You Get Joy Through The Completion Of Jesus

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete:

Bearing the fruit of loving one another is the key to your joy being complete. There was a dissatisfaction, something missing, a hole, and a longing that remained in your heart during your old life. You found yourself looking, searching, hungering, longing, and wishing for something that you couldn't seem to identify. Your problem was where you were looking so as to get happiness.

Jesus, now that I am remaining in You, joy is the power that fills my heart. Since I am connected to You, the Vine, I as a branch, am receiving this emotion that helps me **be strong in You, the Lord, and in Your mighty power (Eph 6:10)**. You took me through all those verses so that You could give me a power that helps me face things with a whole new emotion. Thank You for giving me all that training so I could get to this place.

Your Power Emotion

John 15:11 (NIV) I have told you this *so that* My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Suppose you ran your business with joy; what if you approached your dating, courtship, marriage, friendships, associates, clients, employer, employee, or enemy with joy? Would you have better friendships, if you yielded to this joy from Jesus? What kind of a life would you have, if Jesus' joy became the power-emotion of your heart? All your relationships would be filled with thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds that produced win/win results.

I have told you this *so that* My joy may be in you *and that* your joy may be complete.

Jesus is saying that He took you through all that training on remaining in Him, His words, and His love *so that* His **joy may be in you *and that* your joy may be complete.** He isn't going to command all those things without also empowering you to do them. But, power without joy is just the ability to do what you are told. It doesn't make you happy, excited, motivated, or passionate about being empowered to do it.

Jesus, I thank You that you not only are empowering me to remain in you, your words, and your love. You are filling me with joy that floods my heart with positive emotions while I am doing it. As I experience the incredible emotion of love, it would have been more than enough to motivate me to obey your command. But, as usual, You have gone far beyond and have filled me with Your joy. I yield to Your joy so it can be complete in me.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty-Three

How Is Your Joy Doing?

Week Nine Day Five

How To Stay In Joy

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Find Out What Is He Trying To Tell You

John 15:11 (NIV) I have told you this *so that* My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. Jesus always has a very important and vital reason for saying things. **John 6:63 (NIV)** The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Jesus is your only hope for seeing your life move into eternal life. He is your only hope for having a life here and in eternity that really **counts for** something. He gives you purpose, victory, happiness, joy, and fulfillment. If you don't understand that He *alone* has the true information, you will hear but not accept it; you will hear but not see its importance; and you will hear but not act on it.

Jesus, when You speak, help me *really* listen. Help my heart wait with anticipation for the truth to be revealed to me. Let my mind be ready to understand what You are wanting to explain. Help me be willing to accept it as the whole truth and the real meaning to life. Empower me to so respect Your words that I am ready to “do what it takes” to let them be a part of who I am. Show me that, if I do this, then I will be ready to get what You offer.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand What He Is Wanting To Give You

I have told you this *so that*: Jesus is wanting to accomplish something in you. He is wanting to give you things that you really need. He is speaking words to you **so that** they will lead you into things that are going to be very good for you. He is addressing needs in your life that His words will solve and bless in you; they are vital for your life and eternal life.

Jesus, I want to expect You and Your words to lead me into things that I have been needing and looking for, for a long time. I am right on the edge of getting truths that have the power to set me free from things that are hurting me. Help me be ready and waiting for You to give them to me, and, for me to *get* their benefits. Help me be ready and excited about it, be anticipating their benefits, and expecting them to do what You are saying they will do.

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand Why He Is Giving You His Joy

I have told you this so that *my joy may be in you*: Now you know what Jesus words are leading you into. He is telling you all these things so you can have His joy empowering you to face life. He is giving you something that sets the tone for your emotions and attitudes; it makes you positive and strong. He is teaching and speaking things into you; these words help you be filled with an excitement that handles any situation. Believe they will do this for you.

Jesus, I am no longer hunting for happiness; I no longer have to wait for the victory before I can be excited again. I no longer have to face my problems with worry, fear, uncertainty, confusion, doubts, and negative emotions. Let Your joy be right there in my heart giving me the feelings of faith, positive expectations, excitement, good anticipation, and the assurance that the things in my life are going to work out for my good. This is what I want.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Understand How He Uses Your Joy

I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete: You are moving into an emotion that is **complete**; it won't need any additional support. It's an attitude that looks into the future and sees the love, power, provisions, and honesty of God. It is an emotion that supports your faith, reliance, dependency, trust, and belief in the honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness of your heavenly Father.

Jesus, help me except Your words: **“my joy may be in you.”** Make my joy **be complete** by You giving me Your joy. Let Your joy make me **complete**; let Your joy make me ready to start obeying Your commandments and teachings. Set me free from seeing the impossibility of things because happiness has failed me. Let Your emotions help me believe You will fulfill everything in me. Give me Your excitement and positive attitudes.

Ask For Jesus' Help Getting The Four Things You Need

Ask Him To Help You Accept What He Is Telling You

John 15:10-11 (NIV) (1) If you obey My commands, (2) you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that (3) My joy may be in you and that (4) your joy may be complete. What are the four *things* you need to desire, study about, pray for, believe you have, want the motive of love for, and take faith-action on? How do you lay them out so you can start getting them in your life?

First, List Them Out So You Can Identify Them

- 1. If you obey My commands:** Jesus, help me obey Your commands through Your joy.
- 2. You will remain in My love:** Let Your joy empower me to remain in Your love.
- 3. My joy may be in you:** Let Your joy always fill my heart, mind, and life.
- 4. Your joy may be complete:** Let Your joy make me complete.

Second, Take The Three Keys To All Of Christianity And *Ask, Seek, and Knock*:

1. Jesus, I *ask* that my heart's *desire* be to obey Your commands, **remain in** Your love, receive Your joy, and let my joy be complete moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue all during each event of my day.
2. Jesus, I *seek* the truths of my Bible as I *study*. Give me Scriptures that help me obey Your commands, **remain in** Your love, receive Your joy, and let my joy be complete.
3. Jesus, I *ask* You to help me continue to *pray* during my day to obey Your commands, **remain in** Your love, receive Your joy, and let my joy be complete as I face each issue of my day; I also *ask* You to remind me to *pray*.
4. Jesus, I *ask* for Your faith to help me *believe*; help me see how important it is for me to keep my eyes fixed on You for Your faith. I *ask* for Your faith so I can make all the right decisions and take all the right actions through me *believing* I can obey Your commands, I can **remain in** Your love, that I have Your joy, and that my joy is complete. I *ask* You to empower me to keep my attention focused on You.
5. Jesus, I *knock* on the doors of opportunity to help others obey Your commands, **remain in** Your love, have Your joy, and their joy be complete. Let *Your love* be the motivator of each decision and action I take during the day. Help there be moments when I pause before I make decisions and ask You to check my heart. Let it be a time for allowing You to examine my motives and a time of asking for Your help.
6. Jesus, I *ask* You to let this produce moment-by-moment, issue-by-issue *faith-action* of me obeying Your commands, **remaining in** Your love, having Your joy, and my joy being complete as I live my life each day. Let that give me a *lifestyle* of God's love and Your joy all day long through continuous prayer and sharing with others.
7. Jesus, as You empower me to obey Your commands, **remain in** Your love, receive Your joy, and let my joy be complete as I face each issue of my day, give me a great *thankfulness* for You doing this awesome thing in my life. Help me see the results of me going through these steps and you taking Your supernatural steps to fulfill them in me. Help me give you the *credit* and the *glory* for how my life is turning out.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty-Four

Do You Feel Better About Commands From Jesus?

Week Ten Day One

How To React To Jesus' Commands

John 15:11 (NIV) I have told you this *so that* My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **John 15:12 (NIV)** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Moving Into Love Through The Power Of Joy

Jesus taught you that, if you **remain in** Him, in His words, and in His love, that will bring His joy into your life. He taught you that “all” you have to do is, love each other with the same act of love as Jesus demonstrated to you. Now, the big question is, how do you accomplish such a supernatural feat? Can you think of someone you don’t want to love with Jesus’ love?

Jesus, this is where I run up against an assignment that is so big, so overwhelming, and so impossible for me that I just move on. I often just read it and give up on that happening to me. Sometimes I read it and hope that “someday” I will have it happen to me. But, help me understand that You are trying to take me from “someday” to right here, right now.

The Grace Provision

As a new or untrained Christian, you can relax long enough to learn how to obey. As long as you *want* to do it (Romans 7:15-25), it is credited to your record as you loving **each other as** Jesus **loved** you. You and those around you aren’t experiencing it yet; but, God is accepting it as being done through this grace-provision. This gives you *time* to “do what it takes” to actually obey this command. You learned that credited obedience and actual obedience are different. Actual obedience changes your behavior with you, others, and God.

Jesus, teach me that justification gives me a perfect record *with God*. It keeps me remaining in You, Your words, and Your love. Since it is being *credited* to my record, show me that You, Your words, and Your love are **remaining in** me and me in them. Since that is the case, help me see that I have *all* I need to move on from just wanting to love others into *actually* being able to demonstrate God’s love to others; this will be me taking faith-action.

Moving Into “The Jesus Life”

Finding Out What The Benefits Are

My command is this: Jesus keeps working around this issue of what the benefits will be if you obey His command. He sets the stage for you realizing that once you find out what His main command is, you will be able to get His love and His joy so you can *actually* **love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12).**

The Objective Is To “Do What It Takes”

John 14:15 (NIV) If you love Me, you will obey what I command. Jesus, since I love You, I trust You. Since I trust You I am ready for You to command or create the ability for me to obey everything You teach. With that power commanded inside me, make it clear to me that everything just being credited to me as a perfect record with God is changing. I am now being empowered to start actually living those things You taught.

The Result Of “Doing What It Takes” Is A Lifestyle Change

Mat 28:19-20 (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Jesus, because You have helped me understand that Your commands speak power into me, I believe I have the ability to obey. Show me that if I didn't know that, I would look to myself and TRY to obey using my human efforts, abilities, skills, talents, and world training. But, since I know You are creating the power for me to obey, I obey through faith in the fact that I have Your power. I take faith-action based on what You are empowering me to do.

Stepping Into “The Jesus Life”

The First Step Is To Know What The Provisions Are

John 14:21a (NIV) Whoever has My commands *and obeys them*, he is the one who loves Me. Jesus, I know Your commands created power to obey. I know I can start showing love for You by obeying. As I read my Bible, help me not read it as a human. Empower me to read it as a child of God. You commanded me and I received the power of Your commands.

The Second Step Is To Know What The Benefits Are

John 14:21b (NIV) He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show Myself to him. Jesus, as You and my Father love me, show me that I am being empower to yield to His love. Teach me that as You show Yourself to me, love flows in and through me in power. I experience abilities to yield to Your thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds through love. This is how I am able to live the Jesus-life!

The Third Step Is To Accept Jesus' Teachings As Commands

John 14:23 (NIV) Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Jesus, here You change the word from command to teaching. You reveal that Your commands are those things You have been teaching. Help me see that all Your teachings are a part of Your commands. So, show me that it is important for me to receive them in creative power. As I *try* to obey, help me do it through faith that I now have Your power to do what I am taught. Help me understand that I may feel the same; but, it all has to do with what I believe is empowering me to do it. **2 Cor 5:7 (NIV) We live by faith, not by sight.**

If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching: Jesus, empower me to not doubt, not worry, and not let my past failures influence my current faith. Show me that I am moving from being a new or untrained Christian into Your powerful teachings (commands). Teach me that my love for You will give me the desire to obey You. It will empower me to study and learn Your commands and teachings. It will show me what I need to pray for. And, it will bring me to the place where I am looking to You for Your faith so I can believe in Your power.

The Fourth Step Is To Not Join The Disobedient

John 14:24 (NIV) He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father Who sent Me. Jesus, show me what could cause me to not obey Your teachings (commands). Help me see that in my case, it will typically be a faith issue. I am now being required to believe in the power of Your teachings rather than in my ability to carry them out. I'm required to believe I am now empowered to obey things that I wasn't capable of doing before. Help me believe You will help me.

The Fifth Step Is To *Want* To Remain In Jesus' Love

John 15:10 (NIV) If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. Jesus, this can be scary! I don't feel any different. I don't feel like Your commands created power in me. Help me understand that You don't want my faith in my feelings; You want it in Your commands. Empower me to accept this command in faith: **John 15:9 (NIV) As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love.** I believe this teaching/command created this power in me. I believe that I am now remaining in Your love through Your faith in me.

The Sixth Step Is To Take Faith-Action

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus, I believe the power is in me to do this. But, help me see that it is now a matter of me learning how to live by faith. **Rom 1:17 (NIV) For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."** Now *You* are moving me into *actually* doing things that before were only credited to my perfect record with God. I thank You for leading me into this powerful faith-life.

The Seventh Step Is To Be Thankful

2 Cor 4:15 (NIV) All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Jesus, help my *thankfulness* spread into the lives of those who are coming to You. Let them see my *thankfulness* and join me in praising You and giving You the glory for the transformations in their lives. **Eph 1:16 (NIV) I have not stopped *giving thanks* for you, remembering you in my prayers.** Help me never stop *thanking* You for flowing through me into the lives of those who didn't know You. Give me a *thankful* heart for the fact that they are now going to spend eternity with You and with me.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty-Five

Are You Ready And Willing To Live By Faith?

Week Ten Day Two

The Objective Is To “Do What It Takes”

John 14:15 (NIV) If you love Me, you will obey what I command.

- **The First Step Is To Know What The Provisions Are:** Jesus’ commands create power inside you to live Biblically.
- **The Second Step Is To Know What The Benefits Are:** Jesus and Your Father will surround you with a love that will flow in and through you to others.
- **The Third Step Is To Accept Jesus’ Teachings As Commands:** When you expose yourself to the teachings of the Bible, they have the same power as Jesus’ commands.
- **The Fourth Step Is To Not Join The Disobedient:** Just because you have failed in the past, because you were trying to use human effort, doesn’t mean you will fail now. You now have Jesus’ creative power in you for you to have faith, so you can obey.
- **The Fifth Step Is To Want To Remain In Jesus’ Love:** Even though you don’t feel any different, believe you have Jesus’ power created inside you to remain in His love.
- **The Sixth Step Is To Take Faith-Action:** You may be new at this; but, practice will take you from where you are and help you get good at living by means of Jesus’ power-faith that He has spoken into you. The more you practice, the more you will win.
- **The Seventh Step Is To Be Thankful:** As you get good at living by means of Jesus’ power-faith, give Him the credit, the glory, the praise, and *thanksgiving*. Let this develop an incredible love and appreciation in Your heart for Jesus.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. It sounds impossible; but, as you keep taking these seven steps and putting them into practice, you will get better and better at living a life of faith and love. This is your objective and this is Jesus’ plan for your life.

Having The Way To Fulfilling These Seven Steps

If it weren’t for you being able to *ask* Jesus to help you believe, being able to *seek* His truths in the Bible, and being able to *knock* on the doors of opportunity to share Jesus’ love with others, you would be faced with a lot of possible reactions to these powerful truths from Jesus.

You would either: have no idea how to go about taking these seven steps, try to live them by your own human effort, pray and beg God to please fulfill these things in your life, wish and wait for your Christian experience to grow into them, hope that “someday” they will eventually happen, spend a lot of time trying to find the instructions for how to **love each other as Jesus has loved you**, or decide that none of this is possible for you and give up or try to go back to living the Romans 7:15-24 life.

Taking These Seven Steps Takes Supernatural Power Of Faith

1. The First Step Is To Know What The Provisions Are:

John 14:21a (NIV) Whoever has My commands *and obeys them*, he is the one who loves Me. Jesus, help me be able to understand, feel excited about, and become motivated by these benefits. Let this come through the verses in John 15:1-17.

2. The Second Step Is To Know What The Benefits Are:

John 14:21b (NIV) He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show Myself to him. Jesus, as You and my Father love me, help me be receptive to being loved. Help me not consider whether or not I am worthy. Help me receive this love through grace and mercy. Free me from anything that would keep me from being able to feel Your love filling my heart. Teach me how to receive gifts of love from my heavenly Father. Empower me to yield to being loved so I can help others also yield to Your love without them having to feel worthy.

3. The Third Step Is To Accept Jesus' Teachings As Commands

John 14:23 (NIV) Jesus replied, "If anyone loves Me, he will *obey* My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Jesus, You changed the word from command to teaching here. Help me respond in faith to your teaching with the same faith that I yield to the power of your commands. Open my heart to the power of Your teaching in every verse in the Bible. Help me realize that those books written by humans, as a part of my Bible, came straight from You. Show me that they have the same power as those words in the Gospels. Let me read them and receive them in total faith that they are creating those things in me.

If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching: Jesus, help me open my heart to the power that creates transformation in me. Help me be able to yield to that transformation and allow it to empower me to live a different life. Help me believe that You created the truths of every verse in the Bible in me as I believe it. Show me how to live on the basis of that transformation that took place from that verse. Let that verse become real to me and show me how I am at that moment empowered to live as a transformed person. Help me to read carefully, prayerfully, and faithfully. Give me the respect and honor to the Bible that it deserves.

4. The Fourth Step Is To Not Join The Disobedient

John 14:24 (NIV) He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father Who sent Me. Jesus, what could cause me to not obey Your teachings (commands)? Show me that in my case it would typically be because I am not looking to You for faith. Show me that You are my source of being able to believe in these things presented in the Bible. You alone can empower me to respect and honor the principles in each verse in the Bible. It is Your faith that is powerful enough to help me receive the creative transformation each verse is speaking into me. Help me fix my eyes on You.

5. The Fifth Step Is To *Want* To Remain In Jesus' Love

John 15:10 (NIV) If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. Jesus, this can be scary! I don't feel any different. Help me allow Your emotions from Galatians 5:22-23 start giving me the feelings I need. Let them empower my emotions with such excitement and passion that I am motivated to believe You have transformed me through these things You have been teaching me. Help these truths to not only change the thoughts of my mind but also transform the feelings in my heart. Empower my heart to be so filled with your emotions that it is easy for me to live this new way.

6. The Sixth Step Is To Take Faith-Action

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus, speak faith into me to believe that the power is in me to do this. Let me know I have been transformed. Help me live on the basis of the fact that these Scriptures have transformed me. Join me in living life through You and Your creative power. Let this power flow from the Bible into my life. Then let me yield to You and Your life. Help me understand that this transformation is empowering me to remain in You and You remaining in me. Make it clear to me that You are now living Your life in and through me.

7. The Seventh Step Is To Be Thankful

John 14:23 (NIV) Jesus replied, "If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Jesus, help me be *thankful* for You giving me such a wonderful relationship with You and my heavenly Father. If You hadn't told me this, I wouldn't even know such a relationship was available to me. And now, You are giving me the directions and power to receive this dynamic relationship. *Thank* You for making it available to me and then empowering me to not only get it for myself, I can start sharing these **teachings** and **commands** to those around me.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty-Six

What Made David Such A Person Of Faith?

Week Ten Day Three

David's Example Of Living By Faith

One of the best examples of a person who knew how to live by faith was David. When he was just a young man out tending his father's sheep, he spent his time with God. Saul was the king in Israel during the time David was growing up. He was a man who mainly believed in himself. After Saul had committed several sins, God decided to replace him with David. But, David was too young to be made responsible for being king. So, God anointed him king; but, He didn't allow David to actually take the position. Here is how it all started:

A Man Living By Faith In Himself

1 Sam 16:1 (NIV) The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." When a prophet of God anointed someone with oil, the power of God would come on that person in a special way. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would only come on those who were required to serve in special ways for God. So, Samuel went to anoint David king.

A Man Who Looked Like He Lived By Faith

1 Sam 16:6-7 (NIV) When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." This is the way God is looking at you. Jesus is working on the attitudes and character of your heart and mind. He is pleased with the way you are yielding to Him.

A Man Who Didn't Look Like He Lived By Faith

1 Sam 16:13a (NIV) So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him (David) in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Jesus, David had a lot of learning to do. God had and was going to take him through many life-classes. Like David, help me see that I have been anointed with the Holy Spirit so I can do those special things God wants me to do. Teach me that New Testament Christians all get the Holy Spirit inside them. That means I have power I didn't have before.

You Get The Same Power

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The Holy Spirit is going to help you live such a wonderful life of providing people with win/win opportunities, you will be a witness to them of how great Jesus is.

You Have The Same Holy Spirit

Eph 3:16 (NIV) That out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being. Jesus, as I look at David's life, help me realize why his life is so important to me. Help me see that his story isn't just for my entertainment; it is to serve as an example for me to follow so I can live by faith like he did. Let the life of how David lived by faith show me what it looks like. Teach me these same faith principles.

David's Life Of Faith

As you know, David's dad sent him to go check on his brothers who were in King Saul's army. Once he got there, he heard Goliath challenging the Jews to send out one of their champions to fight with him. The challenge was: the ones whose champion was killed, would be slaves of the ones whose champion killed their champion.

You Have The Same Faith

1 Sam 17:32 (NIV) David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." It is very important that you understand that these were words of faith. The reason they weren't bragging is because of where David's faith was. If these words were being expressed based on David's faith in his skills, talents, training, experiences, abilities, or confidence, then it would have been self-esteem and self-confidence.

You Have The Same Weaknesses

1 Sam 17:33 (NIV) Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth." Jesus, show me that these are truths from a human perspective. If David went without a relationship with God, he would have lost and the Israelites would have been slaves to the Philistines. Help me understand that living and speaking words of faith aren't just positive confession. I have to have an intimate relationship with God that creates Your life and power inside me.

1 Sam 17:34-35 (NIV) But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it." Jesus probably isn't calling you to do hand-to-hand combat with wild animals. This was David's life class for becoming a warrior. But, it is vital that you see your life-classes as being just as supernatural and God-sized. Just by confessing that Jesus is Lord and believing in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you became a child of God, a member of His family, and a citizen in His eternal Kingdom. That's power.

1 Sam 17:36 (NIV) Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. Jesus, like David, help me use my past miracles and supernatural experiences with God to get me ready for my next assignment. Help me do that with my salvation and justification. The fact that I experienced such transforming power required that I get faith in spiritual procedures just like David was required to have faith in God for physical combat.

Your Life Of Faith

Your Battle Procedures

Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming. This battle you fought and won is actually more impressive and victorious than David killing a lion and a bear. You defeated Satan, the sinful nature in your body, and your world training. David didn’t use the same techniques with the lion and the bear as he used on Goliath. But, you will always use this Romans 10:8 technique for every battle you fight from now on.

Your First Spiritual Victory

Rom 10:9 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Jesus, make me impressed with the magnitude of the victory I got, when I did this and was born again. Just through this supernatural procedure, I became a new creation in You (2 Cor 5:17). Help me be ecstatic that I passed from spiritual death to eternal life. Show me that I beat Satan, the evil lion: **1 Pet 5:8 (NIV)** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Rom 10:10 (NIV) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Salvation cleansed you from all your past, present, and future sins. Justification gave you a perfect record with God. Isn’t that a much more impressive battle than the one David fought with the lion and the bear? If you allow this to affect you like David did with his battles, then you will have the faith and the determination to win in you next battle.

It Is Who You Believe Did It

1 Sam 17:37 (NIV) The LORD Who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.” Jesus, help me always realize, in the back of my mind, that it is God doing the empowering, guiding, and providing the instructions. Show me that when I realize that, it is then that those things I say and do are fulfilled by You. When I give You credit in my conversations, that is when You go with me into the battles.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty-Seven

Do You Believe God Will Come Through?

Week Ten Day Four

How To Yield To Jesus

David is putting his life on the line. He started doing that back with the lion and the bear. Back then it was “just for sheep.” Now he is doing it for his own country and kinsmen. You don’t have to take on a huge assignment of living by faith. As long as you aren’t already facing a giant, it is good for you to start out small and work your way up. But, the main issue is to get started. Don’t wait any longer; get as much practice in as you can so you will be ready for the giants in your life. Let David show you how to get started.

1. Believe God Speaks With Power

1 Sam 17:40 (NIV) Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. This isn’t a presentation of how great David is. This is your example of what the power of God looks like. Samuel anointed David and he was empowered by the Holy Spirit. This is what God can do in a simple shepherd boy. God was giving him courage, faith, power, wisdom, and guidance. You will live just like everyone else, if you don’t take advantage of the fact that you have the Holy Spirit inside you.

2. Know Your Battle Is In The Spirit Realm

1 Sam 17:41 (NIV) Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. Jesus, show me that Satan isn’t afraid of me; I look like an insignificant bump in the road on the outside. Teach me that as long as I continue to just be a human, I never will pose a problem to him. But, the moment I became a child of God, Satan’s evaluation of me changed drastically. Help me see that, at first, I didn’t know how to use my new acquired position, abilities, equipment, and potential. *But now*, things are really starting to change.

3. Accept The Way God Sees You

1 Sam 17:42 (NIV) He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. The important thing here is, David had to ignore what he looked like on the outside. He also had to ignore what Goliath thought of him. He *had* to keep his eyes on who he was in God. If he allowed himself to take his eyes off of who God was empowering him to be, he would lose. Faith is your major spiritual tool for keeping you connected to God. You, learning how to use your eyes of faith to keep your mind and your heart looking at and trusting God, is what you are practicing the most.

4. Fight The Battle With Words

1 Sam 17:43 (NIV) He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. If you aren’t locked into faith in Jesus, Satan will do his best to try to convince you that you are the weak link in the God/you relationship. However, God’s power is greater where you are weak. He is making up the difference.

5. Don’t Listen To Satan’s Threats

1 Sam 17:44 (NIV) “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!” Jesus, help me realize that Satan will speak in my mind and give me thoughts that will try to set a worst-case scenario for me to believe. Make it clear to me that he can’t make me believe what he is saying; but, he will say it in such a way that it appears to be my thoughts and beliefs. He is hoping I will think his words sound like my thoughts and that I will believe they *are* my thoughts. But, teach me that they won’t become my thoughts as long as I reject them as being something I believe.

6. Let Your Words Involve God

1 Sam 17:45 (NIV) David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, Whom you have defied. Jesus, teach me that I am not only speaking against Satan, I am speaking to my heart and telling it what to believe. I am also speaking to God and letting Him flow through my words. Show me that these words *must* be spoken with determination, conviction, faith, assurance, and power. Empower my heart to get excited and assured as I speak. Let me feel the power of God flow in and through me. Help me keep saying things like this until my heart starts feeling the power of God.

7. Make Your Spiritual Proclamations

1 Sam 17:46 (NIV) This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. This is a little boy saying this. David isn’t speaking from human effort, believing in himself, or with self-confidence or esteem. He is and has been allowing the reality of how powerful, incredible, and awesome God is to shape his faith, philosophies, mind-set, and the convictions of his heart. The more you talk and think like this, the more you are strong in the Lord and in His mighty power (Eph 6:10).

8. Keep Your Spiritual Goal In Mind

1 Sam 17:47 (NIV) All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give all of you into our hands.” Jesus, show me that it isn’t about me; it is about me bringing glory to Your greatness. Help me let those around me know what my goal and purposes are. Let me tell them and myself what is going to happen and why. As God does great things in and through me, I and those around me know where the victory came from. They need You in their life. They need to believe in You. They need to see what You do in and through Your people.

Take Faith-Action

1. When Satan Comes *At* You Move Forward

1 Sam 17:48 (NIV) As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Be aggressive! Let the assurance, the faith, the power, and the presence of God go out to meet your circumstances, the temptations, and the problems you feel and see. Don't just stand and let Satan set the battle strategy. Don't just let him attack. When he **moves closer to attack you, run quickly toward the battle line to meet him.** Let Jesus give you spiritual attitudes that are very combative and hostile. They will look human; but, if you stay aware that they are empowered by Jesus, they *will* be powerful.

2. Move Forward With Great Confidence

1 Sam 17:49 (NIV) Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. Jesus, help me not wait for Satan to attack me. The moment he sends his first thought, his first evil emotion, or his first "opportunity," help me aggressively use the Word of God, which is the sword of the Holy Spirit. Empower me to use Biblical words and principles at a pace that come at him like a raging river. Help me not give him the impression that I am weak, timid, afraid, or uncertain. Help me let him know I mean to take him out.

3. Don't Fight With Human Effort Or World Training

1 Sam 17:50 (NIV) So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. When you use spiritual tools and weapons, you bring glory to Jesus. When you allow the Bible and a joint relationship with Jesus to win over temptations, circumstances, diseases, financial issues, and relational struggles, it brings a witness for Jesus to those around you. Keep your human and spiritual battles spiritual and you will learn how to fight the good fight of faith.

4. Finish The Job

1 Sam 17:51 (NIV) David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. Jesus, help me not just win. Help me make a *total* victory of it. Show me that my heart and the people around me need to see me put the finishing touches on the battle issue. Make my objective be to see to it that, that type of attack will never be able to reach that level of challenge again.

5. Help Others Join In The Battle

1 Sam 17:52 (NIV) Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. Jesus, these were people who criticized and belittled David. They were cowering and hiding for forty days. *Now*, they are brave and aggressive. Help things like that not bother me. Help me be the starter that brings them to the place where they should have been in the beginning. Help me forgive them and let them join me in the victory. Make me their way into the great things of God.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty-Eight

Can You Move The Impossible To The Possible?

Week Ten Day Five

How To Do The Impossible

Mat 19:26 (NIV) Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” David lived in the realm of the impossible but was able to turn them into possible just by including God in his life and activities. Jesus provided David’s life to you so you could learn how to live that type of life yourself. Let Jesus keep moving you forward into the impossible life that is possible with God.

1. Your Goal Is To Move From The Impossible To The Possible

John 15:13 (NIV) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. This would change the whole world, if people lived like this. But, this type of life is impossible for them. They want others to lay down their life for *them*. So, Jesus set the example and is now asking you to allow Him to fulfill this life in you through Him.

Greater love has no one than this: Jesus, help me receive this supernatural, God-sized command in **John 15:12 (NIV)** My command is this: Love each other *as I have loved you*. Even though it is impossible for me love “**as You have loved**” me, it is possible with You. You laid down Your life for Your friends; and, that was how You demonstrated Your love for me. Help me demonstrate my love for others by doing what You did for me.

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends: Like David, you have your own major difficulties, problems, issues, and needs; and, like David, Jesus is telling you to lay down your life for your friends. How are you going to be like David and be willing to do this? How is you laying your life down, going to be an answer to your suffering so intensely you can hardly survive?

2. Your Goal Is To Believe Two Things

This is what the Scriptures in this study have been building up to all this time. You need God-sized, supernatural, miraculous, help. Somehow, you need to get and stay connected to Jesus so you can have His powerful help. So, look at two verses you must accept in order to have Jesus’ knowledge, understanding, wisdom, foreknowledge of the future, love, power, and miracles taking place in your life.

1. Jesus, empower me to totally believe that “apart from Me (Jesus) you can do *nothing* (John 15:5).”
2. Jesus, empower me to totally believe that “I can do *everything* through Him (You, Jesus) Who gives me strength (Phil 4:13).”

3. Your Goal Is To Move Into Jesus

Your success in life is all about your relationship with Jesus. **John 15:4 (NIV) *Remain in Me, and I will remain in you.*** It is all about you remaining in Jesus so He will be willing to remain in you. Once that happens, you have achieved one of the greatest things you can ever achieve. From that point on, you will be able to **do everything through Him (Jesus) Who gives you the strength** to do it.

In Matthew 17:19-20, the disciples had just failed to be able to help a little boy who was being tormented by a demon. They had learned the vital principle that if you fail at something, ask Jesus why. **Mat 17:19 (NIV) Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”**

Jesus, teach me that when I don’t know something, all I have to do is *ask*. Teach me that this question opened the door for an incredible answer from You. When I fail at something, help me not go into guilt, confusion, frustration, or give up. Show me I will miss out on building a relationship with You. But, help me *ask* questions so I invite You into the needs of my life.

4. Your Goal Is To Move Into Jesus Through Faith

Mat 17:20 (NIV) He replied, “Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” This is a glimpse into the life in Jesus; this is what happens to a person who is **remaining in Him**. It is a life that is built around your faith in what *He* can do in you, for you, with you, and through you.

Jesus, help me always keep in mind that this is where I get faith: **Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** Let Your faith empower me to **remain in You**, Your words, and Your love. Now, show me how this happens.

5. Your Goal Is To Make The Supernatural Swap

Mat 11:28 (NIV) Come to Me (Jesus), all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Your problems, your goals, and your relationships weigh you down with stress, fatigue, pain, and pressure; they dominate your time, your thoughts, and your life. They are very personal; and, they cause you to constantly be trying to find the solutions, answers, and help you need. Jesus is offering you a way out of the trap that these pressures create; *But*, don’t try to guess, figure out, assume, or imagine what Jesus’ way is!

Jesus, first set me free from basing my life on self-esteem and self-confidence. Show me that if I have this, I will fail. Teach me that I get my feelings of respect, love, and value from those things I do for myself. I only feel good about myself when I solve my own problems. Help me make the *trade* for this kind of esteem and confidence so Your help will be welcomed by me. I will no longer need evaluations from any other source but You.

Making The Trade

1. Become Willing To Come To Jesus For The Trade

Come to Me: If you are willing to *only* have God-esteem and God-confidence, it is so wonderful to have Jesus come and carry your pressures and issues for you. For you, it is so great to get a break and not have to worry or even think about them for a while. Jesus is offering you a way to lay your burdens on Him; He is inviting you into a relationship that gives you rest; *but*, it won't come like you think, imagine, guess, or try to picture.

Jesus, help me be willing to make the trade or swap. Help me be willing to give up something in order to get something. In this case, help me trade my esteem and confidence for an esteem and confidence that comes from You. Rather than me getting my esteem and confidence from me being able to solve all my own problems for myself, help me learn how to accept and appreciate Your help. Show me that if I have the wrong esteem and confidence, I will *never* want Your help. I will *always* be trying to do things *for* You, rather than looking to You for what You can do for me.

2. Become Willing To Make The Trade

Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened: When you get tired enough, weary enough, and burdened enough, maybe you will give up and accept Jesus' help. These Scriptures are trying to get you to see the benefits of **remaining in** Jesus. They are trying to help you want to make the trade. IF you will swap your confidence and esteem for Jesus' confidence and esteem, the rewards will be incredible. **Nothing will be impossible for you.**

Jesus, teach me that what You are waiting on, before You do these things with me, to me, for me, and through me is, You are waiting for me to obey: **"Come to Me!"** Show me that because of my God-given free will, You require that I make the first move. Help it not be an issue of pride; help it just be an issue of training. The world taught me self-esteem and self-confidence; that may be the only system I understand and know how to use.

3. Rest From Your *Human* Efforts As A Part Of The Trade

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest: Jesus' statement here is talking about you doing something so that He will do something. He is saying that if *you come to Me...I will give you rest*. This system of you doing something first before Jesus does something is a constant, Biblical requirement in your relationship with Him. It is vital that you always find out what it is He is requiring of you so you can get things from Him.

Jesus, help me know what You want me to do first. If it is to *ask*, help me *ask* so as to invite You into the situation. If it is to *seek*, help me *seek* so as to grow in my intensity and to aggressively pursue Your Word, the Bible, for Scriptures that apply to the situation. If it is to *knock*, help me *knock* on the doors of opportunity so I can be at the right place at the right time, doing and saying the right things to the right people.

4. Resting Keeps You From Leaving

John 15:1-17 is saying that once you come to Jesus, all you have to do is **remain in** Him and you will have the Jesus-life of **rest**. You will go from not being able to do anything (John 15:5) to being able to do everything (Phil 4:13), but while being in rest (Mat 11:28). That is the kind of rest you will receive from **coming** and **remaining in** Jesus. **Rest** is what helps you relax and stay in Jesus, His love, and His Words. Anxiety, fear, doubt, frustration, anger, or dissatisfaction will try to get you to jump up and go do something on your own.

1. Jesus, help me see that salvation was me **coming** to You for rest.
2. Jesus, show me that justification made it possible for me to **remain in** You while learning how to *live* there *in rest* rather than trusting in myself.
3. Jesus, teach me that sanctification (spiritual growth) became my life of **remaining in** You while following Your leadership *through rest*.

You will go from getting your esteem in your accomplishments, to feeling good about what you are able to accomplish through your relationship with Jesus. You will move your confidence from yourself to a confidence and faith in the love and power of Jesus. This will give you **rest** from all your human efforts; you will always be **rested**, because you will be using Jesus' strength.

5. Trade Your Accomplishments For Rest In Jesus

James 4:1-3 describes the struggles of the unsaved; Romans 7:15-24 describes the struggles of the new and untrained Christians. The unsaved, the new Christians, and the untrained Christians only know how to use their own efforts to try to handle the issues and responsibilities of life. John 15:1-17 is teaching you a way to rest in Jesus to handle life's difficulties; and, it shows you how to live the victorious, successful life in Jesus.

Jesus, **rest** doesn't sound like a system that would help me win over difficulties and gain victory. **Rest** can sound like inactivity, laziness, and failure to accept my responsibility. However, help me have a new responsibility. Help it be for me to **remain in** You so that **nothing will be impossible for me**. Help me understand that it is a way that I would have never thought of before. Teach me that it is a way that involves God-sized, supernatural, miraculous, and powerful victory. It is a victory for now and in eternity.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Forty-Nine

Can You Rest?

Week Eleven Day One

How To Keep Doing The Impossible

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Lay Down Your Life

John 15:13 (NIV) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life.... Let's say you decide to give Jesus control over your life. You might assume that once that decision is made, Jesus takes over and you no longer have a say in the matter. However, that would be you laying down your life in a general way. Jesus is asking for a moment-by-moment, issue-by-issue way of laying down your life. This is you deciding to give Jesus control of each decision and each plan you make as you make it.

Jesus, help me trade all my own goals, plans, systems, problems, and solutions for Yours. Help me do what You are asking of me; help me take on Your life. Help me realize that to **remain in** You is to be where You are, live where You live, and stay where You stay. This can be a very challenging, confusing, scary, and impossible thing for me; help me trust You.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Lay Down Your Life For Your Friends

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends: Before you can make any decisions on such a matter, you need to understand where Jesus is coming from. Why does He want control; what would He do with such control; how would that control effect your life; and why would you want to give Him that control?

Jesus, Your whole presentation, in John 15:1-17, has been about one main command. You are saying: **"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12)."** You aren't interested in simply having control over my life. You have the power to TAKE control over it. Show me You are interested in our relationship. Without You, I won't have the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, or power to **"love each other as I have loved you."** I must have You to do this; and, the only way always have You is to **remain in** You. Help me have a relationship with You that will heal all my relationships with myself and others.

3. Ask Jesus To Show You What It Means To Lay Down Your Life For Your Friends

If you haven't done what it takes to **remain in** Jesus, then you can't demonstrate **"greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."** Loving each other is to **love each other as I have loved you**. Jesus used a love that was win/win. He made sacrifices; but, He made sacrifices that produces great things for you, those around you, and for Him. **Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** With Jesus, everyone wins!

Jesus, as I decide to lay down my life for my friends, help me not do it the way I think it should be done. I would make an incredible number of mistakes in the process. Help me lay it down with Your win/win way of doing it. Help me give You control over this move; help me use the right decisions, plans, methods, and actions for doing it.

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Lay Down Your Life Like He Did

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the *joy* set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Who for the *joy* set before Him: Jesus, You made an incredible sacrifice for me; but, You also had a **joy set before** You. Help me realize You are inviting me to lay down my selfish, self-centered life for a win/win life. But, help me not lay it down through my own efforts. Help me give my selfish, self-centered life to You; and, let me do it, moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue. Show me how to live the *joyous*, win/win life You have to offer.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Lay Down One Life For A Better Life

Suppose you have a job working at the dump; it has problems, issues, and difficulties. And, you can spend the rest of your life dealing with them; or, you can get a job that is far better. But, your new job will also have problems, issues, and difficulties that you will have to deal with. How would it work for you to trade the dump-life for a better career?

Who for the *joy* set before Him: Jesus, John 15:1-17 has been showing me the benefits of **remaining in** You. All these benefits are **the joy set before** me; but, I am going to still face problems with goal issues, relational issues, and circumstantial issues. Help me see that these problems and issues are worth it so I can get **the joy set before** me.

6. Ask Jesus To Help You Just Lay It Down

I (Jesus) have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have *trouble*. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33). You can have *trouble* working at the dump; or you can have *trouble* living a far superior life. There will be sacrifices; but, for a far greater purpose. You can have *trouble* with Jesus or without Him; it's your choice.

Steps To Laying Down Your Life

DESIRE: Jesus, You have been taking me through this material so I can feel good about making the trade. Help me want to lay my life down so I can get a life that You provide. You are waiting on my God-given free will to decide. You aren't going to *take* my old way of life away from me. And, I can't just give it to You in one big move. I must want to make the trade with each decision and activity in my day.

STUDY: Jesus, I need to do more than just study this book and my Bible. Help me look to the Holy Spirit to explain it to me; help me see that He alone can make it come alive to me. Help me ASK You to make each Scripture and Bible principle real to me. Help it make sense to me; *and*, empower it to flood my heart with desires, truth, and reality.

PRAY: Jesus, help me target my prayers toward *asking* You to give me those things that help me. Help me know what they are, want them, understand what they mean, appreciate them, know how to get them, and then start living them.

BELIEVE: Jesus, help me look to You for the faith to believe I will be able to **lay down my life for my friends**. Give me the faith for the *knowledge* on what to do, for the *understanding* on how to do it, for the *wisdom* on how to apply it, and for the *power* to live it. It isn't until You give me the faith for these things that I am able to move on.

LOVE: Jesus, I have to have the right reasons for *why* I want and am pursuing the ability to **lay down my life for my friends**. It seems like **laying down my life for my friends** would automatically be out of love. But, my heart is very crafty and devious; I can be trying to do these things out of a noble reason and my heart can have a hidden agenda. I bring my heart before You so You can empower it to be motivated by love.

FAITH-ACTION: Jesus, empower me to live on the basis of having the ability to, moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue, *actually lay down my life for my friends*. Help me live out the benefits of Your teachings and commandments. The Bible has been written so I can have and live out a new way of life. The whole Book is all about me *getting* those things written in it. Help me not just read it; empower me to take faith-action with You and live it.

THANKFUL: Jesus, once You empower me to live on the basis of having the ability to, moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue, *actually lay down my life for my friends*, once you help me live out the benefits of Your teachings and commandments, once the Bible has helped me to have and live out a new way of life, once the whole Book is in the process of me *getting* those things written in it, and once I am not just read it, but, You are empowering me to take faith-action with You and live it, help me to be totally *thankful* for each and every one of these breakthroughs.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Fifty

What Is It You Are Wishing For?

Week Eleven Day Two

How To Get What You Wish You Had

John 15:1-17 is simply telling you what all the benefits and requirements are for getting all your prayers answered through a constant relationship with Jesus, His words, His love, and His power. The problem isn't with Jesus and His power to answer your prayers. The problem is in what you ask for. If you remain in Jesus in an appropriate way, your wishes will be changed into things Jesus will always answer positively. Let Jesus do a quick examination with regards to those things you find yourself wishing for.

1. Remain In Jesus And His Words

John 15:7 (NIV) If you *remain* in Me and My words *remain* in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. There are all kinds of Scriptures people use to try to get their wishes met through praying to Jesus. The problem is found in **James 4:3 (NIV):** When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. As you know, Jesus is talking to you about laying your life down for your friend. That process is able to set your wishes free from **wrong motives.**

Jesus, help me establish a relationship with you that is free of **wrong motives.** I can see that I need to have wishes that are Biblically based. Help me start praying for those things that work on my attitudes and character. Help me understand that if I **seek first His (God's) kingdom and His righteousness...all these things will be given to me as well (Mat 6:33).**

2. Remain In Jesus' Love

John 15:10 (NIV) If you obey My commands, you will *remain* in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and *remain* in His love. You not only have to have prayers that are Biblically based, they must be love based. In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, it lays out some of the most incredible spiritual gifts and deeds. And yet, it shows that there is a way for you to still not have love. **Mat 6:1 (NIV)** Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Jesus, if I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. Jesus, if I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. Jesus, if I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing (1 Cor 13:1-3). Help my wishes be love based. Then You will be willing to start giving me those things I am praying for.

3. Obey Jesus' Command

John 14:15 (NIV) If you love Me, you will obey what I command. There are all kinds of Scriptures you can read that would fulfill your Bible-reading requirements for the day. But, reading your Bible is only the first step for reading your Bible. **Luke 6:46 (NIV) Why do you call Me (Jesus), 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?** Your wishes have to be obedience based. That is why Matthew 7:7 is used. Jesus tells you what happens when you *ask*, *seek*, and *knock*. **Mat 7:7 (NIV) Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.**

Jesus, help me stop just reading my Bible. Help me understand that I am reading my Bible so I can get those things I read. Show me that You told me how to live those things I read in the Bible. Help me read a certain part of my Bible and then take out time to *ask* for it, *seek* it, and *knock* on the doors of opportunity for people who are ready for me to share my breakthroughs with. Help this change my wishes so You can answer my prayers positively.

4. Believe What Jesus Says

Mat 6:33 (NIV) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Look over your schedule. Are you mostly involved in making sure your needs are met? Are you trying to be able to survive by making enough money to pay all your bills? Do you believe that if you are going to earn enough money, you are going to have to put a lot of time and effort into it? If you look back on how you have spent this last month, you will see that a major amount of time and effort have been given to this venture. Do you believe that Jesus has a way for you to take care of these things *and* take care of loving other people. Let Him show you *how* to **love each other as He has loved you.**

Giving That Gets

Jesus, move me into Your procedure that only works in Christianity. Help me start loving **each other as** You have **loved** me. Help me be willing to start giving some of my time, effort, and money to the needs of others; But, help me not try to guess how to do that. Help me learn how to start creating win/win situations for everyone who gets involved with me.

5. Join God's Financial Plan

This is how **Luke 6:38** works: *give*, and it will be *given* to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. **For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.** But, it has to be under Jesus' supervision.

This is another way to **remain in** Jesus, His words, His love, and obey His commands. Giving your time, effort, and money under Jesus' supervision is a part of **loving each other as** Jesus has **loved you**. It is also how you pay your bills, how you have money to buy what you need, and have plenty left over to help others with their needs. Because **it will be given to you.**

Jesus, let my objective be that I am so prospered and so successful that I am able to reach out to the needs of other people. Keep my goal from being to get rich. That would cause me to “think” I never will have enough to start sharing with others. If I think I don’t have enough to start sharing with others, I will never experience it being **given** to me. **A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, being poured into my lap. For with the measure I use, it will be measured to me.** Show me how to join You in this system.

6. Avoid The Love Of Money

1 Tim 6:9-10 (NIV) **People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.** This can happen to all of us.

1 Tim 6:11 (NIV) But you, man of God, flee from all this, and **pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.** Jesus is inviting you into this new life.

Heb 13:5 (NIV) **Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”**

Finding A Need And Exploiting It

The world starts out with what they want and need; then they come up with a plan for how they will go about getting them met. They may look over all of your needs, but it will be to find out how your needs can be *used* to cause you to give them what they want. The world exploits your needs in order for them to be successful in their pursuit of their goals.

Jesus, if I get sick, the world provides hospitals, doctors, and medicine but at a high cost. If I have a wreck or my car breaks down, they will fix it, but for a lot of money. These things are so expensive that I have to get insurance to try to ease the high cost of these “provisions.” Help me see the difference between the world’s “care” and your help.

Supply And Demand

The world operates on the principle of supply and demand. The more desperate your problems, the more it costs to get help. The more you need it, the more they charge for it. If it is a matter of life and death, the price will go up to its highest level. This puts people into a *slavery* of having to work a lot to pay all their bills. The world loves money and uses people to get it.

Jesus, help me not be motivated by money. Help me be much more compassionate and serving when the person’s need is great. Help me serve them with greater intensity and sensitivity. Let me be willing to make greater sacrifices for those who are in great need.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Fifty-One

How Do You Get Your Needs Met?

Week Eleven Day Three

How To Get Your Needs Met

1. Ask Jesus To Help You Accept An Unusual System

John 15:13 (NIV) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Luke 6:38 (NIV) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Typically, if you give things away for free, you end up having less than you started with. But, in God's system, He rewards you for caring for the needs of other people. He blesses you, prospers you, fills you with knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power that help you be able to care for the needs of more and more people.

Jesus, It takes faith in Your provisions before I can start focusing on other people's needs. It's like me trying to keep myself from drowning and then seeing someone else struggling with the same problem. Sometimes it seems like I am just barely able to keep my head above water; but, people around me need my help. Help me put my life on the line and go to their rescue. Help me not just save myself. Help me turn my problems over to You so I have the emotional, physical, financial, and relational resources to help others.

2. Ask Jesus To Help You Get The Process Started

Give, and it will be given to you: Jesus is saying that your struggles will be taken care of automatically if you go ahead and help that other person who is struggling to stay above water. You looked at Matthew 11:28-30 and saw that Jesus will take care of you staying above water, if you will just give your needs over to Him: **“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest (Mat 11:28).”**

Jesus, I come to You with all my weariness and burdens. Take them and give me rest from them. Let me yield to Your new commandment which is: **“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls (Mat 11:29).”** Help me **take Your yoke upon** me so I can fulfill Your command to **love each other as You have loved me**. Teach me that my burdens weigh more heavily on me than does the weight of other people's burdens. Show me that my life gets easier when I live on the principle of **Your yoke is easy and Your burden is light (Mat 11:30).**

3. Ask Jesus To Help You Be Trained By Him

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me: Jesus can teach you how to **love each other** as He has **loved** you while getting mutual benefits from helping others with their needs. Jesus wants to teach you how to: **Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you (Luke 6:38).**

4. Ask Jesus To Help You Be Trained By Him About Business

- Jesus, help me take my eyes off of just myself and start allowing You to give me a way to earn money that will include me working together with other people.
- Help me listen to You and allow You to show me a way for me to get my needs met *while* helping some other people get their needs met.
- Help me yield to Your win/win system and allow You to show me people You want me to work together with.
- Help me present this plan to these people so they can get started being blessed.
- Empower me to prosper so I can meet many more needs.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Be Trained By Him About *Life*

In the above prayer, you are **obeying** Jesus' command: **My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12).** In the above prayer, you are **remaining in** Jesus, His words, and His love. In the above prayer, you are letting Jesus help you **bare much fruit.**

In the above prayer, you are fulfilling Matthew 25:31-46: **Then the King (Jesus) will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me (Mat 25:34-36)."**

Jesus, in Your way, I don't just give people **something to eat** once and walk off feeling like I have fulfilled my duty. I won't just give them **something to drink**, invite them in, cloth them, look after them, or visit them in prison one time. You and I are building relationships with them. We have a *lifestyle* of working together with them. You and I would give them principles that helped them for the rest of their life here and in their eternal life.

6. Pray For A River Of Resources

Even if you take your prosperity and try to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, help strangers, clothe those who need it, look after the sick, and visit those in prison, your resources will still be too limited. But, if you allow Jesus to train you on how to work together with all these people, then your resources will expand. Jesus, has a way, in the good news message, to make your resources unlimited. It is a way that you may never think of on your own.

A hungry person will have to be fed for the rest of their life, if you just feed them. But, if you include them in earning money together with you, then they are fed for life. **2 Th 3:10 (NIV)** **For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”** It isn’t the end of your responsibility to just do these things once; and, Jesus isn’t just talking about a few people. Jesus wants to teach you how to do these things in such a way that it is a love relationship for everyone on the whole planet.

7. You Might Pray Something Like This:

Jesus, I *desire* to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, help strangers, clothe those who need it, help the sick, and visit those in prison in such a way that their needs are constantly being met for the rest of their lives; and, I want to be able to do this with many people.

Jesus, I am giving myself over to the *study* of your Word so You can teach me how to do these things with multitudes of people for the rest of their lives.

Jesus, I am *praying* and *asking* You to empower me with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom for learning how and being able to do these things with multitudes of people as a new *lifestyle* so they can live for the rest of their lives with their needs met.

Jesus, speak faith into me so I can *believe* You have given me all I need do these things with multitudes people as a *lifestyle* so they can live for the rest of their lives with their needs met and can start helping others get their needs met.

Jesus, help me do these things with multitudes people as a *lifestyle* for the rest of their lives on a relationship basis out of the *love* God has given me. Help me obey your command: **“Love each other as I have loved you.”**

Jesus, join me, empower me, and train me on how to *practice* taking *faith-action* so I can do these things with multitudes people as a *lifestyle* so they can live for the rest of their lives with their needs met and can start helping others get their needs met. And help me do it as a part of the reality of my life. Show me how to develop win/win situations so that people’s needs get met in a mutually beneficial way for all involved. Help me to learn how to live this way so I can love others as You have loved me.

Jesus, once you have started me on this path, help me spend time all during my day being *thankful* for You giving me such a wonderful *lifestyle* and for being able to share this *lifestyle* with multitudes of people. Help me *thank* You for empowering me to not only be successful in this life, but to use that success to store up treasure for my eternal life.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Fifty-Two

How Do You Handle Pressure?

Week Eleven Day Four

How To Get The Weight Lifted

A Heavy Weight Lifted

Mat 11:28 Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

How does Jesus give you rest when you are still having to face all those difficulties that come your way all day long? How do you feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, help strangers, clothe those who need it, help the sick, and visit those in prison as described in Matthew 25:34-40? It all seems like a great burden is being added to your already burdened life.

You feel your pain, pressure, drives, desires, goals, and needs more than other people can feel them. You try to feel other people's desires, problems, and pain; and you try to understand them; but, they never weigh as much as yours do.

Jesus, I give my pain, pressure, drives, desires, goals, and needs to You so I will be in a position to help (give to) other people (Luke 6:38). Help me trust You to take care of my issues so I will be able to take on other people's pain, pressure, drives, desires, goals, and needs that aren't so heavy. Show me that when that happens, because I can't feel as intensely the issues of others, I don't feel the pressure or suffer as much. Help me see that this is because I am experiencing Your rest (Matthew 11:28-30).

Trading Burdens

Give Jesus All Those Things That Burden You

Mat 11:28 Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

1. **Come to Me:** First you come to Jesus with all your needs, burdens, issues, and struggles.

2. **Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened:** Then you give them all to Him for Him to take care of. You trust Him and know He is going to do a good job of solving and taking care of every one of them. You give them to Him one at a time by presenting each issue with a full description as to what it is and how it is affecting you.

3. **Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest:** Jesus, after I do that, help me accept the special peace You give me as rest *and joy*. Then give me rest from all the pressures and pain that are coming from being **weary and burdened**. Also, give me the power of Your joy so I can take positive action. Even if my problems are not solved yet, since, I have given them to You, Your joy assures me that You will take good care of them.

Take From Jesus All Those Burdens That Trouble Someone Else

Mat 11:29 (NIV) Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

1. **Take My yoke upon you:** The yoke Jesus is talking about is a harness or wooden crossbar that is put across the necks of two animals. Ropes or leather straps are then attached from it to a load for them to pull. Jesus' yoke is for you to take on the issues of other people's needs and problems *while* He is taking care of yours. You are teaming up, partnering, and **remaining in** Jesus so you can help everyone who gets involved with you.
2. **Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me:** Jesus, start teaching me how to help others. Help me open my heart to the issues and problems of others. Since my mind isn't on money or how to exploit their situation, it is on how I can take care of those things they need. Your "yoke" or command to me is to take on the burdens and needs of others. Let this empower me to start coming up with ways for solving them on a love relationship basis. *But*, help me allow You to be the One Who gives me the ways.

Handle People's Burdens Jesus' Way

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart:

Rom 12:6-8 (NIV) We have different gifts, according to the *grace* given us.

- If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.
- If it is serving, let him serve;
- if it is teaching, let him teach;
- if it is encouraging, let him encourage;
- if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously;
- if it is leadership, let him govern diligently;
- if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Jesus, show me how You want me to get involved in other's needs. Show me that typically, I won't have to move very far from the "normal" courses of my current daily activities. You usually have been exposing me to life-classes that have been preparing me for one or more of the above types of helping others. My interests, talents, skills, experiences, abilities, training, and many other things have been being worked on by You to get me ready for this.

Trading Happiness For Joy

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls: Once you find out where God wants you to start helping people, you will experience a satisfaction, a feeling of accomplishment, and a rest that will inspire you. You will probably still be working where you were. But, as you branch out into this way of life, it will give everything else you do, meaning and purpose.

Jesus, it is miraculous how You start working miracles in the needs, issues, and problems of my life. It is such a blessing to see how much the needs of my life are not only met, they are blessed and healed in an incredible way. I get joy just from watching You at work taking care of my life while I help others with their life.

Trading For A Key To Christian Financial Success

Mat 11:30 (NIV) For My yoke is easy and My burden is light: Once you start working on a job, starting a company, earning a living, paying your bills, and becoming successful with other people in mind, this new love-purpose brightens your life. People see you as being a person who really wants *them* to succeed. Your life provides **rest for their souls**.

Jesus, the powerful principle of **Luke 6:38** has started working: ***“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure I use, it will be measured to me.”*** All my time, efforts, and money are going into ventures that produce win/win situations for *all* involved. I am loving **each other as I have loved you; I am laying down my life for my friends**.

Being Set Free From A Misunderstanding

Luke 6:38 (NIV) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. The selfish person reads this and follows the principles so they can get rich.

Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. The greedy person reads this and prays for all their needs to be met.

James 4:3 (NIV) When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. Jesus, show me that because these people’s attitudes and character haven’t been healed and transformed by You, their prayers get rejected. Help me keep allowing You to work on my attitudes and character. You are helping me be the person who is remaining in You, Your Words, and Your love. I am the person who is laying down my life for my friend.

John 15:7 (NIV) If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. Jesus has been getting you ready to qualify for this type of prayer of a person who is remaining in Him and His words are remaining in you.

Truth/Prayer Pages Chapter Fifty-Three

How Do You Handle Living In This World?

Week Eleven Day Five

How To Live In The World

John 15:17 (NIV) This is My (Jesus') command: Love each other.

1. Ask Jesus to Help You Be Able To Live In It Without Becoming Like It

John 17:14-15 (NIV) I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one.

Jesus, help me be in the world without being **of the world**. Help me be able to be surrounded by the teachings, the influence, the pressures, and the temptations without yielding to them. Protect me from the evil one so I will not yield to anything he tries to tempt me with.

2. Ask Jesus to Help You Be As Shrewd As Snakes And As Innocent As Doves

Mat 10:16 (NIV) I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

Jesus, teach me how to be a Christian living in a dog-eat-dog world. If it weren't for You being my Shepherd, I would be defenseless against all the world is bringing against me. Help me not try to defend myself; help me have the wisdom of a snake but remain as innocent as a dove. I want to give You the responsibility of making sure I am protected and safe.

3. Ask Jesus to Help You Know Who You Are Dealing With

Mat 7:6 (NIV) Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

Jesus, teach me who to trust, who to build relationships with, who to do business with, and who to develop friendships with. Teach me who to listen to, who to be taught Your ways through, who to allow to be my example, and who to avoid and not listen to a thing they say.

4. Ask Jesus To Handle Your Circumstances

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Jesus, I need to have God forcing all my circumstances to be working out for my good. I ask You to help me see this verse and the principles in it and realize I have to pray and ask for it. Help me never expect it to come automatically. Teach me to always ask for each principle.

5. Ask Jesus To Help You Get Your Prayers Answers In A Positive Way

John 15:7 (NIV) If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

John 15:16 (NIV) You did not *choose* Me, but I *chose* you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name.

Jesus, I need all that God has to offer; so, that means I need to **remain in** You, Your words, and Your love. That also means I need **to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last.** That means I need to *know* what it takes to accomplish these things. That means I need to “*do* what it takes” to accomplish these things. That means I need to become proficient in The Three Keys and the Beatitudes. Help me to learn them and be empowered to use them.

Ask Jesus to Help You Be Blessed With These Blessings

Mat 5:3 (NIV) *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus, let me be **blessed** through You giving me Your power-attitude of being **poor in spirit.** Teach me what it all means to be **poor in spirit.** Work this power-attitude into my life in such a way that I inherit **the kingdom of heaven** as being mine.

Mat 5:4 (NIV) *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

Jesus, let me be **blessed** through You giving me Your power-attitude of being able to **mourn.** Teach me what it all means to **mourn.** Work this power-attitude into my life in such a way that I am **comforted.**

Mat 5:5 (NIV) *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

Jesus, let me be **blessed** through You giving me Your power-attitude of being able to be **meek.** Teach me what it all means to be **meek.** Work this power-attitude into my life in such a way that I am able to **inherit the earth.**

Mat 5:6 (NIV) *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

Jesus, let me be **blessed** through You giving me Your power-attitude of being able to **hunger and thirst for righteousness.** Teach me what it all means to **hunger and thirst for righteousness.** Work this power-attitude into my life so that I am able to **be filled.**

Mat 5:7 (NIV) *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

Jesus, let me be **blessed** through You giving me Your power-attitude of being able to be **merciful.** Teach me what it all means to be **merciful.** Work this power-attitude into my life in such a way that I am able to **be shown mercy.**

Mat 5:8 (NIV) *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

Jesus, let me be **blessed** through You giving me Your power-attitude of being able to be **pure in heart**. Teach me what it all means to be **pure in heart**. Work this power-attitude into my life in such a way that I am able to **see God**.

Mat 5:9 (NIV) *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

Jesus, let me be **blessed** through You giving me Your power-attitude of being able to be a **peacemaker**. Teach me what it all means to be a **peacemaker**. Work this power-attitude into my life in such a way that I am able to be **called** one of Your **sons of God**.

Mat 5:10 (NIV) *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus, **bless** me by giving me Your power-attitude of being able to be **persecuted because of righteousness**. Teach me what it all means to be **persecuted because of righteousness**. Work this power-attitude into my life in such a way that the **Kingdom of heaven** is mine.

Mat 5:11-12 (NIV) *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Jesus, let me be **blessed** through You giving me Your power-attitude of being able to **rejoice and be glad** when people insult me, persecute me, and falsely say all kinds of evil against me because of You. Teach me what it all means to have all this happen to me and it create in me a rejoicing and being glad. Work this in me so that **great is [my] reward in heaven**.

Progressing Into Living The Jesus-Life With Power

You have been being exposed to **The Seven Biblical Principles** throughout this **Jesus-Life** book. They are: *desire, study, pray, believe, love, take faith-action* and be *thankful*. You are now ready to add **The Seven Biblical Principles'** toolset to **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity's** toolset in a more intense way. After that, Jesus will be training you how to use the third and final toolset typically known as **The Beatitudes**. Which you prayed about above. In these studies, they are called **The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God**.

Once Jesus has led you into these three toolsets, you will have the equipment for getting all those things the Bible provides for you. However, in the meantime, **The Three Keys To All Christianity** will be more than enough to help you get what you need.

All the following books are dealing with providing you with more and more of what you need for living the Jesus-life. This is the main book with the main goals for your life of living the Jesus-life. From this point on, Jesus will be building on this book. He will be using it and will be enhancing it so you have all the Biblical principles for getting everything He has to offer. Pray and ask Jesus to help you believe that those things you have been exposed to and prayed for are resident in your heart, mind, and life.

My Personal Assessment Worksheet

Version 24.10.2

You took a personal assessment at the beginning of this book. Please take it again for comparison. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet. Print page 170.

1. What are the things that are bothering you the most?
2. What goals have you set up as being the most important accomplishments for your life?
3. What plans have you put in place that are now influencing most of your decisions?
4. What kind of circumstances have come your way that have shaped a lot of your life?
5. What relationships have you established that are major contributors to the way you live?
6. Are you happy with the way you are living?
7. Are you satisfied with the way your life is heading?
8. How would you like Jesus to help with it all?

My Study Record For The Jesus Life Truth/Prayer Pages

Please print these pages 171 and 172

WEEK ONE

Introductions

☐ Day One

☐ Day Two

Chapter One

☐ Day Three

Chapter Two

☐ Day Four

Chapter Three

☐ Day Five

WEEK TWO

Chapter Four

☐ Day One

Chapter Five

☐ Day Two

Chapter Six

☐ Day Three

Chapter Seven

☐ Day Four

Chapter Eight

☐ Day Five

WEEK THREE

Chapter Nine

☐ Day One

Chapter Ten

☐ Day Two

Chapter Eleven

☐ Day Three

Chapter Twelve

☐ Day Four

Chapter Thirteen

☐ Day Five

WEEK FOUR

Chapter Fourteen

☐ Day One

Chapter Fifteen

☐ Day Two

Chapter Sixteen

☐ Day Three

Chapter Seventeen

☐ Day Four

Chapter Eighteen

☐ Day Five

WEEK FIVE

Chapter Nineteen

☐ Day One

Chapter Twenty

☐ Day Two

Chapter Twenty-One

☐ Day Three

Chapter Twenty-Two

☐ Day Four

Chapter Twenty-Three

☐ Day Five

WEEK SIX

Chapter Twenty-Four

☐ Day One

Chapter Twenty-Five

☐ Day Two

Chapter Twenty-Six

☐ Day Three

Chapter Twenty-Seven

☐ Day Four

Chapter Twenty-Eight

☐ Day Five

WEEK SEVEN

Chapter Twenty-Nine

☐ Day One

Chapter Thirty

☐ Day Two

Chapter Thirty-One

☐ Day Three

Chapter Thirty-Two

☐ Day Four

Chapter Thirty-Three

☐ Day Five

WEEK EIGHT

Chapter Thirty-Four

☐ Day One

Chapter Thirty-Five

☐ Day Two

Chapter Thirty-Six

☐ Day Three

Chapter Thirty-Seven

☐ Day Four

Chapter Thirty-Eight

WEEK NINE**Chapter Thirty-Nine**☐ **Day One****Chapter Forty**☐ **Day Two****Chapter Forty-One**☐ **Day Three****Chapter Forty-Two**☐ **Day Four****Chapter Forty-Three**☐ **Day Five****WEEK TEN****Chapter Forty-Four**☐ **Day One****Chapter Forty-Five**☐ **Day Two****Chapter Forty-Six**☐ **Day Three****Chapter Forty-Seven**☐ **Day Four****Chapter Forty-Eight**☐ **Day Five****WEEK ELEVEN****Chapter Forty-Nine**☐ **Day One****Chapter Fifty**☐ **Day Two****Chapter Fifty-One**☐ **Day Three****Chapter Fifty-Two**☐ **Day Four****Chapter Fifty-Three**☐ **Day Five**

The Life-Map above is for you to check off each day. Please print it and use it to help you keep track of what you have completed so far.

Don't forget to ask yourself these questions during your day:

1. Did today's study or prayers deal with anything in my life that I am not living yet?
2. Did today's study or prayers deal with anything that I don't understand?
3. Did today's study or prayers deal with anything that I don't agree with?
4. Did today's study or prayers deal with anything that Jesus has given me a breakthrough or miracle on that I haven't adequately praised and thanked Him for?
5. Did today's study or prayers deal with anything that I need to do additional study and prayer on?