

the
WELL

DEEP TRUTHS
LASTING
TRANSFORMATION



Devotional Cover Page

Table of Contents

Table of contents	3
Introduction	4 - 5
Examples:	
Exercising my faith	6
Weekly Prayer Notes	7
Sermon Notes	8
Special Notes on Bible versions	9
Monthly Bible Reading Plan Options	10
Exercising My Faith This May	11
The Well - May	
Week One	12 - 23
Week Two	24 - 35
Week Three	36 - 47
Week Four	48 - 59
Acknowledgements	64

“With joy shall I draw water from the well of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

I heard John Maxwell say, *“The greatest day in a man’s life is the day he was born. The second greatest day in a man’s life is the day he finds out why.”* You are no accident my friend. God created you on purpose, with purpose and for a purpose. A God-designed destiny to impact the world in which we live. The greatest adventure we will ever live is the journey of following Jesus and discovering why He put us here. It is that great adventure that has brought us here to The Well.

The first step on this grand adventure happens when a person makes a decision to become a “follower of Christ.” For example, in Mark 1:17 Jesus is walking by the side of a sea and sees Peter in a boat and says to him - “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” There are 2 parts to this powerful statement - the first is simple “follow Me,” Jesus said. Every person alive at some point will have that same opportunity. To follow Jesus is to first decide that He alone is Lord of every facet of our life. It is to put our full faith and trust that what the Bible says about Jesus and the way in which I should live is absolute truth. It is a great journey into a personal relationship with this amazing God who created the world, everything and everyone in it. When I commit myself to this process I discover the latter half of the statement where Jesus said - “follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Following Him is the key to discovering purpose and fulfilling our God-given destiny.

Anyone who sets out on a grand adventure, must take stock of the necessary supplies and tools we need in order to succeed in our endeavor. According to the Bible, there are really about 5 things we need:

1. Make a quality decision, to be a life-long follower of Jesus Christ.
2. Develop a daily study of the Word of God.
3. Discover and develop a solid prayer life.
4. Become an active part of the Body of Christ.
5. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

The Well is simply a structure, a set of plans, to assist people who are hungry to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus and successfully fulfill this grand adventure. Each month we will look at a different theme and take us deeper into our understanding of the Scripture and how to apply Biblical principles to our daily lives. Thank you for joining us on this adventure of learning to draw the water of life, from the well of salvation.

Drawing water from - The Well

Different parts of this discipleship tool.

Exercising my Faith this month

- Each month I encourage you to have a faith goal. What are you believing God to do in your life? As you work through this early in the month. Learn to grab a hold of the promises of God by faith and join together with God to see His will fully accomplished in every area of your life. *(Example on p. 6)*

Weekly: Each Week there are 4 sections:

- **The Well - Daily Devotional thought written by multiple authors from The Father's House.**
 - Each day we will be looking at a small passage of Scripture and drawing truths up from the Word of God that will inspire the manner in which we live. Each month will have a theme we will be pursuing. Each day ends with a prompting for each reader to "put the Word to work." Remember it's not about how much we simply read, but how much of the Word we apply to our daily life that really matters.
- **Weekly Bible Reading Guide** (4 different options to choose from) *(See Page 9)*
 - Daily reading and study of the Scripture is essential for spiritual health. Here we provide 4 possible reading guides.
 - Option 1 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once in three years.
 - Option 2 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per year.
 - Option 3 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per 3 months.
 - Option 4 - Follow this plan to read the New Testament once per month.
- **Weekly Prayer notes**
 - Recording prayer notes is essential both for remembering what the Holy Spirit is speaking and evaluating what we hear based upon the Word of God. It is also encouraging to look back and see how God has been moving in the areas of life we have been praying about. We encourage you to bring this with you to your prayer time and prayer meetings. Regularly visit and revisit your prayer notes sections and write down what God is doing in and through prayer in your life. *(example, see page 7)*
- **Sermon Notes**
 - Often in services there are many great things said that I want to remember. I have discovered what science has already proven to be correct - if I listen and write down thoughts my retention doubles. Included are pages for sermon notes available to be used for each Wednesday and Sunday of the month. *(Example see page 8)*

In addition, we encourage you to join one of our Growth Groups. Inside these groups of up to 5, people will connect and share insights we are learning and growing in. I highly encourage you to get connected and join one of these groups.

(Example) Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing God to do in your life this month?

1. I am believing God that He will surround me with His peace in the middle of a troubling time in the world.

2. I am believing God will heal my mother and renew her strength and vitality.

Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these?

Isaiah 26:3 ~ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. John 14:27 ~ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Colossians 3:15 ~ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Philippians 4:6-7 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' Psalm 103:3 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread'

Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Part of my daily prayer: *God You said, You will keep me in perfect peace when I bind You to my mind. I choose today to intentionally think about You and trust that You will keep me in perfect peace. You promised your peace you would give me, that it would remain with me. I choose to let your peace rule in my heart, I refuse to be anxious, but come to You with my prayers and needs with thanksgiving present my requests unto You, and in return I today receive Your supernatural peace.*

"God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, we were healed.' That according to Psalm 103 - You have 'healed us from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since my mother is a child of God, I thank you that healing is hers, I ask you to heal, and renew her strength this day and exercise my faith believing that you will in Jesus' name."

<p>Specific things I am praying about for my family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Daily for God's protection over my wife and children - (Psalm 91 and Isaiah 54:17)</i> - <i>Daily to hear and know God's voice, to be led by His Spirit in all that I say and do. (John 10 and Romans 8)</i> - <i>To walk in His supernatural provision and wisdom, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge (Philippians 4, Ephesians 1 and 3).</i> 	<p>Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>That God would grant wisdom, protection and provision to our leaders.</i> - <i>Every week, I ask for people to come know and follow Christ, to encounter God's presence and to experience His goodness in every service.</i> - <i>That God would bring every person He has called to be a part of The Father's House here.</i> - <i>That God would heal and deliver those who are in need.</i> - <i>_____, the person who was in my row that told me of his desire to see his son come back to the Lord, I am praying for his son by name all week, that God would send someone across His path to lead Him back to Jesus.</i>
<p>Things I sensed from the Holy Spirit while I was praying this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>When I asked God if there was anything He wanted to say to me today, I heard Him simply say - "You are my son, and I love you."</i> - <i>I was talking to the Lord, and felt like He reminded me this morning of the story in the gospels when He came walking on the water, and said to Peter, "come out here with me." I felt like He was letting me know, sometimes when He leads it will be in areas I have never gone before, and didn't know I could - such as walking on water.</i> 	<p>People I am praying for their salvation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Benjamin</i> - <i>Paul</i> - <i>Keith</i> - <i>Joel</i> - <i>Jordan</i>

Versions of the Bible

There have been many arguments over the centuries about which version of the Bible is the best. Truth be told, I have many versions of the Bible and enjoy reading and studying most. The default version for this study will be the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible. If a contributing author uses a different version it will be labeled as such. Other common versions of the Bible quoted from in The Well include, but are not limited to:

The Amplified Bible (AMP)	King James Version (KJV)
New International Version (NIV)	The Message Translation (MSG)
The Passion Translation (TPT)	The New Living Translation (NLT)
Young's Literal Translation (YLT)	

Often people will ask, why is the language so much different from one version of the Bible to the next. Very important question. There are two basic distinctions to pay attention to as you are reading the Bible - is the version you are reading a "paraphrase" or is it a literal translation from original language into our language? The goal of a literal translation approach is to have a word-for-word literal translation from the original manuscripts into our modern day language. The goal of a paraphrase is to capture the idea as communicated in the original language and attempt to use modern language to communicate that same idea. For example when we look at the famous John 3:16

(NKJV) - ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(AMP) - ¹⁶ "For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.

(YLT) - ¹⁶ for God did so love the world, that His Son -- the only begotten -- He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-

(MSG) - ¹⁶ This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

You can quickly see the different approaches in these versions of Bible translation. Some are focused on a direct word for word translation regardless of the difficulty in reading in current language. On the other end of the spectrum authors focus on taking the concept and making it easy to read in our current language.

I am not one that will mandate a single-specific version of the Bible. However, three things I would look to avoid in study of the Bible: 1) Any translation that eliminates the deity of Christ. 2) Some "woke" versions of the Bible being made, for example the "gender neutral" Bible. 3) If an author has attempted to "water" down absolute truths included in Scripture I pay no attention to those versions.

There are many websites that provide access to these translations and more such as biblegateway.com providing free easy access to those who want to compare various translations and paraphrases of the Bible.

Bible Reading Plan May

	3 year (2)	Once/year	Once Quarterly	New Testament in a month
1	Isaiah 1	Isaiah 9-12	2 Chron. 6:37 - 22:6	Matt. 1-3; Rom. 1-4; Act 1; Rev. 1
2	Isaiah 2	Isaiah 13-17	2 Chron. 22:7 - 34-26	Matt. 4-6; Rom. 5-8; Acts 2; Rev. 2
3	Isaiah 3	Isaiah 18-22	2 Chron. 34:27 - Ezra	Matt 7-9; Rom. 9-12; Acts 3; Rev. 3
4	Isaiah 4-5	Isaiah 23-27	Nehemiah 1 - 12:36	Matt. 10-12; Rom. 13-16; Acts 4; Rev. 5
5	Isaiah 6	Isaiah 28-30	Neh. 12:37 - Job 6:15	Mat. 13-15; I Cor. 1-4; Acts 5; Rev. 5
6	Isaiah 7	Isaiah 31-35	Job 6:16 - 23:17	Matt. 16-18; I Cor. 5-8; Acts 6; Rev. 6
7	Isaiah 8	Isaiah 36-41	Job 24:1 - 40:18	Matt. 19-21; I Cor. 9-12; Acts 7; Rev. 7
8	Isaiah 9	Isaiah 42-44	Job 40:19 - Psalm 22	Mat. 22-24; 1 Cor. 13-16; Acts 8; Rev. 8
9	Isaiah 10	Isaiah 45-48	Psalm 23 - 43	Matt. 25-28; 2 Cor. 1-4; Acts 9; Rev. 9
10	Is. 11-12	Isaiah 49-53	Psalm 44 - 68	Luke 1-2; 2 Cor. 5-8; Acts 10; Rev. 10
11	Isaiah 13	Isaiah 54-58	Psalm 69 - 87	Luke 3-4; 2 Cor. 9-13; Acts 11; Rev. 11
12	Isaiah 14	Isaiah 59-63	Psalm 88 - 107	Luke 5-7; Gal. 1-3; Acts 12; Rev. 12
13	Isaiah 15	Isaiah 64-66	Psalm 108-119	Luke 8-10; Gal. 4-6; Acts 13; Rev. 13
14	Isaiah 16	Jer. 1-3	Psalm 120 -140	Luke 11-13; Eph. 1-3; Acts 14; Rev. 14
15	Is. 17-18	Jer. 4-6	Psalm 141 - Prov. 5	Luke 14-16; Eph. 4-6; Acts 15; Rev. 15
16	Isaiah 19	Jer.7-9	Proverbs 6 - 19	Luke 17-19; Phil. 1-4; Acts 16; Rev. 16
17	Is. 20-21	Jer.10-13	Proverbs 20 - 31	Luke 20-22; Col. 1-4; Acts 17; Rev. 17
18	Isaiah 22	Jer. 14-17	Ecc. & Song of S.	Luke 23-24; I Thess. 1-5; Acts 18; Rev. 18
19	Isaiah 23	Jer. 18-22	Isaiah 1 - 12	Mark. 1-3; 2 Thess. 1-3; Acts 19; Rev. 19
20	Isaiah 24	Jer. 23-25	Isaiah 13 - 28	Mark 4-6; I Tim. 1-6; Acts 20; Rev. 20
21	Isaiah 25	Jer. 26-29	Isaiah 29 - 41	Mark 7-9; 2 Tim. 1-4; Acts 21; Rev. 21
22	Isaiah 26	Jer. 30-31	Isaiah 42 - 51	Mark 10-12; Titus. 1-3; Philemon 1; Acts 22; Rev. 22
23	Isaiah 27	Jer. 32-34	Isaiah 52 - 66	Mark 13-16; Hebrews 1-4; Acts 23
24	Isaiah 28	Jer. 35-37	Jeremiah 1 - 9	John 1-3; Hebrews 5-8; Acts 24
25	Isaiah 29	Jer. 38-41	Jeremiah 10 - 22	John 4-5; Hebrews 9-13; Acts 25
26	Isaiah 30	Jer. 42-45	Jeremiah 23 - 32	John 6-7; James 1-5; Acts 26
27	Is. 31-32	Jer. 46-48	Jeremiah 33 - 46	John 8-9; I Peter 1-5; Acts 27
28	Isaiah 33	Jer. 49-50	Jer.47 - Lam 1	John 10-12; 2 Peter 1-3; Acts 28
29	Isaiah 34	Jer. 51-52	Lam 2 - Ez. 1-10	John 13-15; I John 1-5
30	Isaiah 35	Ezekiel 1-4	Ezekiel 11 - 22	John 16-18; Books of 2nd & 3rd John
31	Isaiah 36	Ezekiel 5-8	Ezekiel 23 - 34	John 19-21; Book of Jude

Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing in God to do in your life this month?

Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these things you are believing in God for?

Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Example: "God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' That in Psalm 103 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since I am a child of God, I thank you and receive healing in Jesus' name."

Week One

Week One Prayer Notes

<p>Specific things I am praying about for my family.</p>	<p>Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.</p>
<p>Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.</p>	<p>People I am praying for their salvation.</p>

May 1

The Coming Messiah

Today's Bible Reading - Isaiah 9-12

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Here we see one of the most beautiful poetic promises of the coming Messiah. The prophet Isaiah predicts the joining of man and God. The birth of a child that is wholly man and wholly God at the same time. This is an accomplishment that has never been done since the dawn of time. No other religion ever recorded has the deity that leads the people ever descended and actually become one of those that he is leading. God actually became man! He lived among us and did so without sin.

This was God's plan ever since the fall of mankind through the sin of Adam and Eve. In order to redeem mankind, there had to be a blood sacrifice. The law was established to provide a means for the covering of man's sin, but the blood of lambs and goats could not remove the sin from mankind. The sacrifice had to be a spotless, sinless man. No human could possibly live a spotless, sinless life, so God came down, became human, and offered himself as the sacrifice to redeem mankind. *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).*

Isaiah goes on to establish the precedence of not only the life of Christ, but His future rule. *"The government will be upon His shoulders, and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:7).* We have been selected to participate in His future rule and to reign with Him.

What a wonderful thing to know that in the future, the government will be upon His shoulders. No more woke nonsense or multi-gender choices. God made man and woman and that settles it. Under the rule and reign of the Messiah, justice will be automatic, and no one will be left out in the cold. He will be the source of light and will see that all of our needs are met in full. We will no longer have to ask questions of Him for we will know the answer even before we can ask. There will be no more sickness, poverty, loneliness or suffering.

And to think that this was prophesied hundreds of years before it actually came to pass. Isaiah saw thousands of years into the future and told the world what to look for. We can still base our hope on the promise that He will be our ruler and king.

Putting the Word to Work

When things are looking down, take heart. Isaiah prophesied the birth and coming of age of our King. The future looks bright regardless of today's circumstances.

May 2

Earthly Circumstances Cannot Change God's Plan

Today's Bible Reading - Isaiah 13-17

Isaiah 14:24 The Lord Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen." (NLT)

In the book of Isaiah, we read much about God's coming judgment, but it is also a book about hope. Chapter 14 is filled with the rise and fall of nations, but in verse 24, God makes one thing unmistakably clear: His plans are not fragile. He declares that what He has purposed will stand. Not might stand, not could stand, but will stand.

Truth cuts through the uncertainty of life. Our circumstances are ever-changing. Life happens. Doors open, and doors close. Sometimes we find ourselves in situations we never could have imagined. Sometimes those situations are incredible and amazing, and other times they are difficult and heavy. But one thing is for certain: our circumstances never take God by surprise, and they do not have the power to alter what God has already set in motion.

Before we were formed in our mother's womb, God had a plan for our lives, and there is nothing our circumstances can do to change that plan. It's easy to fall into the trap of believing that setbacks mean something has gone wrong, that God has changed direction, or that the plan has been lost. But God is not reacting to our circumstances; He is ruling over them. It may feel like you're being rerouted or sent on a detour, but friend, let me tell you, it's all part of His design. It is part of His preparation. His plan for you is not dead.

This doesn't mean that life will always make sense and everything will be easy, but it does mean our circumstances do not have the final say. God is always working, even when we cannot see it. We can trust that His purposes are steady, unchanging, and full of wisdom.

Putting the Word to Work

Take a moment today to consider an area of your life where things feel off track. Bring it before the Lord, talk to Him about it, and remember that His plans have not changed, even if your circumstances have.

May 3

Seeking the Truth

Today's Bible Reading - Isaiah 18-22

Isaiah 19:3 AMP "And the spirit of the Egyptians within them will become exhausted and emptied out and fail, and I will destroy their counsel and confound their plans; and they will seek counsel from the idols and the sorcerers, and from those having familiar spirits (the mediums) and the wizards."

As a young believer I was hungry to read testimonies of people who had experienced the reality of God in their lives. Where better place to look than the public library. I found the "Religious" section not understanding the difference between Christian books and books on the occult. I read books by Mediums and False Prophets not knowing the difference.

Our Methodist Pastor, a lady, was also reading those sort of books so she encouraged my reading plan. In fact on Halloween she organized a seance in a Sunday School room.

God bless the Church of Christ! They ran an ad in the local paper advertizing an X-medium who was coming to speak at their 11:00 am Sunday Service. My friend, Susan, was also seeking the reality of God so we went together to their service. We were absolutely astounded, listening to his testimony, to learn that a medium's power and insight came from satan himself! Susan got saved that day! I quit looking for the truth in the library's "Religious" section! I repented for seeking spiritual insights from demonic sources.

That Sunday morning we learned the truth of the Word: Leviticus 19:31: "Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God."

Leviticus 20:6 "And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people." Also see Isaiah 8:19.

Putting the Word to Work

Have you ever been involved or sought any counsel from any of these occult practices? Tarot cards, palm reading, seance, ouija boards, horoscopes, psychic hot lines or witchcraft? Please repent today! Our heavenly Father is grieved when a person seeks direction, counsel, spiritual insight or power from something or someone other than Him.

May 4

There's room at the cross for you

Today's Bible Reading – Isaiah 23-27

Isaiah 25:6-10 “6 And in this mountain The Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees.... 9 And it will be said in that day: “Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

Jesus, the Lord of Heaven's Army, wants to give you and me a place of honor in His presence. He wants to give us His best which He did when He gave His life for us. What more could He give to such unworthy lumps of clay? Isaiah spoke of it in the future, we can declare it in the present/now.

The Word speaks as a place, a mountain, His Holy mountain where all the provisions are laid out before us: the choicest of the choice, the “fat things full of marrow.” Marrow provides the body with structure as life-giving substance flows through it. If the bones are weak the body is weak. Here it is referred to as strength. How do we get to that “mountain experience”? By developing first, a relationship with God through His Word. He knows me, but as I study the Word, I am learning who He is. And not just to know about Him, but to get to know Him. Secondly, in studying the Word I begin to learn and understand the things in which I should do. Then comes ‘doing’ the Word. James 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:25 “...this one will be blessed in what he does.”

Billy Graham often used this very familiar song as a closing: “There's room at the cross for you.” On the Mountain of Calvary, the Lord of Hosts made room for ALL His children. The cross experience went back in time as well as forward into all eternity. This act of love was inclusive to all mankind, regardless of color, race, or creed. Jesus opened the door that we may step into the presence of God where all provisions are. There is one requirement of us and that is we must believe in the Door (Jesus) and in who He says He is. We enter into receivership of all He has for us.

John 15:7-8 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified...” What a deal! I'm going to run to the cross because I believe in what Jesus did and, yes, there's room for all to enter that doorway into the presence of our Lord, who waits with open arms for His children.

Putting the Word to Work

Write about a “mountain” experience you've had.

Can I encourage you, if you have not done so, to take time to write down moments from your walk with the Lord.

May 5
Misplaced Trust
Isaiah 28-30

Isaiah 30:15 - "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it."

A clear theme running through Isaiah 28–30 in the Book of Isaiah is the difference between trusting God and trusting in people or human effort. This is summed up in Isaiah 30:15. God shows His people the right way—to return to Him and trust Him—but they choose not to.

In Isaiah 28, the leaders are full of pride. They believe their own plans will protect them. Instead of trusting God, they trust in their own agreements and wisdom. But God says He has laid a “cornerstone” in Zion, a firm and sure foundation. This points to Jesus Christ, the Chief Cornerstone. While people build on weak foundations, God provides the only foundation that will last. Those who trust in Him will not be shaken.

In Isaiah 29, the problem is different but connected. The people are still religious, but their hearts are not truly with God. They say the right things, but they do not truly trust Him. Because of this, they become spiritually blind. They cannot understand what God is doing. Still, God promises that the humble will one day see clearly and rejoice. This points again to Jesus, who brings true understanding and restores a right relationship with God.

In Isaiah 30, the people make things even clearer by turning to Egypt for help instead of turning to God. They look for safety in human strength. This goes directly against what God told them in Isaiah 30:15. Instead of choosing rest and trust, they choose fear and control. But God still calls them back. That call to return is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who offers true rest and salvation.

All three chapters share the same message: trusting in anything other than God leads to failure. Pride, empty religion, and human help cannot save. But God has provided a sure foundation in Jesus Christ, the Chief Cornerstone. Real strength is found in turning back to Him, resting in Him, and trusting Him fully.

Putting the Word to Work

Are there any areas of your life are you quietly relying on your own strength, plans, or control instead of fully trusting God—and how might that reveal pride you haven’t wanted to confront?

If “returning and rest” is where true strength is found, is there anything that is currently keeping you from slowing down, surrendering control, and placing real confidence in Jesus Christ?

May 6

Who are you putting your faith in?

Today's Bible Reading - Isaiah 31-35

“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord!” (Isaiah 31:1 KJV)

We do not see a lot of exclamation points in Scripture, so when you do, it is wise to pay attention. In the context of Isaiah chapter 31 we hear the prophet vividly warn the people of Judah not to trust the government of Egypt over God. In verse 5 Isaiah further implores them, by trying to reassure Israel that God is eternally with them and He Himself will come down and fight for them, saying, *“As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also He will deliver it; and passing over He will preserve it.”*

A hard question, but one that must be asked, have you ever ignored the word of the Lord out of fear or in order to do what you want? When I was in my early 30's I was violently assaulted. This was at a time in my life that I was strongly pursuing the Lord. This really confused me, and instead of running to God, I ran from Him.

Almost immediately, (as if the enemy himself had been waiting) I met a man. I saw many red flags but chose to ignore God's warnings. I was with this man for nearly 15 years, when I knew I never should have connected with him in the first place. I suffered much abuse, and then in a separate incident, became extremely ill in 2013. When I returned from the hospital, I was severely disabled, and the abuse increased, becoming extremely violent.

During all of my hurt, fear and pain I truly repented, asking God for His forgiveness, for not listening to Him. He didn't say, “You had your chance.” He only said, “Here I am.” It sounded much like Isaiah 35:4, *“Them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; He will come and save you.”*

Today, He wants all of you. People will eternally regret moments of refusing to obey His Word. In Isaiah 31 through 35, you will read a great example of what not to do, and what great kindness He has shown us all through His Son and with His mercy and love. He will rebuild you, just as He has me, and just as Isaiah 35:1 says, *“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing!”*

Putting the Word to Work

Ask the Lord to help you identify any area of life you may not be trusting in God as much as you should be.

Counteract any fear with His word and agree with it.

May 7

God declares Who He is and what is to come.

Today's Bible Reading – Isaiah 36-41

Isaiah 41:14 "I will help you, says the Lord and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." 16 "You shall rejoice in the Lord, and glory in the Holy One of Israel." and 20 "the hand of the Lord has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it."

Chapter 36 begins when Assyria again attacked and took Judah that was under the rule of king Hezekiah. And God again delivered Judah from the Assyrians. Hezekiah was gravely ill, but God heard his prayer and gave him fifteen more years to live, then said that He/God would defend Jerusalem.

In chapter 39, the king of Babylon sent a gift to Hezekiah when he heard of his recovery. Hezekiah was so pleased that he pridefully showed them everything in his treasure house, the armory, and all his riches. When Isaiah heard it, he spoke God's word to Hezekiah (Isaiah 39:6-7) saying, "All that is in your house and what your fathers have accumulated shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left." [and his "sons shall be eunuchs"] The Book of Daniel records what happened, exactly as God said.

Isaiah 40:1 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended." Verse 3 is a strong prophecy about 'John the Baptist' (quoted in Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1). Isaiah 40:21,28-29,31 reminds Judah of God's presence. " 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength." " 31 But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint." Powerful!

In Chapter 41:8-10, the Lord declares himself, reminding them of their heritage through Abraham. "But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend." Israel is assured of God's ever-present help.

This last chapter for today is the first of many in Isaiah that presents God's message as He prepares the people for His Plan of Salvation. We recognize it as Jesus because of our personal relationship with Him. Isaiah is a Book filled with the words of a loving God who promised the Hebrews a Redeemer. Over the years, Israel always taught the Messianic prophecies and waited for the manifestation. But when Messiah came, their ideas of who He would be clouded their vision.

Putting the Word to Work

Let us all pray for God to open our eyes to see what He is doing in us and around us.

God desires to share His Spiritual Truth with all of us for our edification and growth. Hear Him!

Week One Sermon Notes

Week One Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week One Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two

Week Two Prayer Notes

<p>Specific things I am praying about for my family.</p>	<p>Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.</p>
<p>Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.</p>	<p>People I am praying for their salvation.</p>

May 8

Precious in My Sight

Today's Bible Reading - Isaiah 42-44

Isaiah 43:4 "Because you are precious in My sight, You are honored and I love you, I will give other men in return for you and other peoples in exchange for your life."

I grew up in church. I believed and even got baptised when I was about 13. I remember the day it was in the middle of the summer and since we didn't have A/C back then the doors of the church were open to get some airflow. Just as I was going down in the water someone pulled up to the stop sign out front blasting Snoopy verses the Red Baron on their radio.

I should have known then things just weren't going to be the same. Now you have to understand Our church did not believe in the gifts of the Spirit (that passed away with the apostles), and I never heard anyone say Amen during services. I also never saw a single person raise their hands in praise, but I do know they loved the Lord. This was the only kind of church I knew and I just assumed all churches were the same.

Over the years I drifted in and out of that particular denomination, and was comfortable doing so. Then back in 94' I stepped into a Spirit-filled, full-gospel, Holy Ghost church. I saw manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit. I heard tongues for the first time and saw healing that could not be denied.

I felt the truth of that old children's song Jesus Loves Me in my heart and spirit. I also realized that everything (full gospel) in the Bible is for me, not just "those" people. Every blessing, and every promise. That is when I began to read His word in earnest. I started with the gospels and Romans, then Psalms. After reading Isaiah 40:31 I started to read the whole book because at the time I really liked the idea of not growing weary.

Chapter 42, is mostly about God's promises and the blindness of the people. Chapter 44 is about blessings, forgiveness and redemption. Oh but chapter 43 is about His love and protection. He will destroy our enemies, He will protect us from the waters, He will keep us safe from the fire. But the verse that grabbed my heart was 43:4 *"Because you are precious in My sight, You are honored and I love you, I will give other men in return for you and other peoples in exchange for your life."*

That one word, precious hit me and filled me in a way I had never felt before. My life was not great growing up and it didn't get much better when I got older. So let's just say nobody had ever told me that I was precious. Yet God was telling me that I was precious to Him and that He loved me. Precious is defined as: of high price or great value; very valuable or costly. Highly esteemed for some spiritual, nonmaterial, or moral quality, dear; beloved. I had value and was loved just as I was. To my life this verse is right up there with John 3:16. Both tell me that my God loves me and that regardless of past transgressions to Him I am precious, special and valuable.

Putting the word to work

Take time every day to list reasons why God loves you (try and think of ten)

Take time to look yourself in the mirror and tell yourself face to face "God loves me"

Choose to rely on what God says about you and not what man says.

May 9

Furnace of Affliction

Today's Bible Reading - Isaiah 45-48

"Behold I have refined you but not as silver, I have tried you and chosen you in the furnace of affliction."

As I look at this verse I realized that at times, God has chosen affliction for me to get it right. "Isaiah 45:9 "Woe to him who strives with His maker." The last part of the verse says, to him who fashions it, what do you think you are making? "Psalms 119:50 "This is my comfort and consolation in my affliction: that Your word has revived me and given me life." Psalms 107:20 "He sends His word and heals them and rescues them from the pit and Destruction." Psalms 147:3 "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up the wounds." Sometimes we don't understand God and His will for our lives, but you can take note, His will for you is, to not miss all that He has for you.

My friend Rodney was on his death bed. As we shared the good news that Jesus had made provision for him, we quoted Revelation 3:20, "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." Rodney had not spoken to us up to this point but after hearing that verse he asked, "what is sin?" We knew that God was dealing with him. Those were his last words that he spoke. Later that evening my burden for him was lifted. He passed away around that same time.

When we got word that my wife's father (Pete) had leukemia, I asked the Lord, what good could possibly come from this? He said, "eternity!" That night I had a dream that Pete was going for a ride in the country and he stopped at a store. As he walked in there was a door that took off to the right, which was actually entering heaven. He was taken back to its beauty; its grandeur was totally awesome and he saw friends that he never expected to see again. They were joyous to see him. After I woke up I went into the living room and read Luke 2:26-29 is about Simeon and how he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ. Jesus' parents came into the temple with the child and then Simeon said, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word." We knew from the Scripture and from the dream that Pete was going to heaven.

This does not mean that every affliction a person will face has come from God. I believe whole-heartedly that God will work with each and every individual to bring them to a place of surrender to Him. Surrender is a place people come to either by inspiration or in desperation. My desire is to live in a place of inspired surrender.

Putting the Word to Work

Are there any questions you have for God that you have no answer for yet?

Keep seeking and asking Him for the answers. He delights in answering our questions, and takes great delight that we trust Him for the answers.

May 10

Jesus Paid It All

Today's Bible Reading - Isaiah 49-53

Isaiah 53:6 - "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Approximately 700 years prior to Jesus life, the prophet Isaiah saw with amazing clarity the suffering Jesus would experience. However, as you read through the chapter today, notice that it is not just the physical suffering, but the elements He would carry and thereby purchase redemption. Here is a quick list (including definitions from Strong's Concordance & Webster's dictionary).

- Rejection: denied, refused, separated from a group or lot for not being as good as the others
- Sorrow: pain, grief and anguish; deep sadness and/or mental pain
- Grief: anxiety, calamity, disease, deep sadness especially for the loss of someone or something
- Affliction: browbeating, depress, forced, ravish, distress, a state of great suffering of body or mind
- Transgressions: many revolts or rebellions, violation or breaking of God's moral or legal code
- Iniquities: perversities, faults, mischief; corruption immoral conduct or practices harmful or offensive

Jesus bore all of these elements when He was on the cross. The description in Isaiah 53 describes how Jesus would carry the full weight of each of these elements. The good news for us, is that He fully carried the weight of these on our behalf so that we could walk in complete freedom. He bore God's rejection I deserved, so that I would be accepted by God with His acceptance. He bore my sorrow, so I could walk in His joy. He bore my grief so I could live in His peace. He bore my affliction, so I could hold my head up high and live in freedom, confidence and boldness. He bore my transgressions and iniquities, so I could live freely and in purity without fear of retribution from my wilful violations of His plans and purposes. What a mighty God we serve! Remind yourself of that truth captured in that old song this day and celebrate, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Putting the Word to work

Take time to meditate on the great exchange described in this chapter today. Spending time to think on how Jesus bore it all.

May 11

Today's Bible Reading - Isaiah 54-58

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the Lord.

Without a doubt this is one of my favorite chapters in all the Bible. Here Isaiah describes the heritage we are blessed to walk in as children of the Living God. First observation I would like to point out, is to notice how frequently throughout chapter 54 you will see at least 9 references to children/parent relationships, inheritance and heritage. The verse is pregnant with prophetic promises for the born again children of God. Here are some of the promises:

- Expansion
- Strength
- Depth
- Inheriting the nations
- Rebuilding and inhabiting desolated cities
- Freedom from fear, removal of disgrace and shame
- Intimate relationship with God
- Redemption, great mercies, everlasting kindness, removal of anger from the Lord, solid foundations with precious stones
- Great peace, removal of oppression and terror

It finishes with one of the great, frequently quoted, promises of God's divine protection - "No weapon formed against you shall prosper." Notice it does not say that enemies won't try to form attacks against you, but that those attacks will by no means be successful.

As a child of God, you have a God promised right to walk in freedom and victory from every attack of the enemy. It is folly to simply look at an attack of the enemy and think to oneself that "opposition must just mean I'm on the right track, look how hard it is, and how much opposition I am facing." No take this promise of God, seek His face and push through to victory. Especially if the opposition is connected to any of the things we studied yesterday from the previous chapter that Jesus bore.

Putting the Word to work

Is there a situation you are facing that you needed to be reminded about today, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper?"

May 12

The Day of Vengeance of Our God

Today's Bible Reading – Isaiah 59-63

Isaiah 61:1-2 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

In the gospel that Luke wrote, he described an event in the synagogue in Nazareth when Jesus quoted from the first two verses of Isaiah chapter 61, He stopped in mid-sentence and claimed to all those in attendance on that Sabbath Day that He was the fulfillment of that specific prophecy. He specifically omitted “the day of vengeance of our God” (Luke 4:14-21). Why? Because He came to proclaim liberty then; He will execute the vengeance of God when He returns.

Paul, the apostle, explained: “when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes” (2 Thess. 1:7-10). The believers in Thessalonica were tortured and troubled by the attacks leveled against them by their persecutors. Paul wrote again to comfort them with the good news that God would not only come to their rescue but would take vengeance on their enemies.

Please understand, vengeance belongs to God, not us, as Paul wrote to the believers in Rome: “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head” (Rom. 12:19-20).

Revenge is a selfish act to satisfy a personal grudge – vengeance is God being true to His nature. The vengeance of God proceeds out of His justice. What will that vengeance be? “These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” When will that vengeance take place? “when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels.” Upon whom will that vengeance fall? “on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel.”

Hebrews provides the summation: “How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay.’ And again, ‘The Lord will judge his people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!” (Heb10:29-31).

Putting the Word to Work

Q: Have you ever sought revenge? Please explain:

Q: Describe your interpretation of “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God”:

Q: How will considering the vengeance of God affect you:

May 13

You are the Potter, I am the clay

Today's Bible reading - Isaiah 64 - 66

Isaiah 64:8 "And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and You are the Potter. We are all formed by your hand." NLT

As we explore Isaiah 64 we see a nation in chaos. The Jews are reflecting on a broken Jerusalem. They are exhausted, beat down, and disillusioned. Destroyed temples, a divided community, and they are feeling hopeless and ignored by their God. For some of us this may feel like our life right now. It may feel like you are in the midst of chaos and change. Trying to find your footing in an ever changing world.

Isaiah reveals in these passages a sobering reality. There were two groups of people, those who claimed God by heritage or religion, and those who are truly redeemed. And the Lord saw the same dichotomy when Isaiah writes in chapter 65 verse 8 "But I will not destroy them all," says the Lord... "For I still have true servants there." Because even in the midst of chaos God makes a way for his people. Chapter 65 goes on to lay out the promises from God to His people, and we see restoration brought about in chapter 66 where Isaiah writes "Would I ever bring this nation to the point of birth and then not deliver it" asks the Lord.

Because this is what God is ultimately using tribulation for, to bring us closer to Him. To bring about restoration, and ultimately align us with His plans and purposes for our lives which are always better than ours. Sometimes that looks like a season of loneliness where He calls us closer, sometimes that looks like seasons of lack where He is peeling away what we hide behind, and sometimes it is seasons of loss, where we lose what we depend on. But in every season these three chapters show us, restoration and a life with Him, that is the final destination.

Putting the Word to Work

Has there ever been a time when you felt you were resisting God's shaping because it felt uncomfortable or uncertain?

May 14

First Love

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 1-3

Jeremiah 2:1-4 1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: "This is what the Lord says: "I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown. 3 Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of His harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them, "declares the Lord. 4 Hear the word of the Lord, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel.

Revelation 2:1-4 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken the love you had at first.

Jeremiah delivers a word of the Lord, REPENT, to God's people. The Lord speaks through Jeremiah to his people, "don't you remember how close we were?" "Don't you remember the devotion you had for me? How I provided for you in the wilderness, and I was your defender." If you continue reading in Jeremiah 2, The Lord says to Israel, "My people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols." I read about the Exodus, and all that the Lord did for Israel and then I wonder why did they turn away to idols? What was it they thought they were lacking? A similar New Testament passage is in Revelation, the New Testament, John has a vision from the Lord, and the Lord has a word for His church in Ephesus, "I see all of the wonderful things you are doing, but You have forsaken your first love."

Just like Israel in the wilderness, just like the church in Ephesus, it can be very easy to get distracted, impatient, and prideful. When people devote themselves, their time, and resources to other things, and push aside the passion and devotion of our first love, God. The Lord is so gracious and loving, all throughout His Word He says, Repent, turn back to Me. His arms open wide for us when we see the error of our ways and turn to face Him. Let us keep the prayer of David on our lips and in our hearts, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right or steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." Psalm 51:10-12

Putting the Word to Work

Take time today to celebrate every way in which you are displaying God is the first priority in your life. And invite Him to correct you if there is any way you have drifted from that.

Week Two Sermon Notes

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (*if applicable*): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three

Week Three Prayer Notes

<p>Specific things I am praying about for my family.</p>	<p>Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.</p>
<p>Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.</p>	<p>People I am praying for their salvation.</p>

May 15

The Fire of His Words

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 4-6

Jeremiah 5:14 "14 Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: "Because you speak this word, Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, And this people wood, And it shall devour them.

The Word of the Lord is powerful. And there is something when you hear people communicate and God puts His fire on their words. I think of the two men on the road to Emmaus after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus when they said, "...*Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us*" (Luke 24:32).

There are different symbols used to describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit, including but not limited too fire, water, rain, oil, wine, rivers, cloud, etc. Now these descriptions are not necessarily to be taken literally as in Jeremiah was not breathing literal fire, but the impact of his words would be just like that of fire burn up and devouring every argument the people would make against the Word of the Lord.

When the anointing of the Holy Spirit rests upon the word proceeding from the mouth of a prophet, it is unstoppable by natural human endeavors and forces.

Putting the Word to work

When is a time a sermon, or a conversation with another person carried with it so much impact on your soul that it burned up thoughts and thought patterns that were in opposition to the things of God?

May 16

Uncircumcised in the Heart

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 7 – 9

Jeremiah 7:23 – “But this is what I commanded them saying , “Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people.”

I am reminded of what the Scripture in 1 Samuel that says, “.....to obey is better than sacrifice.” The Lord is not looking for people who are willing to give up things in order to obtain His blessing and grace. God wants you to be willing servants, not those that would do what has to be done out of fear of punishment or the promise of reward.

Going to church should be a delight to the believer. We can join ourselves to gather and worship the Lord of Heaven, rejoicing in the fact that we have the privilege to be His children. Participating in a local church should not be a burdensome chore of some kind. At the same time we need to remember that being good on Sunday does not mean we can be less than good the rest of the week. I remember an old preacher from my youth that use to shout from the pulpit, “You had better not go out on Saturday night and sow your wild oats just to come to church on Sunday and pray for a crop failure.”

God wants people that will be obedient to His commands 24-7-365. Do we slip once in a while and do something that is not pleasing to God? Yes! That is why we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ. God doesn't have a bunch of rules and regs that we must check off every day. He has written them in our hearts. When we find ourselves in situations that are tempting us in a wrong direction, we need to stop and consult the manuscript that is within us. The Holy Spirit was sent down here specifically for that purpose. He will remind you of what and how you are supposed to be acting. Many refer to the fact that they received a “check” in their spirit before they were going to do something. That is the Holy Spirit giving you a heads-up on what's ahead.

Isaiah 9:26 at the end of the passage says that “...all the House of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.” We need to serve the Lord with all our heart, making sure that we are not just Sunday Christians. Do not neglect the assembly of the saints on Sunday, but learn to live out your faith throughout the week.

Putting the Word to Work

As you go through your week, regularly remind yourself of who and Who's you are. Take a Scripture that tells you what God says about you and memorize it so that you can bring it to mind each time you are tempted to react the way the world reacts.

May 17

Surrender

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 10-13

Jeremiah 10:23 (NLT) "I know Lord, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course."

Chapter 10 of Jeremiah describes how the people of Israel were trusting in idols and following their own ways instead of looking to God. In verse 23, there's a shift; Jeremiah's prayer is a humble recognition that we are not meant to direct our own steps, and that only God should guide our lives. Essentially, this verse is saying, "Left to myself, I will choose wrong, I will go off track, and I'll rely on things that will not lead me well." And honestly, we're not much different.

Here's the thing: the Israelites were not sitting around the dinner table talking about how they could reject God. They didn't have a sudden need to rebel against Him. It happened subtly and over time. We see throughout the Old Testament how the Israelites started adopting the practices of other nations. We see them add idols alongside the Lord, and they began to trust in what they could actually see. What started as small compromises became normal life over time. Because of these subtle changes, their faith and dependence on God faded quietly.

How many of us have seen similar situations in our own lives? Maybe you don't feel like it's something big, like completely walking away from God, but something much less noticeable. Maybe it's something simple like spending time in prayer or reading your Bible each day. You used to be consistent, setting aside that time regularly. Then one day you were just too tired. The next day you had an early appointment and told the Lord you would spend time with him later. Before you knew it, the week had passed by, and you had not spent any time with Jesus. It didn't happen all at once; it happened one small decision at a time.

So how do we get back on track? It doesn't start by trying harder or making empty promises to oneself. It starts the same way Jeremiah did in his prayer, with humility and recognition. We simply turn our attention back to God and begin again. We don't try to make up for lost time. God meets us where we are, and He invites us to start fresh with Him.

Putting the Word to Work

I challenge you to take a minute today and ask the Lord if there is anything in your life (big or small) that has crept in slowly or subtly and is pulling your attention away from Him. If something comes to mind, simply recognize it. Admit to the Lord that your life is not your own, and you need Him to direct your steps. Then choose to start fresh today.

May 18

O Taste and see that the Lord is Good

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 14-17

Jeremiah 15:16 "Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your Word was to Me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts."

How does one "eat" God's Word? This word "eat" means "to have consumed, devoured and feasted" upon. Psalms 1:1-3 says, "Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord. And in His law he meditates (imagines and whispers) day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season. Whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

There was a 16 year old boy in China named Yun who learned of God's Words. His mother had known Jesus as a young girl but turned away from her belief when Christians were persecuted and killed for following Jesus.

Yun's father became deathly ill with stomach cancer. One night Yun's mother heard a voice say to her, "Jesus loves you." She knelt down, repented and embraced Him once again. She awoke her five children, shared with them about Jesus, and asked them to lay their hands on their father and pray for his healing, which they all did. He awoke, asked for food, and within a week was completely healed!

Yun learned that there had been a book of God's words. He began to fast and pray that God would give him such a book. An elderly man, having served 20 years in prison for his beliefs, heard the Lord speak to him to give his hidden Bible to Yun which he did. Yun "consumed, devoured and feasted" on that precious Book. He memorized one chapter every day from the book of Matthew. Jesus instructed him to walk to a village west of them and be his "witness." The folks in that village had actually been praying for someone to come and teach them. When he arrived 40 villagers gathered in a home and Yun preached the only way he knew how.... He quoted all 28 chapters of the book of Matthew, and all 40 villagers knelt and accepted Jesus! (The name of Yun's book is The Heavenly Man.)

Putting the Word to Work

Have you yet experienced the joy of feasting on and then hiding in your heart a particular verse that has come alive to you as you read? There is truly no other joy that equals it! If one day you should have to bury your Bible in the back yard, how much of it would still be hidden away in our heart?

May 19

Think it not strange when others revile you.

Today's Bible Reading – Jeremiah 18-22

Jeremiah 20:7-8 “ 7 O Lord, You induced me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. I am in derision daily; Everyone mocks me. 8 For when I spoke, I cried out; I shouted, “Violence and plunder!” Because the word of the Lord was made to me a reproach and a derision Daily...”

Jeremiah authored the book that bears his name; also, the Books of Kings, and the Book of Lamentations. He was born in 650 bc, died in 570 bc. He was born into a priestly lineage and reluctantly accepted his call to prophethood. His ministry was tumultuous to the point of despair and depression. He was dealing with the people of Judah in their most rebellious and stubborn times. God's message to the people was of judgment and to the leaders even more so.

Jeremiah was the mouthpiece God used to be His messenger. Oh, how he wished he could not be that person. In verse 9, he declares, “I will not make mention of Him, or speak anymore in His name. But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.” In verse 11 Jeremiah declares, “But the Lord is with me as a mighty, awesome One. Therefore, my persecutors will stumble, and will not prevail.”

Nobody loves to have their sins declared, much less hear the consequences of them. Guilt produces many emotions and causes people to be ugly, especially to the ones calling them out for it. Jesus' very presence brought about condemnation and His speaking brought Him to the cross.

Years ago, we used to go to Arizona for the winter. We were musicians, so we played with a lot of people. They loved the music part, but not the God part so much. My husband was much more in love with the music than I was, so I would go along. I was told by someone there that when we pulled up they would say, “Here comes those religious fanatics again!” Then they would try to hide the liquor they were consuming. But they kept inviting us back again and again and I kept singing about Jesus again and again until they all got saved. And I'm sure they made it to heaven. It wasn't comfortable. It was excruciating actually. My soul would cry out against it. I would tell the Lord, “I don't want to go. Please give us flat tires on the way” so we would miss the event, but no! God blessed those times to where people actually got saved and He was glorified despite me.

Putting the Word to Work

Have you ever been called to do something you did not want to do?

May 20

He who has My word, let him speak it faithfully.

Today's Bible Reading – Jeremiah 23-25

Jeremiah 23:5-6 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS [Heb. YHWH Tsidkenu]."

Known as the Weeping Prophet, Jeremiah was a prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah right before Judah ultimately fell to Babylon and was led away into captivity. God sent Jeremiah—and Isaiah—to a crumbling nation to warn of their impending demise – a warning they did not heed. Jeremiah and Isaiah were prophets during the same era, with the same prophetic message.

God warned against the nation's prophets and shepherds who "speak a vision of their own hearts, not from the mouth of the Lord." (Jeremiah 23:16) "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied." (23:21)

In chapters 24 and 25, Jeremiah's prophecies continue about Babylon's capture of Judah. Isaiah (in his Book) had also prophesied that all their treasures, wealth and people would be taken captive by Babylon, and their sons would be eunuchs. Jeremiah further told that their captivity in Babylon would be "seventy years of desolation." All this is confirmed in detail in the Book of Daniel... just as God said. "And because of His fierce anger" (25:38), the Lord brought desolation to this people who followed errant prophets and shepherds. God is patient, but He also expects His servants to pay attention to His unyielding Truth. The Book of Jeremiah, like many Books in the Old Testament, may seem harsh, but if correction takes place, God's blessing is established. Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly."

The key Scripture at the top provides the purpose for the prophecies of discipline. They will set the stage for the arrival of the Messiah that God will provide. Again, Jeremiah 23:5-6 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord... A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness. He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS [YHWH]." This prophecy was and is fulfilled in Jesus. We have the option to receive His Righteousness now.

If you haven't asked yet, now is the time.

Putting the Word to Work

Studying God's Word for His Truth provides Godly instruction, understanding and guidelines.

We should ask ourselves, "Am I truly listening to what God says?" We should always be "teachable".

May 21

My Plans For You

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 26-29

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts and plans I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome."

In vs 12-14, it says that when we call on Him, inquiring of Him, He will be found. When we do so with all our heart. We can enter His gates daily with thanksgiving in our hearts and enter His courts with praise. By doing so we are agreeing with God's plan; by aligning ourselves with His purpose for our lives.

Isaiah 55:8 & 9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My thoughts higher than your thoughts."

When I lived in TX, my wife and I prayed, asking the Lord when we were to go to Oregon for a vacation. We had July in mind as it was our family reunion time. The Lord said to go at Thanksgiving. In doing so, I was given the poem, Reporting For Duty, plus many testimonies that took place on that trip!

Reporting for Duty, Lord

Reporting for duty, Lord; Is my plea
 Reporting for duty, Lord; I give my all to Thee
 While there's nothing else; That's gonna satisfy me
 For I have tasted of; Your abundance and now I see
 Reporting for duty, Lord; 'Tis my cry
 I'll do what needs done; And ask not why

Reporting for Duty, Lord
 What is it today
 Where to go, what to say
 Let me heed Your word and not stray
 For I am Your vessel, That others might see
 The way to overcome, Follow and rest in Thee
 Reporting for duty, Lord; Is my song
 Your faithfulness, my heart throng
 Reporting for duty, Lord, I long to do
 A vessel of honor unto You

Putting The Word to Work

Such an honor to pursue His Plan. What are some ways we welcome His leading daily?

Week Three Sermon Notes

Week Three Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (*if applicable*): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (*if applicable*): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Final 10 Days of the Month

Final 10 Days of the month Prayer Notes

<p>Specific things I am praying about for my family.</p>	<p>Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.</p>
<p>Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.</p>	<p>People I am praying for their salvation.</p>

May 22

This is the day.

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 30-31

Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Our God is a loving God, who always longed for close wonderful relationship with His people. When the nation of Israel was experiencing a harsh judgement from their rebellion to Him, God was not happy about the judgement but as a loving Father did not disown his children but spoke to them of the coming day when restoration and the fulfillment of His covenant promises was coming. A day in which they would not just know about God, but would know Him. A day of complete forgiveness and restoration. A day when no sin would be remembered and His laws would be written in their hearts and minds. A day when they would know they were the people of God.

This is the day God spoke of, and we are so privileged to live in this day. A day in which we can draw near to God and know, that we know, that we know Him. A day when we don't have to have a relationship with God through a priest or a set of rules, but can have a genuine, personal daily relationship with Him. I'm proud of you for taking the time to invest in your personal relationship with God through participating in the Well, daily picking up your Bible and reading and praying and spending time with Him. Take these promises for yourself today.

Putting the Word to work

For every born again child of God, I let this be your declaration today: *"This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it. I rejoice that by God's grace I am forgiven. I rejoice that he will remember my sin no more. I rejoice that I am a child of God. I rejoice that He is writing His law on my heart and mind. I rejoice that I am in an everlasting covenant with God Almighty. And I rejoice that I can hear His voice."*

May 23

Cleansed and Restored

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 32-34

*Jeremiah 33:7 And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to **return**, and will **rebuild** those places as at the first. 8 I will **cleanse** them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will **pardon** all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me. 9 Then **it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor** before all nations of the earth, who shall hear all the good that I do to them; they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and all the prosperity that I provide for it.'...12 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In this place which is desolate, without man and without beast, and in all its cities, **there shall again be a dwelling place of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down.***

Great turmoil continues throughout the book of Jeremiah. Today we read how things seem to go from bad to worse for this man of God. He is living in a besieged city that is about to be destroyed because no one would pay attention to his warnings and repent, and then he is cast into a nasty, dark, dungeon and kept alive with the bread of affliction. Yet, in the middle of this harsh judgement, God speaks of the coming day of restoration. A day when there will be a return and a rebuilding. A cleansing and a pardoning. A joyous relationship between God and man again. A day when shepherds and flocks will have peace.

There is a woman by the name of Corrie Ten Boom who was arrested in the time of Nazi control in Germany during World War II. She was held as a prisoner in one of the holocaust death camps. Witnessed the execution of family members, experienced the harshest of treatment and was one who survived and lived beyond those days. She would spend the rest of her life traveling the world and preaching of the goodness of God. One of the greatest quotes I have ever heard comes from her and her story, when she would declare, "There is no pit so deep, that He [God] is not deeper still." Wherever you find yourself in life today, can I encourage you, there is a day coming. Stay faithful to Him, and watch as God will cause His plans and purposes to be fulfilled in you.

Putting the Word to work

Is there a time when you or someone you know felt overwhelmed with life and can look back now and rejoice as you have experienced or witnessed God's restoring power? If you have never heard of that kind of story, ask the question to someone from your church or your pastors to share with you a few stories of God's restoring power. Let these memories and testimonies encourage your faith. Especially if you find yourself in a time of relative ease and little turmoil, it is so important we continue to build our faith and strength in good times, not just be a crisis Christian.

May 24

The Reward for Righteousness

Today's Bible Reading - 35-37

Jeremiah 35:18-19 "And Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Because you have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts and done according to all that he commanded you, therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me forever.'"

The Lord instructed the prophet Jeremiah to invite the Rechabites to a feast to test their righteous behavior in devotion to the commandment of their ancestor, Jonadab, to abstain from drinking wine. Without hesitation, the Rechabites refused Jeremiah's offer to drink wine. Then, the Lord used the example of their righteous obedience as an indictment of the children of Israel living in Jerusalem who refused to heed the Lord and His prophets as He pronounced judgment upon them because of their rebellion.

The Bible provides ample proof that God always rewards righteousness. God declares repeatedly His preference for obedience over sacrifice. Jesus told His disciples that they would be rewarded for being doers of the Word. James, the apostle wrote: "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:22-25).

Before the children of Israel entered the promised land, Moses reminded them: "Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess" (Deut. 5:32-33)

On the day God delivered King David from all his enemies including Saul, he wrote a song and declared: "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands, He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all His judgments were before me; and as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity. Therefore, the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in His eyes" (2 Sam. 22:21-25).

Putting the Word to Work

Q: Have you ever been rewarded for righteous behavior?

Q: Have you ever been rewarded for unrighteous behavior?

May 25

Hesitation

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 38-41

Jeremiah 38:17 "Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "This is what the LORD God of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: 'If you surrender to the Babylonian officers, you and your family will live, and the city will not be burned down.'"

Have you ever known the right thing to do, and still hesitated? That's where we find King Zedekiah in Chapter 38. He quietly pulls Jeremiah aside and asks him for a word from the Lord. He does it in private because he is afraid. Afraid of the opinions of others, afraid of what God may ask him to do, and afraid of what obedience may cost him.

Jeremiah's answer is clear, surrender, and you'll live. It's a simple task, but it's a costly one for a king. Zedekiah listens, but he doesn't obey. Instead he stalls, as if more time will change the mind of God. And in the end, the very outcome is the one he feared most. He loses everything, his life is shattered and his family is destroyed. Not because he didn't hear from God, but because he wouldn't act on what he heard.

It's so easy to read these chapters and wonder how he could ignore such a clear warning. However, most of us would probably have to admit that at some point we have done the same thing. We ask God for direction, but we hesitate if the answer stretches us. We ask for clarity, but what if the cost is our comfort. We want guidance, but what if it requires sacrifice. Zedekiah's story is a reminder that delayed obedience is still disobedience. And obedience isn't in hearing, it's in doing. The truth is, the gap between knowing and doing is where some get stuck. So today the question isn't just, "What are you saying to me God?" it's also, "What am I doing with what He's already said?"

Putting the Word to Work

Is there any area in my life I already know what God is asking of me, but I've been hesitant to act?

May 26

Stubborn People

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 42-45

The leadership of Judah came to Jeremiah and asked him to inquire of the Lord what they should do in the circumstances that they were facing. Nebuchadnezzar was coming after them and they were afraid. Jeremiah went to prayer, and ten days later the Lord answered him.

The Lord told them that they were not to flee from Judah and go to Egypt for refuge. If they went there they would surely die, by the sword, by famine and by pestilence (disease). They answered Jeremiah by disputing whether he heard from the Lord at all. Verse 43:2 "...You speak falsely! The Lord your God has not sent you to say, "Do not go to Egypt to dwell there." Why would they go to Jeremiah and ask him to speak to the Lord if they were not going to listen to what the Lord said through Jeremiah? It would appear that they had already made the decision to go to Egypt and were just trying to get the Lord to bless what they had already decided.

This passage of Scripture is so representative of many Christians today. Have you ever gone to the Lord in prayer looking for His blessing on something you have already decided to do? We go before the Lord and seek His face for answers to our circumstances. He sends us an answer, but it doesn't happen to be the one we are looking for. So, we go ahead and do what we wanted to do in the first place and cannot understand why things are going so bad for us.

When you seek the Lord on a specific subject, go with an open mind and an open heart. Don't go with a preconceived agenda. It is very difficult to hear what the Lord is saying if we have already decided what we want to do. If you are going to seek the Lord on any subject, go with the intention of listening to Him no matter what He says. Verse 42:5 "So they said to Jeremiah, "Let the Lord be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not do according to everything which the Lord your God sends us by you."

Seek the Lord for His wisdom and for His blessing, but when you seek Him, do so with an open mind, an open heart, and with the intention of doing what He tells you to do. Do not presume to tell the Lord what needs to be done and how to do it!

Putting the Word to Work

Is there something that you are currently asking the Lord to attend to? Have you been listening to hear His answer, or have you been waiting for Him to tell you what you want to hear? Go before Him in prayer and really listen to what He is saying.

May 27

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 46-48

Jeremiah 46:27 "But do not fear, O My servant Jacob, And do not be dismayed, O Israel! For behold, I will save you from afar, And your offspring from the land of their captivity; Jacob shall return, have rest and be at ease; No one shall make him afraid. 28 Do not fear, O Jacob My servant," says the Lord, "For I am with you; For I will make a complete end of all the nations To which I have driven you, But I will not make a complete end of you. I will rightly correct you, For I will not leave you wholly unpunished."

It does not take a lot of intuition to recognize the coming judgement on the world. Error and sin exists. The kind of error that the Bible teaches God will judge and punish. Nations (people groups) rise, and fall in prominence in accordance to their living in Godly ways. Some people get very nervous about living in a nation surrounded by ungodliness.

Wisdom dictates it is of utmost importance for a person to live personally in accordance with God's laws, but how will God care for the person who serves Him in the midst of an ungodly nation? There are times when I honestly don't know how to answer that question. I do look to the Word of God to see some patterns that do exist. When Egypt was facing judgement, God did give the people of Israel living in the land of Goshen wisdom on what to do and how to thrive in the midst of judgement on the nation they were living in. Here in Jeremiah's day, God is speaking of the judgment coming to many nations, yet promises that He will protect them in the midst of the judgment falling on behalf of others. Noah lived in a highly ungodly era, but God gave Him instructions to build an ark and protected him. Lot living in Sodom was warned and given time to flee to safety before judgement came. The truth I find is this, it is more important for one to keep his or her eyes fixed on the help that comes from the Lord, than it is to become consumed with wickedness in the world that surrounds. Arm yourself with the promises of God's protection and provision that come from the Word of the Lord, and stand firm on those.

Putting the Word to work

To what extent do you get nervous when you see the ugliness that exists in the world? Remind yourself of the temporary nature of the world, and the eternal blessedness of knowing God is preparing a place for you in heaven.

May 28

Ancient Roots & Future Fruits

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 49-50

Jeremiah 49:34 The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet against Elam, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying, 35 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, The foremost of their might. 36 Against Elam I will bring the four winds From the four quarters of heaven, And scatter them toward all those winds; There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go. 37 For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies And before those who seek their life. I will bring disaster upon them, My fierce anger,' says the Lord; 'And I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them. 38 I will set My throne in Elam, And will destroy from there the king and the princes,' says the Lord. 39 'But it shall come to pass in the latter days: I will bring back the captives of Elam,' says the Lord."

The Elamites come from a region near the Medes and Persians, not mentioned often throughout the Bible. In fact, this section of this particular chapter contains more about the Elamites than any other passage in the entire Bible. The name first appears in Genesis 10. One of Noah's sons was Shem. Shem's first listed son was "Elam." You will find the name pop up periodically throughout the Bible, occasionally referring to a different individual who had been given the same name, and on occasion such as in this chapter referring to this people group that became known as the "Elamites."

It takes very little observation to realize that this people group had been influenced by the forces of evil to oppose the work of God which is resulting in this prophetic declaration of judgement against them. Yet, the final verse of this chapter of great judgment carries with it a statement of hope, "I will bring back the captives of Elam, says the Lord." This phrase gives us a glimpse into the heart of the Father, that even in the midst of judgement God still has hope and plans for the future in people.

Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel all had brief mentions of these people, but it is the final time we find the "Elamites" listed that caught my attention. Notice this verse talked about the latter days. In Acts 2 on the great day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out into the upper room, and the apostles were in a prayer meeting, and they went out into the streets declaring the (vs. 12) "wonderful works of God," and a great revival broke out. A great crowd had gathered (vs. 5) says "devout men, from every nation under heaven..." They were all amazed and marveled saying (vs. 8) "How is it we hear, each in our own language..." Verses 9-11 list nations who were gathered and the third listed nation is the "Elamites." The nation that was struck down in Jeremiah's prophecy of judgement, is resurrected in hope and redemption in Acts 2 when the gospel is first publicly declared to the world.

Whatever the ancient roots may be, there is still hope for your future in God.

Putting the Word to work

Who is the most hopeless person you can think of? Are they beyond reach? Are they beyond hope that God could turn them around?

May 29

Title: Flee from the Midst of Babylon

Today's Bible Reading - Jeremiah 51 - 52

Jeremiah 51:6 - Flee from the midst of Babylon, And every one save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, For this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; He shall recompense her.

As the Lord announced the judgment and destruction of Babylon to Jeremiah, He also warned the people living in Babylon to flee before He took vengeance upon Babylon. His warning should remind us of His call to us to come out from the world and be separate, to be holy. Jesus told His disciples that He chose them “out of the world.”

John the apostle wrote (John 15:19) “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” The term, “world” used here by John is not the world of nature – our planet and its environment, nor is it the world of mankind – humanity. No, John used this term to describe an evil, invisible system opposed to God and His children. It is Satan’s system for opposing the work of God on earth. It is the very opposite of what is godly, holy, and spiritual (I John 2:15-17).

Faith is what is required to overcome all that is in the world (I John 5:4). What is essential to our success in conflict is our ability to recognize the nature of the attack and respond appropriately! Sometimes, we take a stand and: FIGHT! And sometimes, we turn around and: FLEE!

If we fail to conduct ourselves correctly in the battle, there is the potential for the world to overcome us. It may happen gradually or all at once. James described how, for the true believer, there can be no compromise – we must not make friends with this evil system: “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4, 5)

Paul admonished the believers in Rome: “And do not be conformed to this world” (Rom. 12:2). Sad to say, being conformed to the world can lead a Christian into being “condemned with the world.” If a believer confesses and judges this sin, God will forgive him; but if he does not confess, God must lovingly chasten him. That’s what Paul conveyed: “But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world” (I Cor. 11:32). When a Christian is “condemned with the world,” he does not lose his sonship. Rather, he loses his testimony and his spiritual usefulness. And in extreme cases, Christians have even lost their lives!

May the Lord grant us courage and wisdom in the spiritual battle!

Putting the Word to work

Q: Describe how your faith has overcome the world:

Q: Describe a situation when you had to flee temptation:

May 30

The Watchman

Today's Bible Reading – Ezekiel 1-4

Ezekiel 3:16-18 “ Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 17 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: 18 When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.”

God set Ezekiel as a watchman over the house of Israel. He was to be aware of the people and what they were doing, and give them God's warning according to their deeds. They were guards responsible for protecting towns and military installations from surprise enemy attacks and other potential dangers. They watched. The Hebrew word translated means, “one who looks out.” The prophet's job as watchman was to urge God's people to live faithfully and warn them of danger in falling away from the Lord and doing evil.

Israel's spiritual watchman bore a heavy responsibility before the Lord. If a prophet failed to warn others as God had appointed him to do, then he would be held accountable for their sins. Their punishment would become the prophet's punishment. Thus, obedience is the only course of action for a true watchman.

The watchmen today are the spiritual leaders in our churches. Their job is the same as it was in the Old Testament. We love the “good news” and should be able to tell the “good news” as well as the bad. Correction could save the people's spiritual lives as well as their own. The responsibility is great.

God sent my mother to a church where the leadership needed to be warned. There were things going on and the pastor wasn't doing his job. It involved his daughter and a member of the congregation. The pastor chose to close his eyes to it. God had specific words for him and he chose to ignore it. In fact, he unmercifully attacked the one God had sent there from His pulpit. Six months later, the pastor was diagnosed with cancer with six months to live. A month before his passing, he called my mother to his bedside to apologize and confess the lack in his spiritual life resulting in repentance. Forgiveness and healing! What a price to pay for his disobedience and what a blessing to my mom for knowing she had done what God called her to do. And she was a witness to the mercy of God in the redemption of one of His saints.

We are called to declare the “good news.” We don't want to miss an opportunity at the risk of someone's spiritual life never being redeemed because we didn't speak up.

Putting the Word to Work

Have you had an opportunity to present the Gospel?

Have you missed opportunities?

What can you do to be more proactive in spreading the Gospel?

May 31

I will leave a remnant, so that you will remember Me...

Today's Bible Reading – Ezekiel 5-8

Ezekiel 7: 27 'The king will mourn, The prince will be clothed with desolation, And the hands of the common people will tremble. I will do to them according to their way, And according to what they deserve I will judge them; Then they shall know that I am the LORD!' "

Speaking through the prophets in many books of the Old Testament, the God of Israel warns and admonishes the people of impending doom for those who turned against God and had gone astray. They didn't just ignore Him as if He was nonexistent, but they created their own idols of deception in His place. These chapters are challenging to read. They beg the question, "Do you believe or not?" We like happy, uplifting Scriptures so we can feel comfortable and good.

When we have difficult times, we must re-evaluate our trust and faith. Do we believe He is there for us? Introspection is needed, and possibly remembrance of past events when He walked with you and me. If you haven't been there yet, build your faith now for the future. Then be grateful for His presence in every circumstance.

Ezekiel 6:8 "Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations... 9 Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations..."

Repeated many times in Ezekiel's prophecies is this phrase: "Then they shall know that I am the LORD!" This needed awareness is the reason for discipline. Disobedience requires action to bring correction. We can be grateful that we are living under the "Blood Covering" with a personal relationship with the Living God. He provides the Holy Spirit within to teach us. We are precious in His sight.

This would be a good time to remember Pastor Bill Sanders' teaching on "LORD" throughout the Bible. When LORD is in all capitals, it tells you that what was originally "YHWH" in Hebrew scripture is "LORD" in our English translation. This occurs 6,686 times in the New King James Version of the Bible. You may say, "That's nice." But it gives me a different picture of YHWH as my personal God who is all powerful, who created all things, and is absolutely omniscient and omnipresent. Think beyond human understanding.

Putting the Word to Work

When seeing "LORD" in Scripture, substitute YHWH (Yaweh) to possibly picture more of who He really is. This works well in the Psalms.

Discipline can be unpleasant. But, remember, "God is as patient with you as you allow Him to be."

Week Four Sermon Notes

Final 10 Days of March Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

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Final 10 Days of March Sermon Notes

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Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Acknowledgements

Special thank you to the following devotional contributors:

Rachael Burke
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For more information about The Father's House, you can check out our website:

thefathershouseint.org or on Facebook or our YouTube channel. Weekly we gather:

Sunday	9 am & 11 am - Sunday Worship Experience
Tuesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Wednesday	9 am - Prayer meeting 5:30 pm - Family dinner at 5:30 6:30 pm - Wednesday Worship Experience
Thursday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Friday	7 pm - Prayer meeting
Saturday	6 pm - Prayer Meeting

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