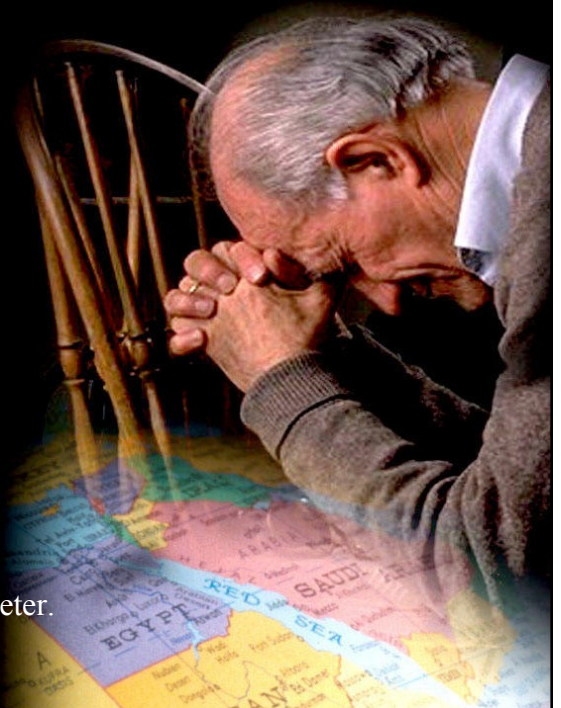


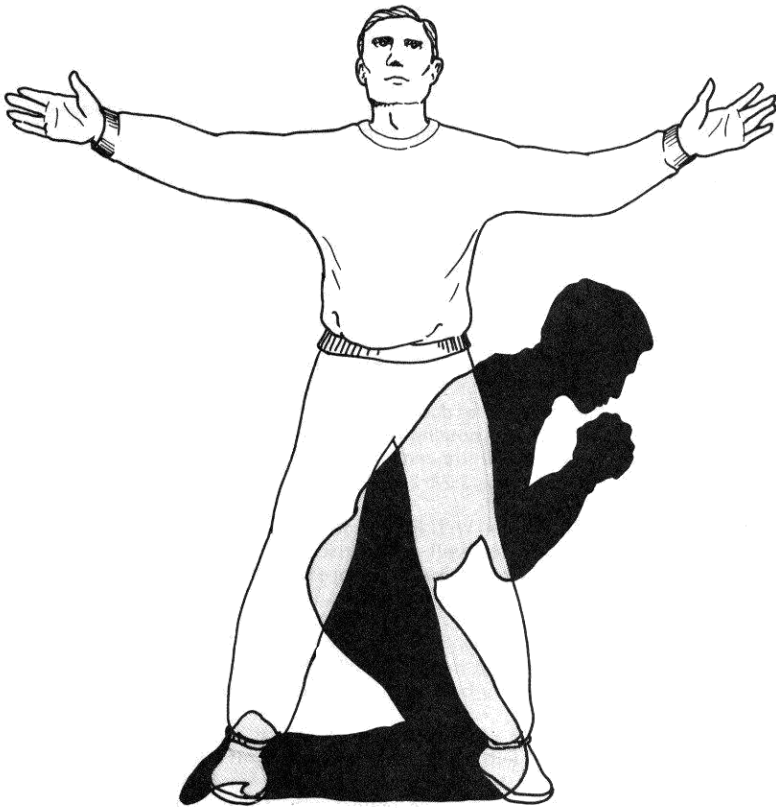
All for Jesus always

November

Jeremiah, Lamentations,
Ezekiel, Titus, Philemon,
Hebrews, James, and 1 & 2 Peter.



*No Christian is greater than
his prayer-life*



How is my prayer-life?

November

*“It’s time to live
a life of
prayer”*

*During this month we’ll read through
and learn from the books of
Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel,
Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, and 1 & 2 Peter.*

*“I have loved you
with an everlasting love”
Jeremiah 31:3*



“She was forgiven many, many sins, and so she is very, very grateful...” (Luke 7:47a; MSG); “...But he who is forgiven little loves little..” (Luke 7:47b; Ampl) - He (or she) who is forgiven much loves much...!!!

1 November: “I have loved you...”

Pray “Lord, thank You for Your love to me!”

Read Jeremiah 31, 32 and Titus 2

Think + write I see in Jeremiah 31 that:

- * I have been like an ***unruly calf*** (v18)
- * I have ***strayed*** from God (v19)
- * I have ***lived in the land of the enemy*** (v16), the dark land of sin, the twilight land of worldliness, the deceptive land of self-gratification.
- * I have ***wandered*** like an ***unfaithful daughter***... (v22). My response to this is:.....

Despite all of what I’ve done, God says:

- ◆ “***I have loved you*** with an everlasting love...” (v3)
- ◆ “***I have drawn you*** with loving-kindness...”
- ◆ “***I will build you up*** again...” (v4)
- ◆ “***I will lead them***... because I am Israel’s father” (v9)
- ◆ “For ***I will forgive*** their wickedness” (v34)
- ◆ “***I will... remember their sins no more***”! (v34)

The ONE condition without which I cannot experience these promises of God is ***repentance*** (Jer 31:19). I’ve seen God’s wonderful ***love*** and God’s persistent ***drawing*** in MY life in the following ways:

1.
2.
3.

I read in Titus 2 that ***the grace of God***

- ✠ ***Brings salvation*** (v11)
- ✠ ***Teaches me to say “NO”!!!*** ...to ungodliness and worldly passions (v12) and desires...
- ✠ ***Teaches me to live*** self-controlled, upright and godly lives ***in this present age*** (v12)

I desperately need to learn (through the grace of God) to constantly, daily, minute-by-minute say “NO!” to ungodly thoughts, ungodly feelings, ungodly desires, and all forms of worldly desires...

Pray “Father, help ME to always say ‘***YES***’ to You, and ‘***NO***’ to ***sin*** and any form of ungodliness and worldly desires.”

Go + Do say “***NO!***” to ***sin*** and “***YES!***” to ***Jesus***, always!

2 November: Refuse like the Recabites...!

Pray “*Lord Jesus, please help me to be like the Recabites.*”

Read Jeremiah 33-35 and Titus 3

Think + write God gives us amazing promises in His Word. He says that Nothing is too hard for Him (Jer 32:17); He says:

- ⇒ I will **bring** My people **back** from captivity (33:7)
- ⇒ I will have **compassion** on them (v26)
- ⇒ I will **cleanse** them from all the sin they have committed (33:8)
- ⇒ I will **forgive** all their sins (33:8)
- ⇒ I will **heal** My people (v6)
- ⇒ I will **answer** them and **reveal** unsearchable things to them (v3)
- ⇒ I will **give** them singleness of heart and action ...so that they will always fear Me (32:39)
- ⇒ I will **inspire** them to fear Me, so that they will never turn away from Me (32:40). To me, these last two statements mean that.....

I can learn a lot from the **Recabites!** When they were taken by the prophet to the house of God and told to drink some wine, they **refused!** They said, “We do **NOT** drink wine, because our forefather Jonadab... gave us this command...” (Jer 35:1-10). It may happen that I go to a church gathering, to the house of the Lord, to a Christian meeting...and there I am told to do something (by the preacher or person leading the worship, for instance) which my parents or God taught me NOT to do or get involved in, then I should **REFUSE** to do it, as the Recabites did! Some of the examples that come to my mind of such situations are:

-
-
-

We can even include as possible examples the *forced* holding of hands during singing or praying; the exposure in the church service to ungodly, so-called “Christian” rock music; the worldly forms of dancing during singing; the “Christian” peer pressure to have a boyfriend or a girlfriend; the following of worldly fashions in our clothing, etc. The Recabites **REFUSED**, even when told to do something by the prophet.

Pray “Lord, help me to **REFUSE** to follow others (even Christians) when they tell me to do something You told me NOT to do.”

Go + Do what GOD told me, NOT what others tell me!!!!

"I refuse!"

- I refuse to sin again
- I refuse to be worldly
- I refuse to follow the crowd
- I refuse to compromise
- I refuse to neglect Christ
- I refuse to neglect the Bible
- I refuse to have a boyfriend
- I refuse to have a girlfriend
- I refuse to date
- I refuse to listen to rock music
- I refuse to loose my love 4 Jesus!
- I refuse to become cold or "cool"

3 November: Remember!

Pray “Lord, may I always remember You...!”

Read Jeremiah 36-37 and Philemon

Think + write Yesterday, I saw from Titus 3 that there are things I need to be reminded of (v1). I am reminded to*...





- **Remember what I should do** in this world (v1-2)
- **Remember what I was**: ...I was “foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures”... (v3). Pleasures can be very enslaving! Perverse pleasures pollute me and leads me to hell. Pure pleasures protect me and leads me to heaven!
- **Remember what God did for me** (v4-7)...!!! “He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit” (v5;MSG)
- **Remember what God expects of me** (v8-11). He says: “Our people have to learn to be diligent in their work...” (v14;MSG). This means that.....

.....

Paul wrote to Philemon that he providentially met his runaway slave, Onesimus, who had become a believer and that he should receive him back as a brother, not as a slave. Before he had met Christ, Onesimus was “useless” (Philemon 11), but now he had become “useful”, which is also the meaning of his name! From this I learn that.....

.....

God wants me to be useful to Him, not as a slave, but as a son (or a daughter)! This is amazing and wonderful! Through Jeremiah 36 I also learn how God’s Word was received by some and rejected by others. I see that*:

-  God’s Word was **written** (v1-4) through the Lord.
-  God’s Word was **announced** (v5-10) by His servants.
-  God’s Word was **destroyed** (v11-26) by a man. The king showed no fear for God’s Word. After he heard it read to him, he cut off what was read to him with a knife and threw it in the fire (v23)...
-  God’s Word was **preserved** (v27-32). ...Ps 119:89 & Matt 24:35.

Pray “Father, please help me NOT to cut out and throw out ANY of Your words in the Bible. Amen”

Go + Do what is written in God’s precious Word.

4 November: Don't be taken by the enemy!

Pray “Lord, my life is meant for YOU, please keep me true to You”

Read Jeremiah 38-39 and Hebrews 1

Think + write Jerusalem means “place of Peace”. It is also (figuratively speaking) the place of the Presence of God, the Power of God, and the Protection of God. My personal life should (through God) be such a place. I am like a city on a hill (Matt 5:14). Satan wants to conquer and take the city of my soul for his evil purposes. I read in Jeremiah 39 how Jerusalem was taken by the enemy...

- They targeted the city (v1).
- They surrounded it and laid siege to it.
- They fought for many, many months (v2).
- They broke through the city walls (v2).
- The conquered the city.
- The broke down the walls and burned the city (v8).
- The killed many and took others captive (v7,9), along with those who had become disheartened during the battle & had deserted Jerusalem and the Lord's army, and had gone over to the enemy (v9b).

I learn from this that the enemy will try to take me too:


- Satan (and his servants in this world) will target me.
- They will surround me (at school and at 'varsity and wherever...).
- They will put pressure on me day after day, week after week, month after month... to surrender to their ways of compromise and sin!
- They will attack me and seek to break through the walls of protection (the walls of godly standards) around me... They will seek to get a weakness, a weak spot, a low place in my wall of protection...
- They have one aim: to get into my thoughts, my feelings, my life—and conquer me for darkness, destroy me, and glorify Satan and sin!

BUT..., praise God, He says that if I TRUST in Him, He WILL save me, He will rescue me, I will not fall, I will escape with my life, I will NOT be handed over to the enemy!! (Jer 39:17,18) Thank You, Lord!

The main lessons I learned are that.....
.....
.....

Pray “Father, I am Yours. Please help me keep my walls strong.”

Go + Do what is needed to always resist and never surrender!



*Lord, what do You
want me to do?
Where do You want
me to go?*

5 November: God speaks

Pray “Lord, thank You for speaking to me too...”

Read Jeremiah 40-42 and Hebrews 2

Think + write I read in Hebrews 1:2 that “in these last days He has spoken to us...” I can ask myself: When last did God speak to me? Do I hear His voice? Oswald Chambers explains in “*The Discipline of Divine Guidance*” how God speaks to us by

His **Sayings** (His Word)

His **Symbols** (circumstances & nature)

His **Servants** (who walk closely with Him)

His **Sympathy**

His **Son** (Heb 1:2)

His **Spirit**: (in my spirit)

At a certain time in the history of Israel I read that “all the people from the least to the greatest” asked Jeremiah (42:1-3): “***Pray that the Lord your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do.***” This is very important. As a Christian and follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, I also want to pray daily:

“Lord, where do You want me to go?”

“Lord, what do You want me to do?”

They said: “***Whether it is favorable or unfavorable, we will obey the Lord our God...***” (Jer 42:6). When I look at my own life, these verses mean the following to me:.....

.....

The one thing God clearly told them (after this prayer) was: “***Do NOT go to Egypt***” (Jer 42:19); ***do NOT go to the world***. This means that....

.....

I learn through Hebrews 2 that I should*

◆ **Hear Him** (v1-4), not my own thoughts or others’ voices...

◆ **See Him** (v5-9), not man in his fallen state...

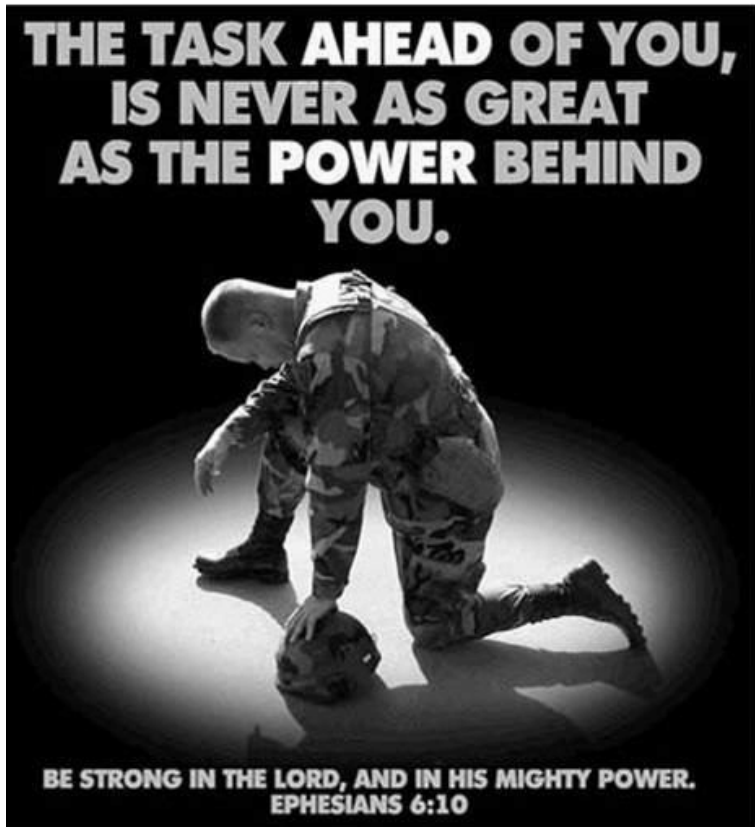
◆ **Trust Him** (v10-18), even in a time of temptation...

Pray “Father, I want to hear Your voice and listen to You only”

Go + Do what He told me to do!

Be strong to FIGHT

Be strong to OBEY



Be strong to PRAY!

6 November: Don't be deceived by sin!

Pray “Oh Lord, please help me not to be deceived by sin...!”

Read Jeremiah 43-45 and Hebrews 3

Think + write Baruch was the faithful secretary and servant of Jeremiah. He suffered a lot and shared in the prophet's trials. The first copy he wrote of the prophecy by Jeremiah was burned to ashes by the king. He could have become discouraged, or bitter, or jealous, or covetous for worldly position or possessions or pleasures... The message that came to him from God shows (also to me) that*:

God sees my work

God knows my trials

God hears my words

God meets my needs

I read in Jer 45:5 - “*Should you seek great things for yourself? Seek them NOT...*” To me, this means that.....

The things that many young people usually seek, are the following:

1.
2.
3.
4.

The Word of God shows me in Hebrews to rather:

Fix my thoughts on Jesus (Heb 3:1)

Obey Him (v7,18)

Trust Him (v12-19)

To “***fix my thoughts on Jesus***” practically means that I.....

I am also warned that *sin is deceitful*, and that the deceitfulness of sin will harden my heart if I allow it in my life. ***Sin makes a person think that what is wrong is right, and what is right is wrong.*** This is VERY DANGEROUS!!! I need to make sure that NO SIN, not even a “little sin” stays in my heart or mind!!!

Pray “Oh Lord, give me a hatred for sin, even the smallest sin...”

Go + Do fix my thoughts on Jesus.

7 November: Use the Sword...!

Pray “Lord, please fill me with Your Holy Spirit.”

Read Jeremiah 46-48 and Hebrews 4

Think + write God says:

◆ “***A curse on him who is lax in doing the Lord’s work!***” (Jeremiah 48:10a), “who does the work of the Lord negligently” (Ampl). “Sloppy work in God’s name is cursed” (MSG). From this I learn that.....

◆ “***A curse on him who keeps his sword from bloodshed!***” (Jer 48:10b). Jesus said: “Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a ***sword***” (Mat 10:34). He said: “If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away! It is much better for you to lose one of your limbs than to have your whole body go off to hell” (Mat 5:30;GNB). “For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two-edged ***sword***, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow...” (Heb 4:12). The “***sword*** of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Eph 6:17). This teaches me that.....

If I neglect to use the Sword of the Spirit to kill or to cut off everything in my life that is not of God, a curse will be on me! Some examples of what I had to kill or cut off, ...or what I’ll have to kill or cut off (with the Lord’s help) are:

-
-
-

George MacDonald said: “*A wound from that sword needs no dressing. It is healing and not hurt...*” If I refuse to use this Sword, my heart will be hardened and I’ll grieve the Spirit of God.

Pray “Father, please help me to ***USE*** the Sword to cut off & kill what needs to be cut off & killed in my life.”

Go + Do it with all my heart—for Jesus’ sake.

**Take
the Sword
and USE IT**



The Bible is "the Sword of the Spirit."



8 November: Be bold ...to pray!

Pray “Lord, please teach me to pray...”

Read Jeremiah 49-50 and Hebrews 5



Think + write I read in Hebrews 4:16, “***Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence (boldness)***, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” “Having therefore... boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus” (Heb 10:19). “We must never allow the idea that because we have been obedient, because our need is great, because we long for it, therefore God will hear us. There is only one way into the holiest, and that is by the blood of Jesus” (Oswald Chambers) Because of Christ’s death on the Cross I can now approach God’s throne of grace with confident boldness and submission. When ***I come to God in prayer*** my attitude is usually.....

.....

.....

I read that “during the days of Jesus’ life on earth, ***he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears*** to the One who could save him from death, and ***he was heard because of his reverent submission***” (Heb 5:7), not because of His cries and tears.

“In those days, at that time... the people... together ***will go in tears to seek the Lord*** their God. They will ask the way to Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and ***BIND themselves to the Lord*** in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten” (Jer 50:4,5). From this I learn that.....

.....

.....

Jacob was wrestling with God when others were sleeping. Thomas Brooks, a Puritan preacher, said: (1) “The people of God in all ages have ***addicted themselves to private prayer.***” (2) “Consider that, as secret meals make fat bodies, so secret duties (prayer) make fat souls...” (3) “Keep close to our closets... be frequent and constant in private prayer... ***be often with God in a corner...***” ***My personal private prayer life*** is.....

.....

.....

Pray “Father, please help me to pray...”

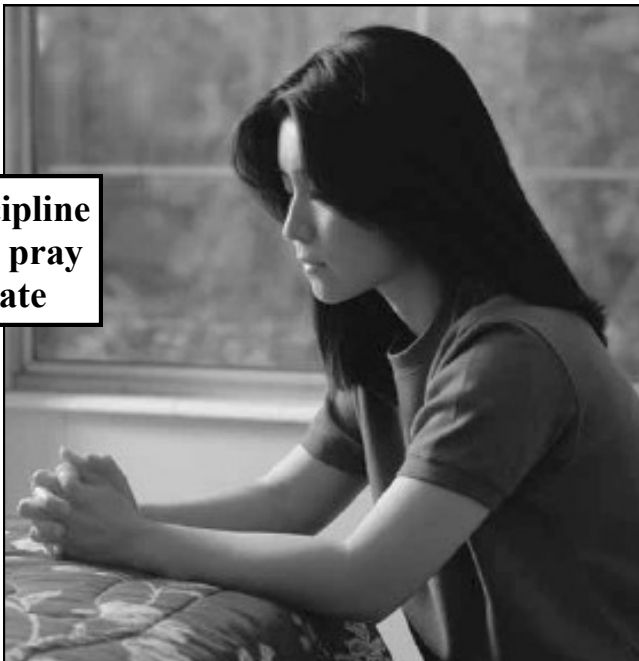
Go + Do it...!

Public Prayer



**I am not
ashamed of
Jesus**

Private Prayer



**I will discipline
myself to pray
in private**

*“Little of the Word with little prayer
is death to the spiritual life.*

*Much of the Word with little prayer
gives a sickly life.*

*Much prayer with little of the Word
gives more life, but without steadfastness.*

*A full measure of the Word and prayer
each day
gives a healthy and powerful life.”*

Andrew Murray



Oh Lord, please
teach me to
PRAY...



“It is not prayer that is strenuous, but
the overcoming of our own laziness.”

Oswald Chambers

“Talking to men for God is a great thing,
but talking to God for men is greater still.”

E.M. Bounds

What is prayer?

Prayer is talking with God, listening to Him, worshipping Him, having communion with Him... Prayer is love, prayer is climbing, prayer is war... It includes doing spiritual warfare, praying against evil spirits' workings, in Jesus' Name.

Why pray?

- ◆ It is a most wonderful privilege to talk to God...!
- ◆ It is the normal response ("cry") of a born-again person.
- ◆ It is the response ("cry") of the Spirit of God in me...
- ◆ Because, through it, I get to know God better.
- ◆ Because there is a devil... (Eph 6:12).
- ◆ Because it is God's way of giving and working (James 4:2).
- ◆ Because it is the way the Lord Jesus lived (Mark 1:35).
- ◆ Because it is the most important aspect of His present ministry (Heb 7:25).
- ◆ Because it is the way God ordained that we should receive His mercy and grace to help in times of need (Heb 4:16).
- ◆ Because it is God's appointed way of giving His Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13).
- ◆ It is needed of me to ask God to work...
- ◆ It is commanded by God that I do it (1Thess 5:17).
- ◆ It is the desire of God that I talk to Him.... (SoS 2:14).
- ◆ It is God's ordained way to work on earth.
- ◆ It is my heart's desire and longing to talk with the Lord as my Father and Savior and Provider and Protector and Life... and All...!
- ◆ It will glorify God...

Why do some people not pray?

It seems to me that those who do NOT pray to God are maybe:

- ☹ Not born again.
- ☹ Living in sin.
- ☹ Bound or hindered by demonic forces.
- ☹ Grieving, resisting, or quenching the Holy Spirit.
- ☹ Hypocrites...
- ☹ Lazy or have a lack of spiritual discipline.

How pray?

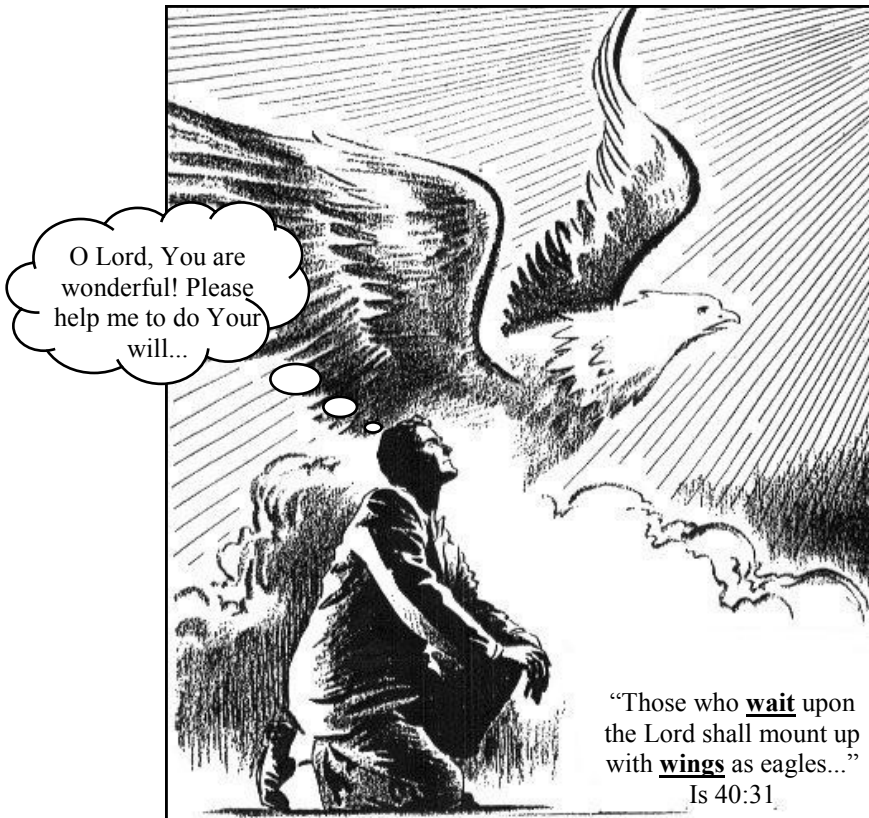
- ✚ Pray to God (Acts 12:5).
- ✚ Pray abiding in Christ (John 15:7).
- ✚ Pray with a clear conscience (1 John 3:21,22).
- ✚ Pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14,15; Matt 6:10).
- ✚ Pray in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18).
- ✚ Pray with understanding (1 Co 14:15).
- ✚ Pray with the help of the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of Prayer" (Rom 8:26 & Zech 12:10), the Spirit of Christ...
- ✚ Pray through Christ's Life in and through me...
- ✚ Pray in the Name of Christ (John 16:24).
- ✚ Pray in faith, trusting in God (Matt 21:22).
- ✚ Pray according to God's promises in the Word (Ex 32:13).
- ✚ Pray with thanksgiving (Phil 4:6,7).
- ✚ Pray with perseverance (Luke 18:1).
- ✚ Pray truthfully, honestly, without pretense and "religiosity."
- ✚ Pray while obeying God (1 John 3:22).
- ✚ Pray, based on Christ's finished work on the Cross...
- ✚ Pray with an active determination and will, according to God's will, and NOT passively...
- ✚ Pray "with all manner of prayer" (Eph 6:18): "A.C.T.S." - Adoration & praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication & intercession & Spiritual warfare.

"Prayer is converse and fellowship with God in which God has time and opportunity to work in us; in which our souls die to their own will and power and become bound up and united with God"

- Andrew Murray

When pray?

- Early in the morning (Mark 1:35).
- Sometimes all night (Luke 6:12).
- Before great crises... (Luke 6:12,13).
- After great achievements... (Matt 14:23).
- When unusually busy... (Luke 5:15,16).
- Before and during temptations (Matt 26:36).
- Without ceasing, ...at all times... (1 Thess 5:17).



“Without set times of prayer,
the spirit of prayer will be dull and feeble.
Without the continual prayerfulness,
the set times will not avail.”

Andrew Murray

9 November: **Don't go back...Do go on!**

Pray “Lord, please draw me and keep me true to You.”

Read Jeremiah 51-52 and Hebrews 6

Think + write God says: “*Flee from Babylon!* Run for your lives!”. In other words: *Flee from the world...!* But, what does this mean? What does it mean to “*flee from the world!*”...?! The way I understand the Word of God, it means that.....

.....
.....
.....

I need to ask myself: Do I flee from the world and from worldliness? Or am I striking a “balance” with worldliness?! Am I clearly other-worldly or am I worldly...?!



**Am I other-worldly
or am I worldly?!**

Jehoiachin, the king of Judah, was released from prison by the new king of Babylon. He “put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king’s table” (Jer 52:32). This is the situation with *many Christians today*—after they were set free by the Lord, *they sit and eat regularly at the table of Babylon*, the table of the world. *They regularly take in what the world offers them on a plate.* They eat and enjoy and devour and drink in what the WORLD has to offer them, especially through the TV...! This is very sad.

I learn from the book of Hebrews: “**Don't go back... Do go on...!!!**” Don't go back to my old sins, don't go back to the world and worldly ways, don't go back to old worldly friends... But rather GO ON with God!!!

Pray “Father, help me NEVER to go back to my old life, but to go on with You...!!!”

Go + Do go on with God, whatever the cost!

As an exhortation, “**Let us...**” is written many times in Hebrews:

Let us fear to come short of entering His rest (4:1).

Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest (4:11).

Let us hold fast our profession (4:14).

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace (4:16).

Let us go on unto perfection (maturity) (6:1).

Let us draw near (to God) with a true heart in ...faith (10:22).

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith (10:23).

Let us consider how we may spur one another on (10:24).

Let us not give up meeting together (10:25).

Let us encourage one another (10:25b).

Let us throw off everything that hinders...and the sin... (12:1).

Let us run with patience (perseverance) the race... (12:1).

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... (12:2).

Let us be thankful... (12:28).

Let us go forth unto Him outside the camp... (13:13).

The message in
Hebrews:



The Facts... and God's Feelings!

In the book of Lamentations God shows us the sad facts about the families, the young people and the older people, even in *our* day and age (in the 21st century), ...as well as the sorrowful feelings of God about it all. The following quotations reveal some of the sad facts:

- ◆ The city (the families) have become **deserted, desolate, empty, dead**...(Lam 1:1)
- ◆ She who was once a queen (ruling over sin and Satan) has now become a **slave** to food, fashion, opinions of people, the world, lust, music, covetousness, Facebook, Whatsapp, Viber, MXit, etc. (1:5)
- ◆ “Her young children are **captured** and taken away as slaves” (1:5; *Living Bible*) through “Christian” rock music, TV, internet, cell phones, computer games, sms, drugs, drink, etc... “Her virgins have been dragged away” to shops, shows, cinemas, parties, parks, the beach, music festivals, “sleep-overs”, rooms, clubs, cars, corners... (1:4)
- ◆ Her enemies have become her masters (1:5) - her **spiritual enemies** (like pride, self-confidence, self-gratification, lust, laziness, disobedience, disrespect, rebellion, irritability, love-for-the-world, etc.) have become her **rulers**... How sad! No wonder Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet!
- ◆ “all her lovers” (and what/who she loved) left her **empty, wounded, weeping, lonely and without comfort**...(1:2-3)
- ◆ “all her friends” **betrayed** her, they have become her enemies, they have **dumped** her (1:6). See 1 Co 15:33
- ◆ “Princes (the young men) are like **starving** deer... helpless game... **too weak to keep on running from their foes**” (1:6). See 2 Tim 2:22. They start running away from sin and then stop running away after a while. Why? They are weak, they don't eat the Word of God.
- ◆ “Jerusalem remembers **the DAY she lost everything**” (1:7). You can loose your purity... - everything... - in a day, in an hour...
- ◆ She (the young people) have **sinned greatly**, they have become unclean, “they have seen her **nakedness**” (short tops, see-through blouses, low V-neck tops, scanty swimming costumes). “**Filthiness clung to her skirts**” (slits to show legs; tight to show shape). This made her to NOT be honored any more. **She did not consider her**

God says:
**“Look around
and see...”**
Lam 1:12

future! “The enemy has triumphed”! (1:8)

- ◆ Forbidden persons lay hands on her treasures (1:10). 1 Co 7:1 “It is good for a man NOT to **touch** a woman”. It is sin to allow any boy or man who is not your husband to “touch” you impurely, ever!
- ◆ **Neighbors** have become their enemies (1:17)
- ◆ Children **rebelled** and **chose their own way** (1:18)
- ◆ **“Her gates have sunk** into the ground” (2:9) See Song of Songs 4:12). Many young people and families have **opened the gates for sin**, the world, rock music, fashion, modern hairstyles, boyfriends, girlfriends, dating, dancing, card-playing, violent computer games.... With devastating consequences.
- ◆ **“The law is no more”**...“no longer visions from the Lord” (2:9; Joel 2:28)
- ◆ **“the elders sit on the ground in silence”**!!!!...in passivity... (2:10)
- ◆ **“children are fainting** all over the place”, they faint in the streets of the city...They are weak, they loose strength, **they can’t stand on their own**, they can’t walk on their own, they fall down....“They faint like wounded men” (2:11) They can’t stand against the tide...
- ◆ Isaiah 3:16 “The daughters/woman of Zion are haughty, walking along with outstretched necks, and with undisciplined eyes/**firting with their eyes**”... “with wanton eyes that rove among the crowds to catch the glance of the men, tripping along with mincing steps, with ornaments jingling on their anklets...”; “Zion women are stuck-up, prancing around in their high heels, making eyes at all the men in the streets, swinging their hips, tossing their hair...” *Many of our daughters are good Shoppers, but not good Soul-winners! They are Models, not Missionaries! Fashionable, but not Fruitful?!*
- ◆ The enemy **swallowed** her up... (2:16)
- ◆ **“Oh, oh, oh... How gold is treated like dirt**, the finest gold thrown out **with the garbage**, Priceless jewels scattered all over, jewels loose **in the gutters...**” (4:1,2) This is what is happening to many young people today !!!!
- ◆ Mothers are like ostriches who are careless about their eggs (their children), they show a lack of attention to their young, and actually desert their young. The children are hungry and thirsty, but they have nothing to drink. Their mother’s spiritual breasts are DRY; the fathers give them NO bread! They have no family prayers, no family altar...(4:3,4)
- ◆ Those used to the latest fashion, **now lie cleaving to refuse** and ash heaps. Children brought up with “everything”, **end up in the dirt**,

**“Oh, oh, oh...
let your tears
flow like a
river...”**
Lam 1:1;2:18

dying...!! (4:5)

- ◆ **Mothers** killed their own children (4:10) - through abortion or allowing them to look at poison on the TV, the internet or in the magazines, etc...
- ◆ “Our homes are filled with **foreigners**” (5:2) - the TV’s hellish heroes, or Bollywood’s boys and girls...
- ◆ Our homes are “**fatherless**” (5:3), mothers are like widows... Fathers are absent workaholics or “absent” even though present.
- ◆ “Our fathers sinned”... “Our parents sinned... and now we are paying for the wrong they did” (5:7; MSG)
- ◆ Women and virgins were ravished ...brought low/ ...**raped** (5:11) - if not physically, then mentally by what they see or by the words or music they hear, even in church or at youth meetings.
- ◆ “Elders are shown **no respect**”...(5:12)

Summarized: Lamentations 1:20

“Lord, I repent and pray for mercy!”

Outside the home: the **sword** (of sin)
wounds, bereaves, kills...

Inside the home: there is **famine**, pestilence,
spiritual sickness, and spiritual death...
That’s why the children want to go
“out”...only to be wounded and
killed....

What-to-do?!

Lamentations 3: 19-29 “Yet, God...”;

Ch 3:40-42 **Return ...Repent!**

Ch 2:18,19 **Rise up! ...Pray!!**



In Lamentations we see,
according to David Pawson:

Ch 1: **Catastrophe** - “**she**”, the daughter (the youth, the church) is destroyed, devastated, down in the dirt, depressed, deeply wounded, defiled, dying...

Ch 2: **Cause** - “**He**”, the Lord, allowed the young people & parents to reap what they have sown, according to His spiritual laws...

Ch 3: **Cure** - “**I**”, the prophet (the man or woman of God); the faithful Christian’s agony, afflictions, assurance and admonition...

Ch 4: **Consequences** - “**They**” (the people of God) are in need...

Ch 5: **Cry** - “**We**” (as prophet and people of God) cry out & repent...

10 November: Get up & cry out in prayer!

Pray “Lord, please fill me with Your Spirit - to pray.”

Read Lamentations 1-2 and Hebrews 7

Think + write When I look at the state of many young people (and older people) in our world (also as shown in the previous pages), I can identify with Jeremiah when he said: “**Let your tears flow like a river** day and night; give yourself no relief, your eyes no rest. **Arise, cry out in the night... pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to Him...**” (Lam 2:18-19). “Give out heart-cries to the Master, dear repentant Zion. Let the tears roll like a river, day and night, and keep at it... **Get up and cry out in prayer**” (MSG). God answers prayer. He commands me to pray. He commands me to pray for others... When I evaluate my present prayer life I see that:.....

.....

.....

.....

Dr Andrew Murray said: “***Prayer is... the pulse of the spiritual life***”. By taking my prayer “pulse,” I can see if I am spiritually sick or not. **Prayerlessness is sin**. I read in 1 Sa 12:23, “...as for me, far be it from me that I should ***sin*** against the Lord ***by ceasing (failing) to pray*** for you...” To REMEDY this sad situation of prayerlessness (in a sick world that’s speeding to hell), I need to consider the following points:

- ✠ **Failure**: I need to realize and acknowledge my failure to pray as I should, ...and fall down in utter helplessness before the Lord, who alone is able to save me from it and strengthen me to remedy it.
- ✠ **Faith**: I need to put my faith in Him to forgive me, cleanse me, and work in me to pray according to His will... All self-struggling and self-striving is doomed to fail again... I cannot conquer the flesh by the flesh. I can only conquer the flesh by the Spirit of Christ living in me and through me... I need to let go of sin, self-effort and the world... and lay hold of God and His life of prayer..
- ✠ **Fighting**: To keep on believing in the Lord to deliver me from prayerlessness and to live His life of prayer through me is a “fight of faith”. This is a striving in the Spirit, not in the flesh... Praise the Lord!

Pray “Father, may Your life of prayer live in me” **Go + Do** it.

11 November: Don't let it happen...!

Pray “Lord, please keep me humble and true to You.”

Read Lamentations 3-5 and Hebrews 8

Think + write What was once precious and pure can become cheap and polluted. Those who were once shining for the Lord can lose their luster and become dull and drab, because of sin (Lam 4:1-2). It was believed by many people that the enemies would never “enter the gates of Jerusalem... but it happened, because of the sins” (Lam 4:12,13). In the same way, many people believe that they will never allow this or the other sin in their lives, ...but it happens! They may say: I will never have a boyfriend or a girlfriend (as the world does)! I will never smoke! I will never lie! I will never date! I will never drink! I will never become sexually impure!... Oh, but it happens!! How it breaks the heart of God!! Why does it happen? The Bible says: ...because of sins (4:13). If I allow ONE SIN to stay in my heart, it WILL deceive me, harden my heart and betray me to more sins. The result is: the enemies have entered my gates and devastated my life! That is why I read: “Therefore let anyone who thinks he stands [*who feels sure that he has a steadfast mind and is standing firm*], **take heed** lest he fall [*into sin*]” (1 Co 10:12). May the Lord help us. My response to this truth from God’s Word is:.....

.....
In *The Message* translation I read: “Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.”

The Cure for the Catastrophe among many of the young people of our generation is **Christ**. He says I should:

- ✓ **Examine** my ways and test them.
- ✓ **Return** to Him.
- ✓ Lift up my hands and heart to Him in **prayer**.
- ✓ **Confess** my sins (Lam 3:40-42).

My response to this is:.....

Pray “Father, I choose to stay in Your arms for the rest of my life”

Go + Do put my confidence in God to keep me.

Prayer to God

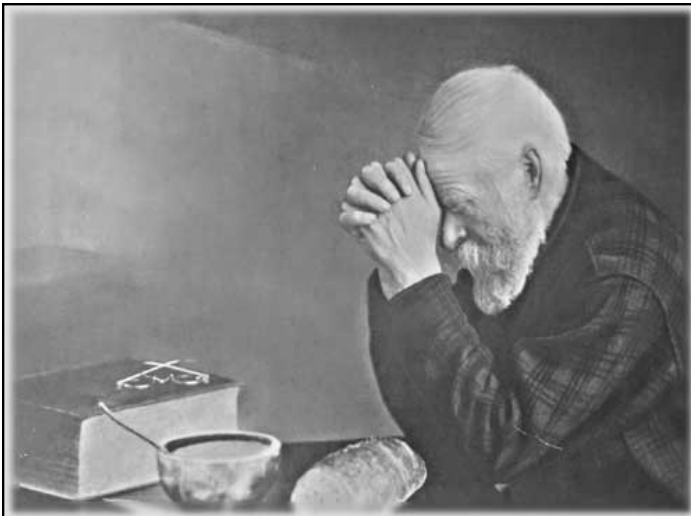
“A.C.T.S.”

A : Adoration

C : Confession of sins

T : Thanksgiving

**S : Supplication &
Intercession &
Spiritual warfare**



12 November: I'm burning for Jesus!

Pray “Lord, make my life a living flame of Your pure love.”

Read Ezekiel 1-3 and Hebrews 9

Think + write I learn that the Lord wants me to be like the living creatures that were revealed in Ezekiel’s vision...

- ◆ Each one went straight ahead—there was no crookedness (Ezek 1:9) and no turning back! They did not turn as they went—they did not deviate from their goal, they stayed on course!
- ◆ They went wherever the Spirit went (v12).
- ◆ They were like burning coals of fire—they were on fire for God!
- ◆ They were like torches—burning for the Lord & giving light (v13).
- ◆ Though human, through God, they were fierce like a lion, strong like an ox and swift like an eagle... (v10)
- ◆ They functioned in unity with the Spirit of God and with each other (v9). Compared to them, I realize that I need the Lord to do the following *in my life*:.....

.....
.....
.....

For the Lord to send me and use me by His grace, I need to:

- ⇒ ***Stand up*** and not sit down lazily or lie down in defeat (2:1).
- ⇒ ***Listen carefully*** to His words (Ezek 2:8; 3:10).
- ⇒ ***Eat what He gives me*** (2:8; 3:1-3), which means I need to take it in, digest it and make it part of my life.
- ⇒ ***Fill myself with His words*** (3:3).
- ⇒ ***Take all the words He speaks to me to heart*** (3:10).
- ⇒ ***Go*** at His command, on His instructions (3:4).
- ⇒ ***Be filled by His Holy Spirit*** (3:2).
- ⇒ I read in Hebrews 9:14 that the blood of Jesus Christ will ***cleanse my conscience*** ...so that I may serve the living God!

Here, in Hebrews 9:14, is a great “secret”: ...Christ offered himself (surrendered himself) to God “through the eternal Spirit”. In the same way, when I want to surrender myself fully to God, I can be enabled to do it through the Spirit! I need to therefore rely on the Spirit of God that He will enable me to make the complete surrender that is needed to serve God fully!

Pray “Father, through Your Spirit enabling me, I surrender ALL to You - now and for ever. Amen.” **Go + Do** live it out in service.

.13 November: Don't get "wasting disease"!

Pray *"Lord, may my life not be a wasted life...!"*

Read Ezekiel 4-6 and Hebrews 10:1-23

Think + write In many parts of Africa AIDS is commonly called "wasting disease," because the people who get it become thinner and thinner (due to frequent episodes of diarrhea or due to TB) - they slowly **waste away**... God says, "They will be appalled at the sight of each other and will **waste away** *because of their sin*" (Ezek 4:17). Most people who contract HIV get the virus "*because of their sin*," because of immoral behavior.

It is important to realize though that immoral behavior is the end-result of a whole chain of events... It may start with maybe just ONE look, ONE smile, ONE feeling allowed, ONE thought accepted, ONE social outing, ONE drink, ONE talk with someone alone, ONE sms responded to, ONE touch, ONE meal together, ONE desire not surrendered to Christ... I read in Psalm 106 that a person may decide NOT to wait for God's counsel (v13) and give in to a certain craving (v14). God may then give them what they asked for, but send "a wasting disease upon them" (v15). This is very sad. To avoid this from happening in my life I decide to:.....
.....
.....
.....

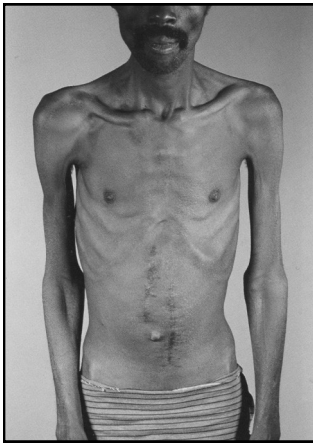
Even people who don't have AIDS may have "**wasting disease**," when their lives are wasted by living for themselves, the world or for sin!

I read in Ezek 6 about the **Ruin** (v1-7,11-14) that can be followed by **Remembering** the Lord and by **Repentance** (v8-10). Someone said: "*The sin that breaks the heart of God should break our hearts as well.*" **Remission** of my sins is only possible because of the shedding of Christ's precious blood on the Cross for me. "Without the shedding of (His) blood there is NO forgiveness" (Heb 9:22b,14). Christ's forgiveness is so glorious and godly that He says: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more" (Heb 10:17). To this I can only say:

Pray *"Oh Father,.....
.....Amen."*

Go + Do this: "*I have come to DO your will, O God.*" (Heb 10:7)

“Wasting Disease” : AIDS



Wasted and weak
Woman in India with AIDS

**Waste not!
Worship God!**

Wasted African man



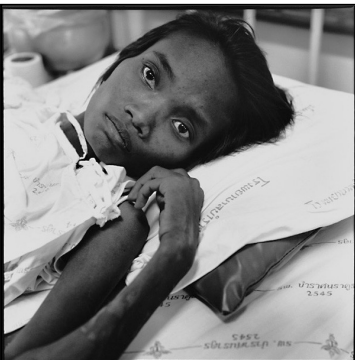
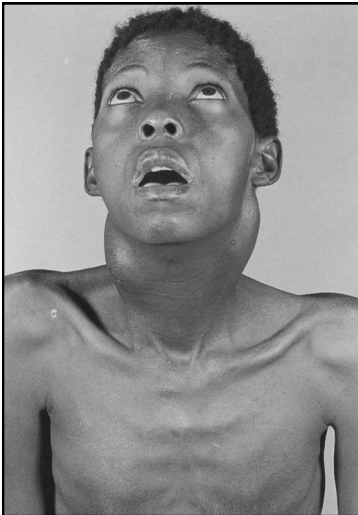
Weak White man with Kaposi sarcoma

HIV is transmitted from one person to another through

- Body fluid mixing (especially during sexual intimacy).
- Birth.
- Breastfeeding.
- Blood mixing (through using the same razor blades, or toothbrushes, or needles, etc.) or Blood transfusion.

Transmission can be prevented by

- A: Abstaining from sin, abstaining from sex outside marriage, abstaining from injectable drug usage...
- B: Be faithful for life to your marriage partner.
- C: Christ in me, helping me to DO the above-mentioned!



**Let's not
waste our lives
by doing sin
and by
contracting HIV.**

**Let's rather
worship the Lord,
wait upon Him,
walk with Him,
witness for Him,
work for Him,
and
war with Him
against sin, self
and Satan...**



14 November: Stand, don't shrink back!

Pray “Lord, help me to stand firm in You and to pray.”

Read Ezekiel 7-9 and Hebrews 10:24-39

Think + write God encourages me strongly through Hebrews chapter 10. He wants me to finish well and enter heaven. He says to me:

⇒ **Do not give up!** (v25)

⇒ **Do not throw away your confidence!** (v35)

⇒ **Do not shrink back!** (v39)

⇒ **Do persevere!** (v36)

⇒ **“Keep a firm grip** on the promises that keep us going” (v23;MSG)

⇒ “Remember those early days after you first saw the light... Those were the hard times! Kicked around... targets of every kind of abuse... Nothing they did bothered you, **nothing set you back**... So **don't throw it all away now**...” (v32-35;MSG)

⇒ “You need to **stick it out, staying with God's plan**...” (v36;MSG)

⇒ **Do the will of God!** (v36)

My response to His words to me:.....

.....

God revealed himself to Ezekiel as being as bright as glowing metal and burning like fire (Ezek 8:2). **He is a consuming Fire** (Heb 10:29; Deut 4:24). This means that.....

.....

He showed Ezekiel **what people did in the house of God**... They had their own idols (v12), they prayed to the sun (v16), they practiced immorality (v12), and used incense (v17), “putting the branch to their nose!” This is also happening today in many churches! People are in the church, they are “Christians”, but many have their own TV idol, they worship the sun (on the beaches), they watch immoral DVDs and TV “soapies”, they use aroma-therapeutic “remedies” or drugs...! God will not tolerate it. He IS a consuming fire! He even says (in Ezek 9) that those adults and those children and **those young people who do not grieve and lament and sigh and cry (in prayer) over all these detestable things should be killed with the sword!!** (v1-6)

Pray “Father, please fill me with Your Spirit of prayer for others!”

Go + Do pray in the Spirit (and through the Spirit) for others...

How to

Break

my

Bad

Habit

What habit?

For instance:

Listening to worldly music (sensual or soulful music).
Listening to pop music (...rock, hip hop, rap, etc).
Listening to immoral singers.
Using MXit or Whatsapp or Facebook in a fleshly way.
Using Cell phones 4 unholy reasons.
Worldly relationships with boys/girls.
Violent and/or time-wasting computer games.
Abusing your own body.
Waking up late.
Passivity... Procrastination... Apathy.
Coming late...
Gossiping.
Disrespect, disobedience to older people.
Not saying "thank you."
Neglecting to have quiet time with God.
Lack of discipline in chores & studies.
Bad eating habit.
Wasting time on external "beauty."
Watching pornography (on internet or elsewhere).
Watching Anime or "soapies"
(Hollywood or Bollywood or Mollywood...)

Why?!

Ask myself:

WHY did I start this habit? Did God start it?!

HOW did it start? What are the ROOTS of it?

What is the CAUSE of it in me?

How?!

to **STOP** my **SINFUL** habit
to **BREAK** my **BAD** habit

- † CRY to God for help!
- † SEE it as SIN.
- † EXPOSE it, bring it to the light, confess it to God ...in the presence of a stronger Christian.
- † SEE JESUS dying for me on the Cross.
- † Ask : WHY did I start it? Correct that...
- † STOP it completely—stop it! Stop it!
- † Be **RADICAL**, ...Be VICIOUS...!
- † CUT OFF everything related to it...!!!
- † TELL others of my decision.
- † Receive prayer for deliverance from demonic BONDAGE (if needed) - this is very important.
- † NEVER make an EXCEPTION...!
- † DIE to my EMOTIONS...
- † CAPTURE my THOUGHTS...
- † Avoid what used to LEAD to the habit...
- † Have FAITH in Jesus.
- † FIGHT against the old habit.
- † FORM a new habit & DISCIPLINE myself...with the Lord.
- † If I stumble: be disappointed, but NOT discouraged...!
- † DON'T GIVE UP! Persevere!
- † Through the LORD JESUS helping me!
- † TRUST JESUS!

When?

...NOW!

“Do NOT let yourself be overcome (mastered, controlled) by evil, but overcome evil with good” Rom 12:21

“Let NOT sin therefore rule as king in your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies, to make you yield to its cravings and be subject to its lusts and evil passions.” Rom 6:12

**Decide
Do it—now!
Discipline
Daily
Depend on God
Don't give up!!!**

15 November: I want to please God

Pray “Lord, I want to live according to Your standards.”

Read Ezekiel 10-12 and Hebrews 11:1-19

Think + write God says to me: “I know what is going through your mind” (Ezek 11:5). This is wonderful. God knows everything about me, He also knows what is going through my mind—there is nothing hidden from Him. It teaches me that.....

.....
God said to the Israelites: “You have ...conformed to the standards of the nations around you”!!! (Ezek 11:12b). This is very sad and serious! I need to ask myself: Have I conformed in any way to the standards of the unbelievers around me?! Oh, this is an important question! See Rom 12:1-2. “Lord, please open my eyes and show me if I have and in what I have!” Have I conformed in any way to the standards of the unbelievers ...in the way I dress, in the way I talk, in the way I work, in the way I present myself, in my relationships, in the music I listen to, in the way I “beautify” myself, in the way I look at life? My honest response is that.....

.....
“Lord, please show me Your ways, Your life, Your standards, Your way of doing all of these above-mentioned things. For Your Name’s sake. Amen.” If I am willing, God says He will give me “an undivided heart” (Ezek 11:19), where HIS standards are MY standards, and the world’s standards are NOT mine—to His glory.

The way to please God is to have a relationship with Him and to do everything in life from within that relationship with God. This is what “faith” is—a relationship of loving, obedient, joyous dependence upon God. “Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Heb 11:6a). God says, “Everyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that *He rewards those who earnestly (and diligently) seek Him*” (Heb 11:6b). This means that.....

Pray “Father, I want to please YOU and not myself, nor others.”

Go + Do live out His standards and His life by His Spirit.

I love to have
Holy Habits
like Jesus

The Lord Jesus lived to please God, His Father and our Father. He narrowed down His life to only a few things. I read in 2 Co 5:14 that “***the love of Christ*** constrains me,” or “***narrows me.***” It will not make me like a swamp that has no banks and spreads over everything; it will rather make me to be like a river with banks, that flows in a specific direction and reaches its goal, and brings much fruitfulness along the way. It will narrow down my life as it narrowed down the life of the Lord Jesus... According to what I read in the Bible, it was His *custom* to do three things. He did three things by habit. We can say that He developed three ***Holy Habits***...

- ✠ “He stood up to READ as His custom was...” (Luke 4:16): He read the Word of God by habit.
- ✠ “He went into the mountain to PRAY as His custom was”: He prayed by habit (Luke 22:39-41). “...He continued his habit of retiring to deserted places and praying...” (Luke 5:16; ISV).
- ✠ “And again, as was His custom, He TAUGHT them...” (Mark 10:1; ESV): He made it His habit to PASS ON TO OTHERS what He had found and received through the other two habits (“absorbing the Word and being absorbed in prayer,” as E. Stanley Jones put it).

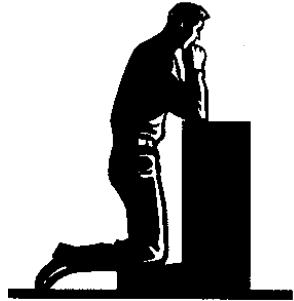
Read...!

- 📖 God said: “***Blessed is the one who reads the words of***” the Bible (Rev 1:3)
- 📖 “Till I come, ***devote yourself to reading...***” (1 Tim 4:13; Ampl)
- 📖 Have a ***specific time*** every day for Bible READING!



- 📖 Read the Bible *every day*.
- 📖 When I read 15 minutes per day from the Bible, I'll read through the entire Bible in less than one year.
- 📖 **Read systematically.** Follow a Bible reading plan. For instance, if I read the portions indicated in "All for Jesus Always" every day, I'll read through the whole Bible in one year. Alternatively, if I read 3 chapters every day and 5 chapters every Sunday, it will also take me through the Bible in one year.
- 📖 Read *aloud* if possible.

Pray....!



- ✓ **"Devote yourselves to prayer"** (Col 4:2).
- ✓ **"Pray continually"** (1 Thes 5:17).
- ✓ I'll make it one of my habits, like Jesus, to PRAY.
- ✓ I will pray *privately* (Mat 6:6).
- ✓ I will pray *publicly*, without pretense, honestly, freely, humbly, boldly, as a child...
- ✓ I will have *specific times* each day for prayer:.....
- ✓ I will have a *specific place* for such times of prayer:.....
- ✓ I will pray for others (intercede).
- ✓ I will discipline myself to pray at these specific times, and to pray continually.
- ✓ I will start to *record* the prayer requests and God's answers.
- ✓ I'll seek to start a "**Prayer Triplet**," as the Lord may lead.

Pass on....!

By God's grace
I will have these
holy habits!

- ◇ I will pass on what I've received from the Lord by my *life & work*.
- ◇ I will pass it on through godly, unselfish, disciplined *conversations*.
- ◇ I will make it a habit to pass it on through *disciplined outreach*; through *teaching, testifying, witnessing, preaching, singing, plays, writings, puppet shows, etc....* as the Lord may lead.

16 November: Keep your walls strong!

Pray “Lord, will You please help me to repair my walls—for You.”

Read Ezekiel 13-15 and Hebrews 11:20-40

Think + write A city surrounded by **strong walls** (as it used to be in ancient times) could not be easily conquered. The same applies to a Christian’s life. If he or she has strong walls built around them—to keep their spiritual enemies OUT, they can fight, resist and conquer the enemy’s attacks. But if there are **breaks in the wall**, weak spots, or low walls ...it’s easy for the enemy to enter! God says to me in Ezekiel, “You have not gone up to the **breaks in the wall** to repair it... so that it will stand firm in the battle...” (13:5). Also, if a **flimsy wall** is built, to cover it with whitewash is useless (v10)... “It is going to fall” !! (v11). When there are areas in my life where my standards or practices are flimsy, half-hearted, compromised, and not up to standard, it is no use to cover it with whitewash religiosity or external confidence—it will NOT hold the enemy out during a vicious attack!!! As I reflect on **the state of my walls**, I can say that.....

.....

.....

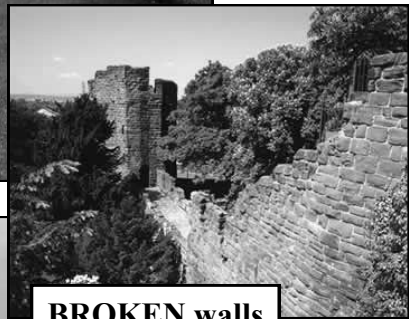
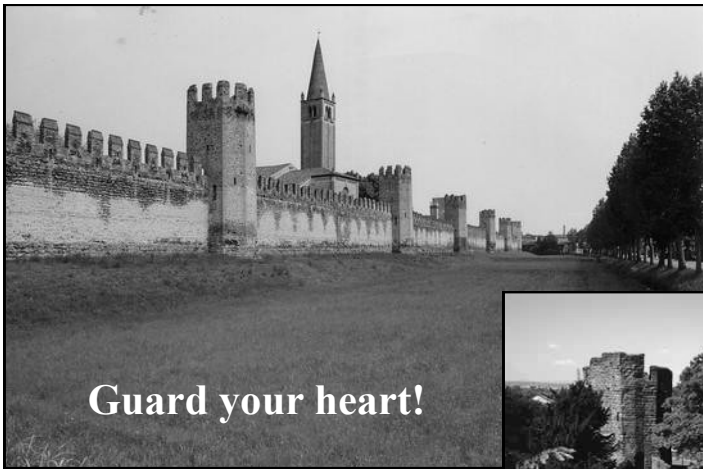
I need to **inspect** my walls (as Nehemiah did), **repair** my walls, **build** them up properly, and **keep** them in a good, strong state... In Isaiah 58:12 I read about the “**Repairer** of the Breach”! Through God, I can become such a person. He is the One who can help me to repair my walls, all of them!

The early Christians “**admitted** (and **accepted** the fact) that they were aliens and strangers (foreigners and refugees) on earth” (Heb 11:13;NIV & GNB). To be “**aliens and strangers on earth**” means that.....

.....

This is how God wants me to live in this wicked world, “longing for a better country—a heavenly one” (v16). From Heb 11:8 I learn that “**faith**” is to **firstly hear the voice of God and then to obey it**... George MacDonald said: “***What in the heart we call faith, in the will we call obedience.***” This is very true.

Pray “Father, like Moses I choose to follow You!” **Go + Do** it.



The walls were rebuilt “with the help of our God” (Nehemiah 6:16)

17 November: He did not save me to sin!

Pray “Lord, I want to be true to You until I die...”

Read Ezekiel 16 and Hebrews 12

Think + write God says that unfaithful Jerusalem was like an unfaithful wife. Today, there are also unfaithful Christians... If I am such a Christian, He says to me (through Ezek 16):

- *Initially*: I was not cared for; I was left to die (Ezek 16:4); I lay naked, kicking in my blood... (v6,22)
- *But then*: He saw me and said to me: “Live!” (v6)
- He washed me and made me clean (v9)
- He dressed me and adorned me (v10)
- He made me grow and develop and become beautiful (v7-14)
- He made a covenant with me! (v8)
- I became His...! (v8b)

BUT...

- ⊗ I trusted in my beauty (v15)
- ⊗ I did not remember where I came from... (v22)
- ⊗ I used my fame to become unfaithful to God (v15)
- ⊗ I did many evil things (v15-34)
- ⊗ I became weak-willed (v30) and insatiable (v28)
- ⊗ I copied the practices of Sodom (the world), and committed the sins of Sodom (which were: *being arrogant, proud, overfed, unconcerned and lazy*...!! Ezek 16:49)

The only worthy response to such a sad state of affairs is to ...**Repent, Return to the Lord and Rely on Him** for my past, my present and my future. My personal response is:.....

Furthermore, God tells me in Hebrews 12 to...

- ✦ **Throw off** everything that hinders.
- ✦ Throw off the sin that so easily entangles me (v1).
- ✦ **Run** His race for me with perseverance (“never quit!”).
- ✦ **Fix** my eyes on Jesus; ...Consider Him (“Just think of Him...”).
- ✦ Not grow weary and lose heart in my struggle against sin (v3).
- ✦ **Endure** hardship and submit to God my Father, etc... (v7,9b).
- ✦ “God is educating you” (v7;.MSG)

Pray “Father, I submit my life to You. I trust You.”

Go + Do repent and run—remembering Jesus.



*Am I guilty
of any of the*

Sins of Sodom

Pride?

Gluttony?

Being Unconcerned?

Laziness?

Homosexuality?

Ezek 16:49

18 November: Watch out!

Pray “Lord, please make me aware of peril in the air...”

Read Ezekiel 17-19 and Hebrews 13

Think + write God shows me that children often suffer because of the **sins of their parents** (Ezek 18:2 and Ex 20:5), but (praise God) ...they will NOT be held guilty and die because of their parents’ sins (Ezek 18:17b). He says: “The soul who sins is the one who will die” (18:4b and 18:20), but He also says: “I take NO pleasure in the death of anyone... Why will you die, O house of Israel?... Repent! Turn away from ALL your offenses... **Repent and live!**” (18:30-32).

I am warned in Ezekiel 19 that though I can be as a **strong lion**, if I am not spiritually watchful, I can be **caught in a net...**, **trapped in a pit...** and **“hooked”** by someone or something that will lead me back to Egypt, back to the world, back to spiritual slavery!! O, how heart-breaking is just the thought of such a possibility!! If this happens, my voice will no longer be heard proclaiming God’s Good News. I need to be watchful in especially the following areas (which are **traps**):

- ☛
- ☛
- ☛
- ☛
- ☛

O Lord, please help me to be strong and watchful and victorious!

God says to me: “**I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]**... So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper...” (Heb 13:5b,6a; Ampl). This is wonderful!! He also wants ME not to leave HIM, but to “**go to Him outside the camp**, bearing the disgrace He bore...” (Heb 13:13). This practically means that.....

Pray “Father, THANK YOU for Your wonderful faithfulness!”

Go + Do go to Him “outside the camp,” siding with Him.

Don't be trapped!

Don't be caught!

Don't be silenced!

Watch & pray!



**Even strong lions can be
trapped ...if they are
over-confident and
don't watch & pray !**



19 November: How to Trip Temptation!

Pray “Lord, with You I can recognize & overcome all temptations.”

Read Ezekiel 20-21 and James 1

Think + write James was a very practical Christian. Through him God teaches me about ***T*rials**, ***T*ests**, ***T*emptations**... and ***T*rusting** Him (James 1:2,3,12 13-15). Temptation is not sin, it is an *invitation* from the devil (sometimes coming as “an angel of the light”, or through the desires of my own heart) to SIN. Some of the downward ***steps from temptation into sin*** are as follows:

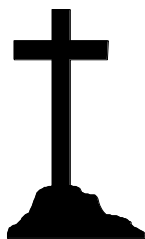
- ☼ ***Desire*** in my mind and thoughts (James 1:14a): **WISHING**
- ☼ ***Enticed*** (Greek: “lured by bait”), embraced, entangled, “hooked” in my emotions and feelings (v14b)... When that happens we say, as the children of God said: “We want to be like.. the peoples of the world”!!!! (Ezek 20:32). What a sad state of affairs when blood-bought Christians want to be like the world...!! Oh, may the Lord keep me from wanting the world, in all its forms of witchery wickedness...: **WANTING**
- ☼ ***Conception*** of sin by a decision of my will ...a cold-blooded or hot-blooded choice (v15). Choosing to do the sin, without actually doing it, is sin already...: **WILLING**
- ☼ ***Doing*** of the actual sin (v15), practically... **WORKING**
- ☼ ***Eruption*** into full-grown, “out-of-hand” SIN (v15): **WAY-OUT**
- ☼ ***Death***, spiritually and physically (v15): **WASTED**

This shows me that if I want ***to overcome temptation*** and NOT commit sin, I need to:

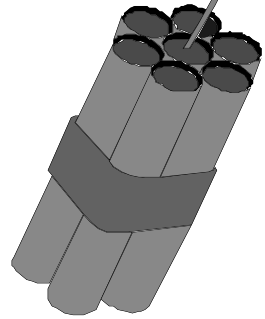
- ➡ ***Watch***, guard and capture my thoughts, all the time.
- ➡ Guard and keep my emotions crucified, and ...never follow my emotions.
- ➡ ***Choose*** God’s will and way, irrespective of what thoughts or feelings may bombard or surround or envelop me...
- ➡ ***Pray*** to God for help *and* pray against Satan’s schemes.
- ➡ ...I need to ***Flee*** from sin, ***Fight*** it with all my heart, ***Fly higher*** and rise above it, ***Fix*** my eyes on Jesus, be ***Filled*** by His Spirit, have ***Fellowship*** with those who are PURE, and have ***Faith*** in God to give me the victorious way out!

Pray “Father,.....
.....*Amen.*”

Go + Do what is needed (through God) to overcome temptation!



Temptations of Young People....



The Time-Tested Temptations
of most Teenagers and Young People are:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Jesus can
help me to
Detect &
Defuse each
temptation!

To avoid these, I need to:

- ➡ WATCH my own heart (Ps 18:23;KJV)
 - ➡ WATCH my own temperamental reaction patterns
 - ➡ WATCH for the FIRST approaches of temptation and RESIST it!
 - ➡ WATCH, especially at the TIMES / circumstances when temptations usually comes to ME... For instance, when I am...
- “H.A.L.T.”**

H : Hungry, “**H**igh” (emotionally or spiritually), or Hurt...

A : Anxious, or Angry about something.

L : Lonely, or Lazy.

T : Tired, or during Trials.

Lord, please help me -
I need YOU.

20 November: “Why, O Why?!”

Pray “Lord, I want to follow You & not those who don’t love You.”

Read Ezekiel 22-23 and James 2

Think + write I learn in the Bible that clothing is for covering (Gen 3:21) and to glorify Christ (1 Co 10:31). Men and women can grieve God by the way they dress. If their clothes do not cover them properly (and modestly), or if the clothes glorifies *them* (and not *God*) in any way, it grieves the Lord. More than that, the Puritan Thomas Watson said that some through their clothing “tempt the devil to fall in love with them”...!! This is very true, and tragic! I read in Ezek 23 of men whose clothing had this exact devilish effect...

I also read about two sisters (Oholah and Oholibah) who painted their eyes, put on their jewels (Ezek 23:40), waited on an elegant couch for men to come to them (v41), put bracelets on their arms (v42), and committed sin... God called them lewd (v44). God dealt severely with them so “that all women may take warning and NOT imitate” them! (v48). It seems to me that many women paint their eyes, change the shape of their eyebrows and put on jewelry, because:

-
-
-
-

God says that whatever is NOT born of faith, whatever is not born out of a relationship with God, is SIN (Rom 14:23). Whatever is meant to glorify me and not God, is SIN. Whatever is done for “self” is SIN. Only what’s done “for Him” is pure. My MOTIVES for doing something will influence if God accepts or rejects it. Furthermore, I am called to do the will of God. I can’t decide to do just what I like or what I think is okay—I have to ask: “What is the will of God for me? What does He want me to do, as far as this or that is concerned...?!”

James said: “I will show you my faith by what I do” (James 2:18). What I DO shows you my faith...! What I DO (or not do) SHOWS others and God how my faith is... From James 2:10 I also learn that (as John Owen put it), “ONE sin liked and loved will make way for every other.” “ONE sin willingly lived in is as able to destroy a man’s soul as a thousand” ...!!!

Pray “Father, please guide me in Your will” **Go + Do** it.



"WHY O WHY?!"

WHY I do something
is just as important as WHAT I do...
If I do what is right,
but with a wrong MOTIVE,
I'm wrong...!

I need to ask myself:

"WHY do I do what I do?!"

"What is my MOTIVE?"

"Do I do what I do

...to please **SELF**?

...to please **OTHERS**?

...to please **GOD**?!



Matt 15:18

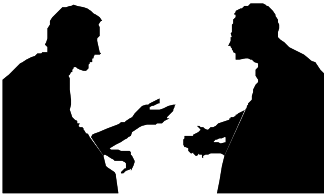
My

Heart

is revealed by

My

Talk



What do I talk about?

How do I talk?

Why do I say what I say?

With who do I talk?

Do I talk like Jesus?

21 November: A Tamed Tongue...

Pray “Lord, please tame my tongue—to speak for You...!”

Read Ezekiel 24-26 and James 3

Think + write From Malachi 3:16 it is clear that *the Lord listens and hears what I talk...* To have a tamed tongue is a sign of being a perfect man or woman (v2), but to tame my tongue is only possible through the power of God’s Spirit in me (James 3:8). God says to me:

- “Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [*ever*] come out of your mouth, but only such [*speech*] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God’s favor) to those who hear it. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...” (Eph 4:29,30a).
- “Let your speech at all times be gracious (pleasant and winsome), seasoned [as it were] with salt, [*so that you may never be at a loss*] to know how you ought to answer anyone...” (Col 4:6). “Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out.” (MSG)
- “But I tell you that men will have to give an account on the day of judgment for *every careless (idle) word* they have spoken” (Matt 12:36)... I see so clearly that I will have to give an account one day for EVERY IDLE WORD I have spoken... **Oh, how I need God to forgive me and to help me to learn to speak like Jesus!**

I read in John 3:31 that “the one who is from the *earth*... speaks as one from the earth”. On the other hand, Paul said “our conversation is in *heaven*” (Phil 3:20). This shows me that there is...

☞ an earthly (worldly) way of speaking,

☞ a heavenly way of speaking...

Some examples of the earthly/worldly way of speaking are as follows:

.....

.....

The heavenly way of speaking is characterized by:.....

.....

.....

.....

Pray “Lord, please teach me to speak like You!” **Go + Do** it.

22 November: Strong Ships can Shipwreck!

Pray “Lord, please keep me humble and strong in You.”

Read Ezekiel 27-28 and James 4

Think + write Tyre was like a beautiful, strong, perfect ship that proudly sailed the oceans and traded very successfully (Ezek 27). She enriched herself, made many others rich (v33), and became proud (v3b). As a result, God said: “The east wind will break you to pieces in the heart of the sea” (v26), your wealth and all on board “will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck” (v27). From this I learn that.....

.....
Lucifer (“the morning star”) was also a strong, beautiful “ship” before he came to eternally shipwreck. I read in Ezek 28 that he was

- ☛ The model of perfection.
- ☛ Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (v12).
- ☛ In Eden, the garden of God (v13).
- ☛ Created and anointed as a guardian angel (v13b,14).
- ☛ Blameless in his ways... till wickedness was found in him (v15).
- ☛ His heart became proud because of his beauty, he sinned (v17,16).
- ☛ God threw him to the earth (v17).

This teaches me that.....

.....
Just as Jesus said that it is not easy for a **rich man** to enter the kingdom of heaven, maybe we can say that it will also not be easy for a **beautiful woman** to enter the kingdom of heaven... May the Lord keep us humble! I read in James 4:6 that “**God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble... *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up*” (v10). Some of the reasons why it is difficult for God’s children to get along are: (1) pride (James 4:5-10); (2) selfishness (v1-3); and (3) worldliness (v4)... God says: “You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world IS hatred toward God?” (v4). **Friendship with the world is as the sin of adultery!** A.W. Tozer said: “**A whole new generation of Christians has come up believing that it is possible to ‘accept’ Christ without forsaking the world**”, but it is NOT!**

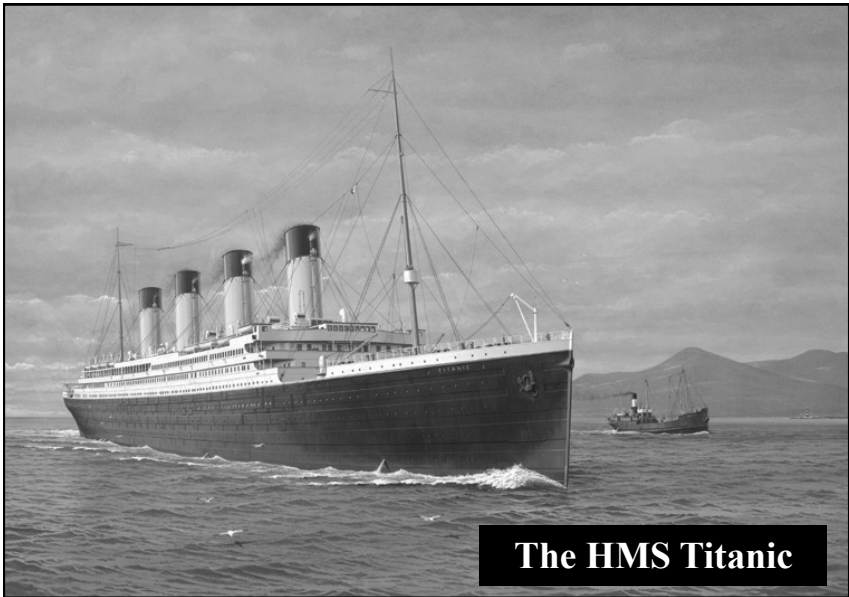
Pray “Father,.....” **Go + Do** right.



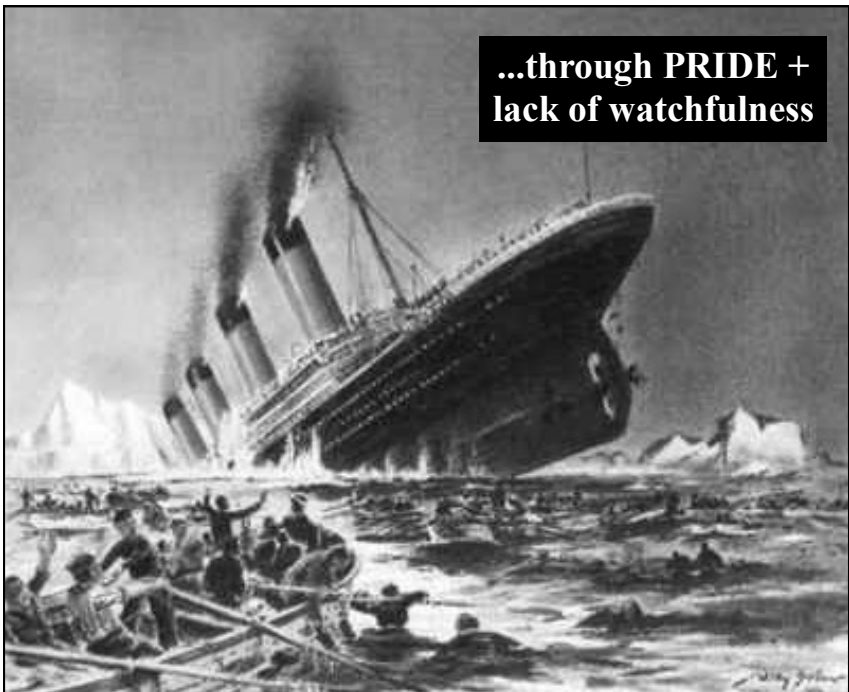
Strong ships CAN shipwreck!



**...through storms or by being
too close to the shore...**



Strong ships can SINK!



23 November: Repent & Resist!

Pray “Lord, please show me Your way of doing everything.”

Read Ezekiel 29-31 and James 5

Think + write Some of the most important keys in the Christian life are found in James 4 & 5...

📖 “**Come near to God** and He will come near to you” (James 4:8).

📖 “**Humble yourselves** before the Lord...” (4:10).

📖 “**Submit** yourselves, then, to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you” (4:7). Once I have surrendered myself to God and submitted my all to Him, I need to consistently (and in principle) RESIST the devil and anything that comes from him. In everything in life I can now say, as John Bunyan did: “*Lord, if this be from Thee, we accept it, but if it is from Satan, we REFUSE it... If it be of God, let me not despise it; if it be of the devil, let me NOT embrace it...*” When certain thoughts come to my mind, I need to **recognize** when it is from the devil and **resist** it immediately, consistently, and with all my heart, even audibly sometimes!!! My resolve, with God’s help is that.....
.....
.....
.....

📖 “Is any among you in trouble? He should **pray**” (James 5:13)

📖 “Therefore **confess your sins** to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed” (James 5:16). Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: “Confession is the God-given remedy for self-deception and self-indulgence. When we confess our sins before a brother-Christian, we are mortifying the pride of the flesh and delivering it up to shame and death through Christ... Confession is thus a genuine part of the life of the saint, and one of the gifts of grace.” Martin Luther said: “When I admonish men to come to confession, I am simply urging them to be Christians.” As far as this is concerned, I am committed to.....
.....
.....
.....

📖 “The **prayer** of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (5:16).

Pray “Lord, I submit myself to Your way of living and praying.”

Go + Do what He showed me in James 4 & 5.

**God opposes
the proud**

More than 800 years ago,
Bernard of Clairvaux
wrote about

**“The 12 Steps
of Humility
and Pride.”**

He said the steps of pride are:

Curiosity or inquisitiveness into what does not concern me.

Levity of mind

Light-hearted gaiety at the wrong times.

Talking too much; boasting; conceit.

Individuality (too much emphasis on my own behaviour).

Self-assertiveness; conceit; seeing myself as more holy than others.

Presumption - ready to get involved in anything, even if it doesn't concern me.

Self-justification and defending myself after doing wrong.

Dishonest confession ...which does not come from the heart.

Rebellion against godly rules and delegated authority over me.

Freedom in sinning

Constant sinning; ...habitual sinning.

**God gives
grace to the
humble**



24 November: Turn & Live!

Pray “Lord, please open my eyes to see Your heart.”

Read Ezekiel 32-33 and 1 Peter 1

Think + write God says: “I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they **TURN** from their ways and **LIVE**. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezek 33:11). From this I see that:

✠ It is God’s unchangeable law that those who do not repent ...DIE. He says: “If you do warn *the wicked man* to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will DIE for his sin...” (Ezek 33:9). “*The righteous man*, if he sins, will not be allowed to live because of his former righteousness. If I tell the righteous man that he will surely live, but then he trusts in his righteousness and does evil, none of the righteous things he has done will be remembered; he will DIE for the evil he has done...” (Ezek 33:12b,13)

✠ God promises the wicked eternal life ...IF they will TURN. He says: If the wicked man (or woman) “turns away from his (or her) sin and does what is just and right... and does no evil, he (she) will surely live; he (she) will not die. None of the sins he (she) has committed will be remembered against him (her)” (Ezek 33:14-16). This is wonderful news!

✠ God takes pleasure in men & women’s conversion & salvation!
Considering these truths, I learn that.....
.....
.....
.....

Peter describes **Christians** as

- Strangers in the world (1 Peter 1:1,17)
- Chosen by God’s foreknowledge (v2), to live a holy life (v16)
- Those who love Jesus (v8) and believe in Him (v8)
- Obedient children (v14,22); ...Born again (v23)

This is God’s wonderful grace toward me. “Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled...” (1:13). God says to me: “So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready... **Don’t lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing...**” (v13,14;MSG).

Pray “Father, thank You for Your love to me!”

Go + Do love and obey Him from the heart (1 Peter 1:22)

Amy Carmichael prayed:

*“Lord, do Thou turn me all into love,
and all my love into obedience,
and let my obedience be
without interruption...”*

*And Lord, we ask this too of Thee,
Let all that Thou hast taught us
be for the help of others...”*

Richard Sibbs said:

*“Affection makes expression.”
“Action follows affection.”*

I can say today:

*The Lord Jesus is more precious to me
than anyone else and everything else
on earth and in heaven!!!*

I also learn (and am warned) from Song of Songs 8:7 that

*Nothing can quench the
Fire of Love for God,
except a new “love”...*

25 November: He is precious to me!

Pray “Lord, thank You for being my true Shepherd.”

Read Ezekiel 34-35 and 1 Peter 2

Think + write In Ezekiel 34 a clear picture is painted of (1) selfish shepherds, (2) sick, scattered, selfish sheep and (3) the Savior - Shepherd. I see that the shepherds...

- Only take care of themselves (v2,8) and feed themselves...
- Do not take care of the sheep (v3)
- Do not strengthen the weak, heal the sick or bind up the injured (v4)
- Do not seek for the lost and do not bring back the strays... (v4)
- Rule harshly and brutally (v4)

Secondly, the sheep:

- Are wandering (v6), scattered (v5), sick, injured, weak (v4), and food for the wild animals... (v5)
- Are shoving and fighting one another, butting (v21), muddying the drinking clear water (v18), and trampling on the pasture that others can't eat well (v18)...

I learn from this that.....
.....
.....
.....

Thirdly, the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus (John 10:14) says:

- ✚ I will remove the selfish shepherds (v10)
- ✚ I will judge between one sheep and another (v17)
- ✚ I Myself will search for My sheep and look after them (v11,16)
- ✚ I will rescue them (v12)
- ✚ I will bring back the strays... (v16)
- ✚ I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak... (v16)
- ✚ I Myself will tend My sheep (v15) and I will bless them... (v26)

One of the best verses for me in the Bible is 1 Peter 2:7 (KJV): “Unto you therefore which believe **HE IS PRECIOUS**...” This is one of the ways I can know I am a true believer—Jesus is precious to me. **He is more precious to me than anybody else or anything else!!!** See Ps 73:25. To this I can say:.....
.....
.....

Pray “Lord Jesus, there is no-one and nothing as precious to me as YOU!! I love You with all my heart and soul” **Go + Do** show it.

26 November: Be beautiful!

Pray “Lord, may Your beauty be on me...”

Read Ezekiel 36-37 and 1 Peter 3

Think + write In 1 Peter 2 I saw the importance of NOT developing “Failure To Thrive,” but of growing through taking in God’s Word (v1-3), building (v4-8), sacrificing (v9-10), abstaining from sinful desires (v11-12), and submitting to those in authority (v13-25)*. As sheep that have gone astray, but have since returned to the Shepherd of our souls (1 Peter 2:25), we should now practice gentleness...

- In the **home** (3:1-7) by the way we live.
- In the **church** (v8-12) by the way we speak.
- In the **world** (v13-22) by the way we behave.

The husbands are told...

- Be **considerate** towards your wives and to
- Treat them with **respect** (v7).

The wives are told...

- ✓ Be **submissive** to your husbands (v1)
- ✓ Win them without words, by your Christ-like **behavior** (v1,2)
- ✓ “Your beauty should NOT come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes...” (v3), but rather...
- ✓ Make yourself **beautiful** (v5) through cultivating a “gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight” (v4).

This means that.....

.....God says:

- ✚ I will take you OUT of the nations (out of the world) (Ezek 36:24)
- ✚ I will cleanse you (v25) and give you a new heart (v26)
- ✚ I will put My Spirit in you (v27) and
- ✚ I will move you to follow My Word. “I’ll ...make it possible for you to DO what I tell you...” (MSG)
- ✚ I will show the holiness of My Name to the nations ...when I show Myself holy **through you** before their eyes (v23)

From this I learn that.....

Pray “Father, I am sorry that I have profaned Your Name among the nations. Please cleanse me and fill me with Your holiness.”

Go + Do live out His holiness, His life, in His strength.

*Wiersbe

Do I have E.T.T.?

Failure

To

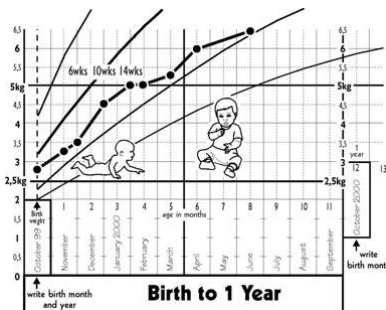


Thrive...



- A child may LOOK normal,
- but NOT be well...

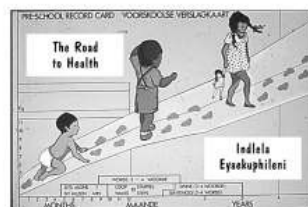
The only way to know is to WEIGH the child regularly and to check on the chart...



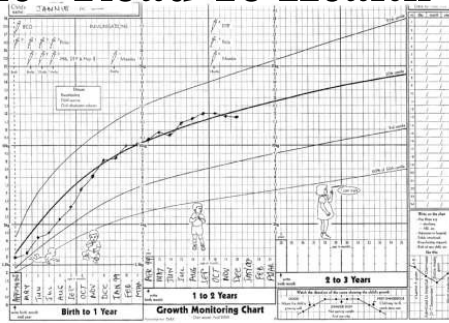
If not, you'll miss the diagnosis...!

We use the
“The Road to Health” card
to check

When the monthly increase in weight of a child stays between certain average lines or parallel to it, (s)he is ON the “Road to Health”

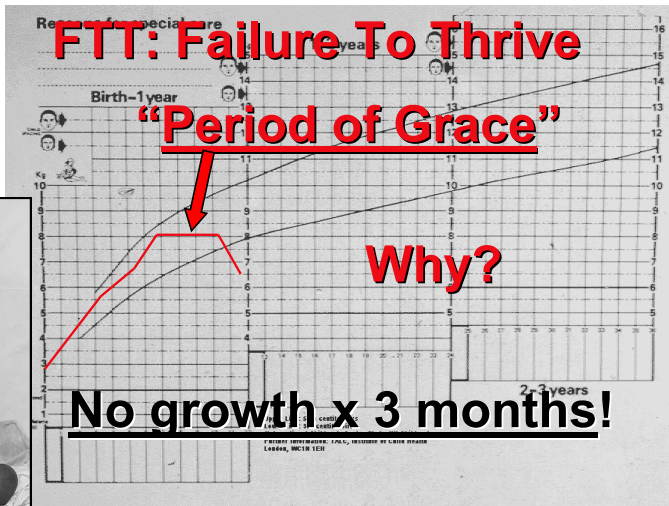


The “Road To Health” Card



This child is on the “Road to Health”...

If a child does not gain weight for 3 months, the child is failing to thrive...!



Child with Marasmic Kwashiorkor

“Failure To Thrive” *is caused by:*

Diet *problems, or*
Disease *like diarrhea or cough, or*
Deprivation *emotionally, or*
Demonic *influences...*

Am I growing in knowing and showing God?

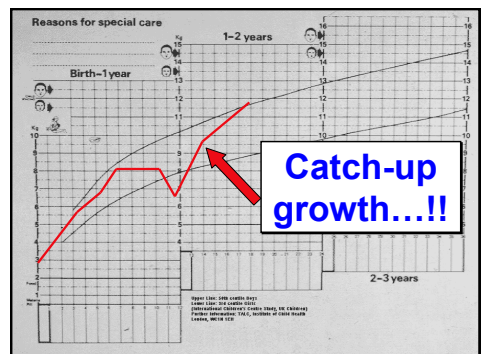
Or is there FTT, “Failure To Thrive”
in my spiritual life and walk with God?

If so, “Why?”

1. How's my daily DIET of the Word of God?
2. Do I have any spiritual DISEASE of sin?
3. Is there any DEPRIVATION and lack of loving God or of receiving His love in my life?
4. Is there perhaps any DEMONIC bondage from which I need the Lord Jesus to set me free?

Whatever the cause...

- Detect it
- Correct it
- And thrive again
- Even with “catch-up” growth!
- If not, is there TB?!



27 November: Do I live for God or myself?

Pray “Oh Lord, please fill me with Your Holy Spirit - that I may live for You only, always.”

Read Ezekiel 38-39 and 1 Peter 4

Think + write I read in 1 Peter 4:1,2 that “he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God”; “...pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want” (MSG). This shows me that

➡ I can live *for my human desires (what I want)*... , or

➡ I can live *for the will of God (what God wants)*...

To live for my human desires means that.....

.....

To live for the will of God practically means that.....

.....

“The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray...” (1 Peter 4:7); “...watch unto prayer” (KJV); “stay wide-awake in prayer” (MSG). My decision as far as prayer is concerned is:.....

.....

Some thoughts about prayer:

- ✓ “Prayer that costs nothing is worth nothing.”
- ✓ “What a man is on his knees before God, that he is - and nothing more.” (Robert Murray M’Cheyne)
- ✓ “True prayer is born out of brokenness.” (Frances Roberts)
- ✓ “Prayer is the pulse of life.” (Andrew Murray)
- ✓ “If prayer is not easy, we are wrong”; “...It is not prayer that is strenuous, but the overcoming of our own laziness.”
- ✓ “Watch and pray... If we don’t, we shall slip into the lure of wrong roads without knowing it.”
- ✓ “Prayer... develops the life of God in us.” (Oswald Chambers)

Pray “Father, thank you that I can pray to You, please help me.”

Go + Do what is needed to practice the discipline of prayer.

28 November: Conquer my enemies!

Pray “Lord, I want to be victorious over all my enemies - in You.”

Read Ezekiel 40 and 1 Peter 5

Think + write In 1 Peter 5 God says to me:

- Be eager to serve (v2)
- Be an example to the flock (v3)
- Be submissive to those who are older (v5)
- Humble yourself... (v5-6)
- Cast all your anxieties “all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully” (v7;Ampl). This is wonderful!
- Be self-controlled and alert (v8a), “be on watch” (GNB), be “vigilant and cautious at all times” (Ampl)
- Resist the devil! (v9a)
- Stand firm in the faith (v9b)

My personal response is:.....

In this chapter I also see the three enemies of the Christian:

- ☛ **The world** (v1-4). My behavior should NOT be like those in the world; it should NOT be worldly. God says that if I am a friend of the world, I am an enemy of Christ! Thank God, through the Cross of Christ I have been crucified to the world, and the world has been crucified to me (Gal 6:14). Now I can say with Amy Carmichael:

*“Dead to the world and its applause,
To all the customs, fashions, laws,
Of those who hate the humbling Cross.*

*So dead that no desire may rise,
To appear good or great or wise
In any but my Savior’s eyes.”*

My Enemies:



- ☛ **The flesh** (v5-7) is in conflict with and antagonistic to the Spirit of God. It continually desires self-gratification, which is sin.
- ☛ **The devil** (v8-14) wants to deceive, destroy and devour me...!

Pray “Father, please help me to daily overcome these enemies.”

Go + Do live in watchful victory over these three enemies...



How to Combat Temptation

RECOGNISE the Roar - recognize the enemy...

RESIST the devil in Jesus' Name; first submit to God

REMINDE myself of Jesus' victory and my position in Him

REPLACE evil with good

RECITE Scripture and sing and pray

REJOICE in the Lord and His victory on the Cross

D. Davidson

"If you DO what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, SIN is crouching at your door... (like a wild beast); IT DESIRES TO HAVE YOU, ...but you MUST master it."

Genesis 4:7



“Be self-controlled and alert... Your enemy, Satan, swims around like a hungry shark looking for someone to swallow and devour...” (1 Peter 5:8; Tropical version)

No Swimming



with Sharks?!?



10 Serious Suggestions *about Swimming with Sharks*

Stay in groups : “there’s safety in numbers”.
Do NOT be alone with someone...

Do not wander far from shore :
Do not wander from what you were taught at home & church...

Avoid the water after darkness :
walk and stay in the light, avoid the dark and the twilight as you’d avoid the devil... “As the sun goes down, sharks begin to feed”!

Do not enter water if you are bleeding : *If you’re hurt emotionally, do NOT swim in the sea of relationships. You are too vulnerable then.*

Do not wear shiny jewelry : *Sharks are attracted by shiny objects (really) ...; Do I draw attention to myself? Revealing clothing? Behaviour? Flirtatious? Say suggestive things? When you give off the wrong signals, you’ll attract the wrong people!*



Avoid waters with known sewage :

If you swim around in sewage, you'll get sick...

Be very careful when waters are

murky : *do not venture into murky (doubtful) relationships... If in doubt, leave it out!!*

Refrain from excess splashing : *when*

you get “carried away” in the ocean, you invite a shark attack!! Don't get carried away! Stay in control (under God's control)...

Do NOT enter an area where

sharks are known to be present : *If*

you spot a shark—get OUT of the water immediately! Don't continue swimming! Stay away from shark-infested areas...

Do not harass or tempt a shark : *Do*

not tempt it to bite you...

**Are you still
swimming with
“sharks”?!**



29 November: Know God!

Pray “Lord, all I want is to know You!”

Read Ezekiel 41-42 and 2 Peter 1

Think + write “Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received!” (2 Peter 1:3;MSG). By knowing God (our Father) and Jesus Christ (our Savior)...

- ◇ Grace and peace is mine in abundance (2 Peter 1:2)
- ◇ I receive everything I need for life and godliness (v3)
- ◇ I may participate in the divine nature (v4) - through receiving (by faith in God) the precious promises.
- ◇ I may escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires (v4b)

“*By knowing God*” means.....

Jesus said: “And eternal life means *to know You*, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent.” (John 17:3;GNB). “Yes, let us know (recognize, be acquainted with, and understand) Him; *let us be zealous to know the Lord* [to appreciate, give heed to, and cherish Him]” (Hosea 6:3a;Ampl)...

Furthermore, when I pay close attention to the Word of God (as to a light shining in a dark place)...

⇒ The Day will dawn in my life, and

⇒ The Morning Star will rise in my heart (2 Peter 1:19)

This means that.....

.....(Rev 22:16)

“To *pay attention to*” the Word of God means:



Pray “Father, thank You that I can know You and love You.”

Go + Do give attention to His Word...

30 November: He is my Inheritance!

Pray “Lord, please keep me true to You.”

Read Ezekiel 43-44 and 2 Peter 2

Think + write God commanded the priests (among others things) that “they must not shave their heads or let their hair grow long, but they are to keep the hair of their heads trimmed” (Ezek 44:20). “Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him” (1 Co 11:14);...“for a man to wear long hair is a dishonor” (Ampl), “a shame” (KJV). God means what he says. It is a shame, a disgrace, for a man to have long hair, with for instance a pony tail! It is part of the spirit of the age, the spirit of the world, the spirit of Shiva (the Destroyer, of whom we read in Rev 9:11)... We should take care, for God’s sake, NOT to follow the fashions of the world, also as far as hair styles are concerned! My decision as far as this is concerned is:.....

.....
God writes through Peter that there are some people in the church who:

- Follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature (2 Peter 2:10)
- Are springs without water (v17)
- Are slaves of depravity (v19)
- Have eyes full of adultery (v14) - they want what they see, what does not belong to them; they lust after women or men they are not married to; they watch pornography (maybe on the internet), or they lust after the things of the world...
- After they have escaped the corruption of the world, are again entangled in it and overcome(v20), ending up worse than before!
- Are like a pig that was washed, only to go back to wallowing in the mud of sin... (v22)
- Are like a dog that returns to its vomit! (v22)

Contrasted to this, God said about the priests (and all true Christians are priests, according to 1 Peter 2:5): “***I am to be the only inheritance the priests have.*** You are to give them no possession in Israel; ***I will be their possession***” (Ezek 44:28). This means to me that.....

.....
Pray “Lord,.....”

Go + Do be His and have Him as my only Inheritance.

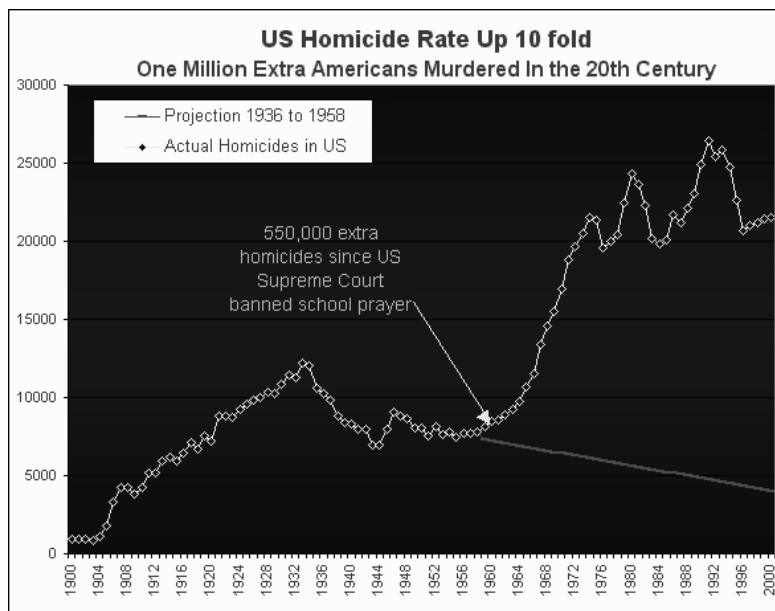
Don't be like a DOG

**that eats something wrong,
gets sick because of it
and VOMITS it out...**

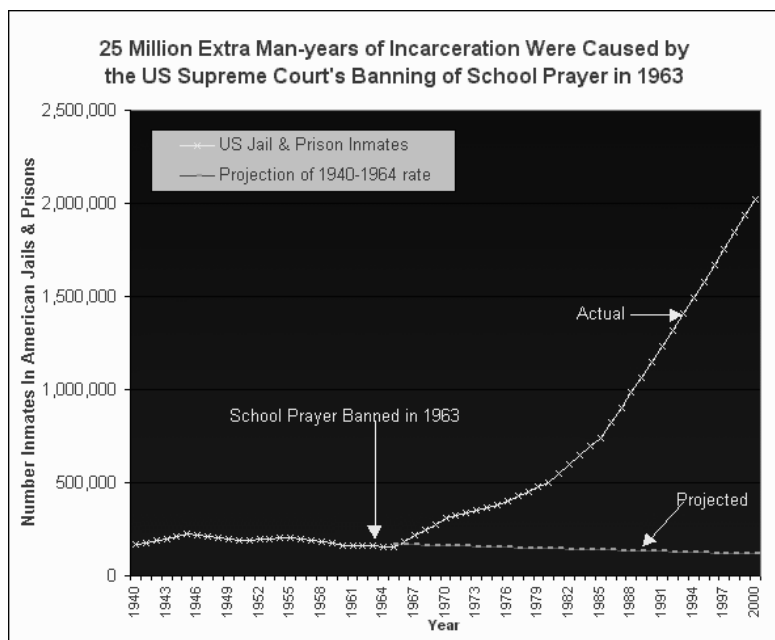


**...only after a while to
walk back to his own sickening vomit
and lick it up again!**

2 Peter 2:22 (rather do 2 Tim 2:22)



What happens when Public Prayer at school is stopped...! Don't stop...!





Let us not neglect

Private prayer

Public prayer

Parents' (family) prayer



**“Lord Jesus,
we bow
before You.
We love You,
we’ll obey You
...please speak
to us. Amen.”**

