

He enables us to
go on the heights!

All for Jesus always

March

Mark, Luke, Numbers, Deuteronomy & Joshua



Swallows “know when
it's time to come back again”
(MSG)

“But you, my people,
don't know...”
(CEV)

Jeremiah 8:7

Dear Friend

Jesus says: “**Come to Me** and I will give you rest” (Matt 10:28). He wants you to know Him and to make Him known to others. But, to know Him, you and I need to know His Word, we need to eat His Word - daily.

He says, “**Seek** out of the book of the Lord and **read**...” (Isaiah 34:16a, *Amplified Bible*), “...**listen**, ...open your mouth and **eat** what I give you... eat this scroll; **then go** and speak” (Ezekiel 2:8, 3:1-4). Jeremiah said, “When your words came, *I ate them*; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty” (Jeremiah 15:16).

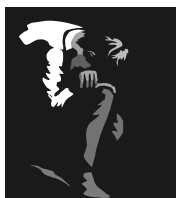
The Word of the Lord is our spiritual food. It is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet. It is more precious than gold, it is sweeter than honey. It revives us, makes us wise, gives joy to our hearts, gives light, warns us and keeps us in God’s way (Ps 19). His words “are life to those who find them and health... (Pro 4:20-22). God says, “Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live” (Pro 4:4).

This booklet is prepared so that we can DAILY read the Bible for ourselves, eat it, digest it and live it - to God’s glory. May the Holy Spirit help us to do so, and may Jesus be nearer and dearer to us than anyone and anything else, always.

Your brother in Christ
Ephesians 3:8

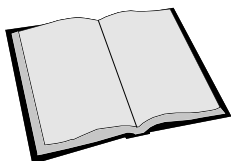
Ps. By reading the Bible portions mentioned every day, you’ll read through the whole Bible in one year... You’ll come to see and know the Lord Jesus as never before! He will become your All...!

February 2006.



Pray

before I start to read



Read

the portion for the day



Think

about what I read and
about what the Lord is
showing me



Write

down what I learned
and what the Lord
taught me



Pray

about it and about what-
ever else He wants me
to pray about...

Go + Do

His will to His glory



Time Alone with God

Daily



God says to me:

📖 “Let Me see your face (in other words, He wants to have fellowship with me), let Me hear your voice” (He wants me to talk to Him in prayer) - Song of Songs 2:14. This is wonderful!

📖 “But when you pray, GO INTO YOUR ROOM, CLOSE the door and PRAY to your Father in heaven...” (Matt 6:6)

Some Practical Suggestions

1. Have a daily **Quiet Time** - alone with God.
2. Have **specific times** *every day* (morning and evening)
3. Have a **specific place** of meeting with Him
4. **Keep** this appointment with God
5. *Remember the goal* is to know Jesus Christ, to have fellowship with Him, to continue to be with Him, to love Him, to worship Him, to become like Him, to secure His presence for the day, and to glorify Him.
6. *Remember, the Holy Spirit* will teach you all things and guide you as you look to God, trust Him and listen to His voice.
7. **Practically:**

GO into your quiet meeting place

CLOSE the door to all distractions

Become quiet before Him, aware of His presence

PRAY

READ the portion for the day...

slowly, carefully, prayerfully, sometimes loudly,

listening to God speaking to you

THINK with your head and heart;

ask yourself specific *questions* about the portion;

apply it to your life

WRITE NOTES/ underline/ mark

PRAY : Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplication

MEMORIZE a portion or verse

GO and DO what the Lord wants/ shows me to DO

To His glory!



March

“It’s time to return...”

*During this month we’ll read through
and learn from the books of
Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Mark and Luke.*

1 March: Cursing yourself?!

Pray “*Lord, You’re beautiful and You want to make us so too.*”

Read Numbers 23-25 and Mark 8:1-21

Think + write. Balak hired Balaam to put a curse on the children of God, so that he could conquer them (Num 22:5-6). But, “*the causeless curse does not alight*” (Prov 26:2; Num 23:23). When the devil does not have a foothold (Eph 4:27) in my heart and life, a curse will not work against me... From the height of different mountains Balam looked at the children of God, to see if there was something wrong in their behaviour, something that would give him a foothold - through which he could let his witchcraft/curse “work”. He found none!! After each occasion he spoke an oracle. In these oracles the victorious children of God were described (in summary) as follows. He said they:

- “Live” (Num 23:9)
- “Do not consider themselves”(v9b)
- Live in the Presence of God (21)
- Are OUT of Egypt (OUT of “the world”) (v22 and 24:8)
- Are as.....as a wild ox (23:22 and 24:8)
- Had beautiful homes and families (24:5) and were productive (v6)
- Had a king (God Himself), greater than Agag (24:7b).

From this I learn that as a Christian I should live

1.
2.
3.

Balam also saw the Lord! He said:

- ✦ “....., but not now” (24:17)
- ✦ “....., but not near” (24:17)
- ✦ “Awill come out of Jacob” (v17; Matt 2:2)
- ✦ “Awill rise out of Israel” (v17; Heb 1:8)
- ✦ “He willthe foreheads of Moab”, and the symbol used by Moab was a snake! Jesus came to crush the head of the Serpent (Gen 3:15) and to use US in the process (Rom 16:20)!!

Though Balam did NOT succeed to put a curse on the Israelites, he DID SUCCEED in letting them bring a curse on themselves! His ungodly ADVICE to the Moabite women enabled them to draw the men into sickening sin. Read Num 25:1,2 and Num 31:15-17.

Pray “*Father, please help me to NOT be drawn into sin.*”

Go + Do what is needed to remain free from the curse of sin.

2 March: Don't be like Satan to Jesus

Pray “Lord, help me never to stand in Your way.”

Read Numbers 26-27 and Mark 8:22-38

Think + write

Though Peter was one of the 3 closest followers of Jesus, one day Jesus said to him: “Get behind me,!” (Mark 8:33).

Peter was called “**Satan**” by Jesus, because:

⊗ He had in his mind the things of(v33)

⊗ He did not have in his mind the things of(v33)

I may also become **like Satan** to Jesus *IF* I fill my mind with the things of men and women, and if I:

⊗ Do notmyself (v34)

⊗ Do not(v34)

⊗ Do not Jesus (v34)

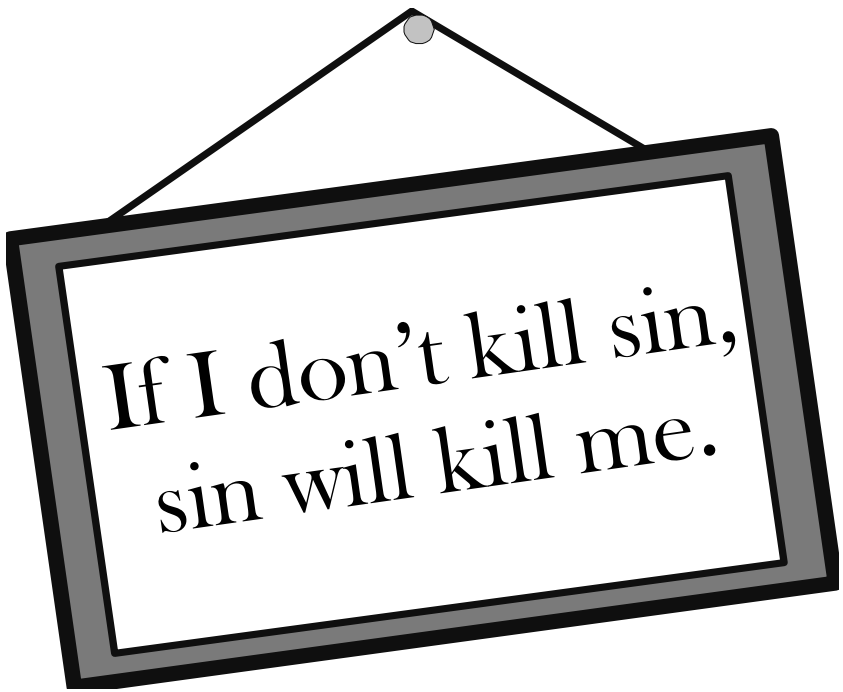
When Jesus said “thisand..... generation”(v38), He meant

.....
This generation in which we live is so wicked and weird in their sinfulness, that some Christians become ashamed of Jesus and His Word before them. This is very sad... **WE SHOULD NEVER BE ASHAMED OF JESUS AND HIS WORD.** He said, “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words...(I) will be ashamed of him when (I) come in (My) Father’s glory...”(Mark 8:38).

Phineas was not ashamed to do what was right. I read that 24 000 Israelites died because of their immorality. While some were repenting, **Zimri** (whose name, by the way, refers to *music* and *touch*) committed sin with a Midianite woman, **Cozbi** (whose name means “*false*” or “*to deceive*”). Take note that men with musical talents, with an emotional approach and with touching can destroy a woman’s life. And, women can be false and deceive men into sinning.... But Phineas was NOT ashamed of God’s standards, he was not ashamed to do what was right, “he was for the honor of his God” (Num 25:13). “He drove the spear.....”(v8)

Pray “Father, make me zealous like You.”

Go + Do what Phineas did - **KILL SIN, without shame!!!**



Sinning

while thinking there will be no
eventual consequence

is like sky diving without a parachute
and assuming you will
simply

drift

down

safely....!

3 March: Godly order

Pray “Lord, may my life fit into Your order.”

Read Numbers 28-29 and Mark 9:1-29

Think + write The Lord said: “See that you present to me at thetime” (Num 28:2). He expected and still expects things to happen at the **appointed times**. This is a principle in God’s world. The things in my own life that I do at the “appointed time” are:

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1..... | 4..... |
| 2..... | 5..... |
| 3..... | 6..... |

This needs Discipline, Devotion, Determination, Definite order, and much Dependence upon God!

God wants things to be done ***in an orderly manner***. In Acts 21:24b (KJV) God speaks of the expectation that Paul himself “also walkest **orderly**”. He also says: “Let all things be done decently and in **order**” (1 Co 14:40;KJV). And, as it’s put in the NIV: “But *everything* should be done in a fitting and **orderly way**....” This is an amazing verse. God says thatmust be done in an orderly way. This includes the way we worship, the way we behave, the way we conduct youth meetings, the way we work, the way we play music, the music we listen to, etc....I need to ask myself: ***Am I disorderly or orderly?*** I realize I need to improve in the areas of:.....

.....
.....
Do I orderly adhere to appointed times of rising in the mornings? Do I orderly adhere to appointed times of Bible study and prayer? Yes /No

High on the mountain, God spoke to the disciples who were close to Jesus and said to them:

- “This is”,
- “Whom I”,
- “.....to Him!” (Mark 9:7)

Pray “Father, I want to love Jesus, listen to Him daily, lean on Him (9:23) and learn to pray...”

Go + Do what God said I should do: ...“Listen to Him!”

4 March: Servant of all or Slave of sin?

Pray “Lord, please reveal Your way of looking at things.”

Read Numbers 30-31 and Mark 9:30-50

Think + write Jesus says, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and”(Mark 9:35). To be “a **servant of all**” means:.....

Jesus clearly tells us that:

- “If your hand causes you to sin,”(Mark 9:43)
- “If your foot causes you to sin,”(v45)
- “If your eye causes you to sin,”(v47).

The question is: Do I DO what Jesus tells me to do? This is a very serious and important question, because IF I do NOT radically cut off and drastically pluck out what causes me to sin, I’ll go to HELL!!! (9:43-48) Take note: I’m not just to cut off SIN in my life, but, more than that - ***I am to cut off what CAUSES sin in my life!!!*** The things that cause sin in my life are:.....

?

What about the TV? What about certain music CDs or DVDs? What about a certain “friendship”? What about the cinemas? What about “just shopping”? What about the internet or computer games? What about a cell phone? What about MXit? What about the gym? **IF any of these things CAUSE me to sin, am I willing to cut it off - NOW?!**

After the Israelites defeated the Midianites, Moses was angry with the officers of the army, because they.....

.....(Num 31:15-17)

These immoral women tempted the Israelite men to sin through (1)..... and (2) the

.....(Num 25:1,2 & Rev 2:20).

God takes this very seriously! He said they must KILL these women (v17). This means I must **KILL**(Col 3:5)

Pray “Father, I’ll CUT OFF all that causes me to sin!”

Go + Do it - NOW!

5 March: Holy Habits

Pray “Lord, I want to follow You.”

Read Numbers 32-33 and Mark 10:1-31

Think + write

I see that Jesus had **Holy Habits**. Mark tells us that “crowds of people came to him (Jesus), and as was his (in other words, his *habit*), he taught them” (Mark 10:1). It was Jesus’ discipline and habit to

✠the Word of God (Luke 4:16)

✠to God the Father

✠the people (Mark 10:1)

Oswald Chambers said: “...when we are born again, God does not give us a fully fledged series of holy habits, we have to **make** those habits.”

The habits the Lord leads me to establish in my life are:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Another Holy Habit is found in Num 33:2. God commanded Moses to “the stages of their journey”, i.o.w. to **write a diary!** Many godly men and women have done this over the ages. Of all the men older than 20 years who left Egypt, ONLY Caleb and Joshua entered the Promised Land, because they (1)..... (2)the.....(3).....(Num 32:12). In everything I do I need to also (1) Follow (2) the Lord (3) **Wholeheartedly** (fully, wholly). May the Lord help me. If not, God said: “Be sure thatwill.....”(Num 32:23b). This means:

I need to form holy habits as the fruit of following Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “We haveto follow You!” (Mark 10:28). But, to the rich young man Jesus said: “**ONE THING** you lack...Go, sell everything...”(v21), but he didn’t... Is there any **ONE THING** in my life that is not right with God??!

Pray “Father, help me to form all the holy habits You want.”

Go + Do what I need to do to form these habits, wholeheartedly.

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. As far as we know, 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.

Keeping a Personal Diary



Adapted from “*Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*” by Donald S. Whitney.

Why?

1. It helps me to meditate/think on God’s Word.
2. It helps me to understand and evaluate myself and others and what happens in life better.
3. It helps me to express my thoughts and feelings to God.
4. It helps me to remember God’s words (from my Time Alone with Him or from sermons), works & dealings with me (Ps 77:11-12).
5. It helps in creating and preserving a spiritual heritage (Ps 102:18) and to raise up a “monument of God’s faithfulness” in my life.
6. It helps in clarifying and articulating insights and impressions and prayers (in writing).
7. It helps in monitoring goals and priorities and books read.
8. It helps to order and maintain the other spiritual disciplines (for godliness - 1 Tim 4:7) in my life.

How?

- Use a small notebook or a diary with dates for every day
- Keep it with your Bible
- Try to write every day (with a fountain pen if possible)
- Write at least one sentence a day
- Persevere in the Discipline of thinking and writing ***what happens to me and what I learn....*** to God’s glory.

6 March: Hide in Christ

Pray “Lord, open my eyes and heart to see and surrender to You.”

Read Numbers 34-36 and Mark 10:32-52

Think + write God told Moses to select 6 Cities of Refuge which would be places of refuge from the(Num 35:12). These cities were used as refuge for those who(v15, 22-25). If such a person *ever goes outside* the limits of the city of refuge..., the avenger of blood maythe accused”(v27). When I compare these cities with the life in Christ, I learn that.....

The names of the 6 cities were: Hebron, Shechem, Kedesh, Golan, Ramoth and Bezer (Joshua 20). The Name of *my City of Refuge* is:

.....!!
Mark said (Mrk10:32), as “they were on their way up to Jerusalem”, Jesus was “.....”. In life, I must always make sure that my relationship with Jesus is right and that He is leading the way. For instance, I can ask myself:

- ♦ Will Jesus lead me to watch programs or stories that promote immorality on the *TV*?
- ♦ Will Jesus lead me to feed a *relationship* with someone of the opposite gender by sending cell phone or e-mail messages? Would Jesus have done it as a teenager?
- ♦ Will Jesus lead me to play a *computer game* that’s full of violence, or seductiveness, or just a time waster?
- ♦ Will Jesus lead me to follow the *world* and it’s *fashions*?

That good, old song says:

*“Where He leads me I will follow...(x3)
I’ll go with Him, with Him, to the end.”*

Jesus says: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your”(Mark 10:43). “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but (1) to, and (2) to his life.....for many”(v45). If *I am a servant* to others I’ll.....

Pray “Lord, make me like You, please make me like You; You are a servant, make me one too...”

Abide in Me

This photo was taken off the French coast. This freak wave broke the windows of the lighthouse and nearly killed the man...! He heeded the warning of the people in the helicopter (from where the photo was taken) and dashed INSIDE the tower - just in time to be saved!



Hide
in
Christ!

Why?!

- ◆ I'll die if I don't...!
- ◆ I'll be "cut off" (John 15:2)
- ◆ I have no chance of survival!
- ◆ I'll bear no fruit (v4)
- ◆ I'll perish in the flood (as in Noah's days), or the fire (in the last days)
- ◆ Outside Him I can do... nothing! (v5)
- ◆ Father will not be glorified (v8)

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him..." (Is 59:19)

"Come, my people, **ENTER**,
...and shut your doors behind you;
hide yourselves..." (Is 26:20)

"For You have been a Shelter
and a **Refuge** for me, a Strong Tower
against the adversary..."
(Ps 61:3; 94:22 and 144:2)

Jesus says:

"Be **in Me** at all times" (v4;BBE);
"Remain in Me..."
"Abide in Me..."

Then...

I'll be safe!
He'll be in me! (v4)
I'll bear much fruit (v7)
My prayers will be answered (v8)
Our Father will be glorified (v8)
His joy will be in me / us...! (v11)

7 March: Jesus' donkey

Pray “Lord, make me Your obedient, humble donkey!”

Read Deuteronomy 1-2 and Mark 11:1-19

Think + write The donkey in the little village was untamed, young and *tied up, bound*. Jesus said: “Untie it and bring it here”(v2), because “the Lordit”(v3). This is wonderful and amazing. I learn through it that **Jesus needs even me**, a simple, tied-up donkey! When God called Oswald Chambers (who is known for the daily devotional “*My Utmost for His Highest*”), He said to him: “***I need you for My service***, but I want you to know that ***I can do without you***.” If I remember this, I’ll always be thankful *and* humble...

When Jesus went to the temple “He looked...at.....” (v11). He also looked at the fig tree to see if it had fruit out of season (See 2 Tim 4:2). **He also looks at everything in my life**. *Is there anything in my life that I would not like Jesus to see?* I think that, as Jesus looks at everything in my life, He would like me to change the following:.....
.....
.....

When He looked at the Israelites in the desert, He saw they were stagnant and not advancing. They kept on camping around the mountain of a past religious experience (where God showed Himself to Moses). He said to them: “You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and”(Deut 1:7). I learn through this that ***once I’m in a RUT, I’m in danger of the ROT - that is, if I’m not REVIVED by God’s Holy Spirit***. God says:

- “and take possession of the land”(v8)
- “Do not be”(v21)
- “Do not be”(v21)
- “I have given you this land”(v8)
- “The Lord your God...is going.....”(v30)
- He will “for you”!!(v30)
- “NOW begin to”(Deut 2:31b)

Pray “Father, please revive me by Your Spirit!”

Go + Do what is needed to get out of the Rut and out of the Rot!!

8 March: Watch yourselves carefully

Pray “Lord, I want to follow You all the way.”

Read Deuteronomy 3,4 and Mark 11:20-33

Think & write When Joshua faced a great challenge, God told him: “Do not be afraid ...the Lord your God Himself will.....”(Deut 3:22). He was encouraged, because he said, “For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty worksdo?”(v24). This glorious God tells us to

- **Look and Live...** (Num 21:9; John 3:14-16)
- **Listen and Live...** (Isaiah 55:3)
- **Obey and Live!...** (Deut 4:1,6)

To live well, to conquer your spiritual enemies and to be victorious, “only be, and watch yourselves.....” (Deut 4:9). Again, God repeats His words to me (Deut 4:15b): “Therefore watch yourselves” This means:.....

Another KEY to victory in Jesus is to “be careful not to forget” (Deut 4:23,9). That’s why I read in 2 Tim 2:8, “..... Jesus Christ.” I need to

- **Remember** where I came from...(Eph 2:11; Rev 2:5)
- **Remember** that my heart is deceitful...(Jer 17:9)
- **Remember** I have an enemy...(1 Peter 5:8)
- **Remember** Jesus’ words...(Acts 20:35)
- **Remember** Jesus Christ - His victory, His presence, His power.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes that when temptation comes my way, it tends to awaken desire within my flesh *AND* fills me, not “with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God...”. This is very true. I need to remember this and to remember Jesus!! When I read: “For the Lord your God is a consuming fire” (Deut 4:24), I understand it to mean:

God is eager to answer my prayers, provided I

- * *Believe* (Mark 11:24)
- * *Do not hold anything against anyone!!* (v25)

Pray “Father, thank You for the safety in the Fire of Your Love.”

Go + Do what I read: “remember” and “watch carefully.”

9 March: Do I have AIDS?

Pray “Lord, please open my eyes and my understanding.”

Read Deuteronomy 5-7 and Mark 12:1-27

Think + write

Because of God’s love and faithfulness, He puts a wall of protection around his children (Mark 12:1). God put aaround Job (Job 1:10). Satan cannot penetrate this wall, unless I open a door or a window for him (through *darkness* or *deception*) and give him a foothold in my *heart* or *head*. Even answering a “secret sms” may open a door for the devil! That’s why God says: “do not give the devil” (Eph 4:27). Jesus had given NO PLACE to the devil, that is why He could say: “He (the devil) has no power over me” (John 14:30; *GNB*), because “there is nothing in Me that belongs to him”, (John 14:30; *Ampl*). Jesus was “a man of” (Mark 12:14). He did not suffer from Acquired Integrity Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)! Integrity means:.....

Moses said: “God directed me to teach you” (Deut 6:1) to:

1. Fear God (6:2; 5:29)
2. Be careful to obey (6:3)
3. Love God with(v5)
4. Keep His commandments on your heart (v6), talk about them, bind them to your brains, tie them to your deeds (hands), write them to your homes (v7-9)...
5. Teach and impress them on your children (v7)
6. Be careful that you do not forget (v12)

God said, if I do that: (1) It will with me (v3), (2) I’ll life (v2), and (3) I’ll increase and become greater in number (v3), i.e. more people will become saved. God further said his children are to break down the idol altars, smash the idolatry stones, cut down the poles (the “janda’s”), burn the idols in the fire..., as well as all the accursed things linked to them. See Deut 7:5,25-26. It is NOT to be brought into your house or hung around your neck as (for instance) a re-molded golden cross...!!

**God brought me OUT of sin
to bring me IN to the holy, humble life in Christ** (Deut 6:23).

Pray “Father, may that be the life I live daily - in Christ.”

Go + Do... Go and BURN all the cursed things in my possession



AIDS

What?

A *Acquired*

I *Immuno-*

D *Deficiency*

S *Syndrome*

Why?

A *Acquired*

I *Integrity*

D *Deficiency*

S *Syndrome*

The Root Cause of AIDS
(generally speaking)
is the acquired deficiency of

INTEGRITY

10 March: I love Him with my ALL

Pray “Lord, please show me Your love.”

Read Deuteronomy 8-10 and Mark 12:28-44

Think + write Jesus said, as recorded in Mark 12:30-33, the most important of all the commandments is to:

“Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind
and with all your strength.”



I read in verse 33:

“To love Him with all...
is more important than all...”

The man who spoke to him also responded by saying, “**There is no other but Him**”(v32). I should also be able to always say that, and as Oswald Chambers often said:

“For in all the world there is none but Thee, my God,
there is none but Thee!”

Can I truly say “*There is none other but Him*” in my heart and life??!

Can I truly say, “*Lord, there is none but Thee*” to me??!

My personal response to God is:.....

.....
.....



In His love, when God led the Israelites out of Egypt, He led them through the desert for 40 years to:

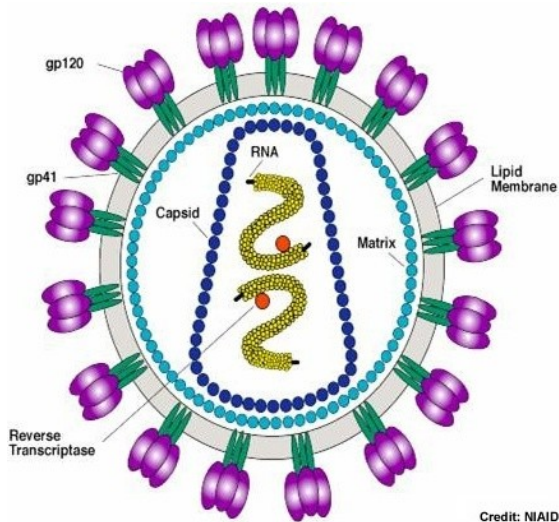
-them (Deut 8:2);
-them, in order to know what was
.....(v2), and
-them that man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (v3), and to
-them as a Father (v5).

After God *humbled* them, *tested* them, *taught* them and *disciplined* them, He could now use them to dis-possess the land of all the evil (incl. the Immorality, the Idolatry and the Injustice), and be instrumental that He could re-possess the land through them to His glory.

Pray “Father, I love You with my all. Please use me and keep me”

Go + Do love God with my all, always.

HIV



Highjack

RETROVIRUS

Multiplies *IN* cells

Mutates (changes) rapidly all the time

Minute (invisible to normal eye)

Minimal "brains" or genetic material: 100 000x

smaller than in human cell

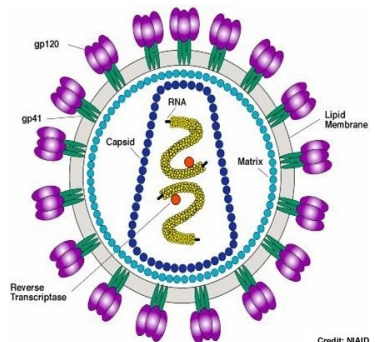
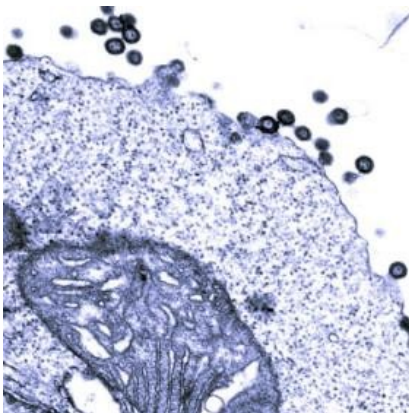
MUST find a cell that has a **RECEPTOR** for it...!

Must hijack to multiply

Murders the cells that accept it

Mission: enter, hijack, multiply, escape, murder

Method: a **RETRO**-virus **REVERSES** the usual flow of genetic information... It works **BACKWARDS**... It is a typical **BACKSLIDER**...

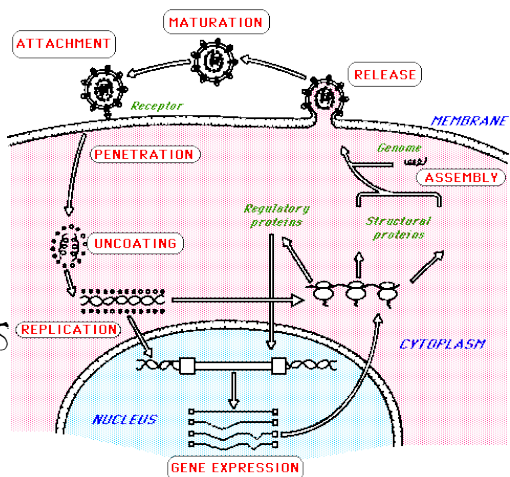
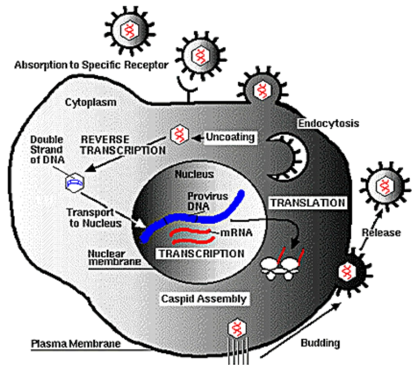


Credit: NIAID

REPLICATION

The STEPS followed by HIV

1. Enters person
2. Attachment to receptor
3. Penetration of CD4 cell
4. Uncoating
5. Reverse transcription of single stranded RNA
6. Double DNA made
7. Migration to "brain" nucleus of CD4 cell
8. Integration: DNA of HIV + DNA of cell becomes ONE!
9. Viral transcription or "gene expression" (virus writes it's characteristics on brain and forms new RNA)
10. Building new HIV "babies": protein synthesis
11. Assembly
12. Release from CD4 cell
13. CD4 cell DIES...
14. Matures
15. Enters other CD4 cell...
16. Repeats process!



MILLIONS OF NEW HIVS
ARE MADE
EVERY DAY...!

SIN works like HIV...

- ☠ It tries to ENTER me - through my ears, eyes, feelings or thoughts...
- ☠ It is MINUTE... It is very SMALL...
- ☠ It can't be SEEN at first...
- ☠ It looks for a RECEPTOR in me to get ATTACHED to me
- ☠ I am supposed to KILL it, but it starts to kill ME... (CD4)
- ☠ Once the receptor RECEPTED it, it PENETRATES deeper into me...
- ☠ It then unclothes itself, exposes itself more and more, ...and starts to make itself more PRESENTABLE to my brain (the nucleus of the cell)...
- ☠ It does it through BACKWARD MASKING (reverse transcriptase)...., just as messages are conveyed through pop music...
- ☠ It INTEGRATES and becomes ONE with the MIND of the person
- ☠ The person (the CD4 cell), which was supposed to help KILL it, now starts to REPRODUCE many HIVs (SINs)
- ☠ The person now RELEASES the SINs and infects many other cells (persons) with the same SINs...
- ☠ OTHERS become INFECTED by the SINs (the HIVs)...
- ☠ They go through the same process...
- ☠ In the end: the BODY dies... The SCHOOL dies... The FAMILY dies... The CHURCH dies!

There is only ONE REMEDY...

COME to the LORD JESUS CHRIST...!

CONFESS your SINS... REPENT... BELIEVE in Him...

HE can and will save you!

SIN shall NOT have dominion over you any more (Romans 6:14)

11 March: I'll DO as He wants me to do

Pray “Father, Your love is my life.”

Read Deuteronomy 11:13 and Mark 13:1-13

Think + write Jesus says: “Watch out that
.....you” (Mrk 13:5). It is possible that I can be deceived by
(1) myself, and (2) by others. *When someone says something to me
about themselves, or about someone else, or about me that is not
true...and I believe them, I am deceived!* **Deception by others** often
happens when:

-
-

According to Mark 13:13b, *the only people who will be saved* are
those who.....!!!

Yesterday, I read in Deut 10:12-13 that **God asks of me** to:

- 1.....Him
- 2.....in all His ways
- 3.....Him (v12 and 11:13)
- 4.....Him with my all (v12 and 11:13)
- 5.....His commands (v13)

God says: “**FIX these words of mine** in your hearts and minds”, *teach*
them, *tie* them to me, *talk* about them and *write* them....(11:18-20).
To FIX God’s words to my heart and mind means:.....

.....**FIXit, don’t MXit!!!**

God says *if I obey* I’ll be

If I disobey I’ll be(Deut 11:26-28).

In Deut 12:4 God says clearly that **I should NOT worship Him in the
way the world worships!!** This means.....

.....
I should only do and worship *as He chooses* (see v14,18,21,26). Fur-
thermore, if my own brother or sister or wife or closest friend secretly
entices (tempts) me, God says: “Do not yield to him or listen to
him”(or her). “Do not ...shield him”(13:6-10), “You must certainly
put him to death”. ***KILL THAT RELATIONSHIP!! KILL THAT
SUGGESTION!!***

Pray “Lord, with Your help, I’ll do it.”

Go + Do it!

12 March: Chosen to be His!!

Pray “Thank you, Father. Please teach me what it means to be Yours, always.”

Read Deuteronomy 14-16 and Mark 13:14-37

Think + write

I read in Deut 14:2, “Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen YOU to be his treasured possession.” Do you believe that?! Can you re-write the underlined section of the verse and put your own name in the place of the “you”? “The

.....”

Practically, “to be His” means that.....

.....

When I am **HIS**, I do NOT belong to myself any more (1 Co 6:19). I can then NOT decide how I want to dress or do “my” hair or pierce “my” ears or paint “my” lips, because it is NOT “mine” anymore, but **HIS!!!** Then **HE** decides, and I know He knows the best!!

The way I look at and treat poor people (whom, the Lord says, will always be in the land) should be:

- ♦ Not(v7)
- ♦ Not(v7)
- ♦(v8,11)
- ♦ Giving.....(v10)
- ♦ Without a(v10)

God says (Deut 16:16), “No man (or woman) should appear before the Lord This means:.....

.....

I need to take note that a pierced ear lobe was a sign of being a slave for life! See Deut 15:17. Could this mean that if I allow my ear lobe to be pierced that I become a slave of someone or something??!!

Jesus told us that His words will”(Mrk 13:31). He tells everyone: “Watch!” (Mrk 13:37); “Be on!” (v33); “Be!”(v33); “Keep.....(v35).

Pray “Lord, I want to be awake and ready when You return.”

Go + Do what will show that I am **HIS**.



“The Lord has
chosen
YOU
to be His
treasured possession”

Deut 14:2

13 March: Something beautiful for Jesus

Pray “Lord, show me how to love You and serve You.”

Read Deuteronomy 17-19 and Mark 14:1-25

Think + write

When a certain woman brought her jar of expensive perfume, broke it and poured the perfume on Jesus’ head, he said (Mark 14):

- ♦ “She has done athing to”(v6);
- ♦ “She did”(v8).

I also want to do what I can to do something beautiful for Jesus.

Frances R. Havergal wrote:

**“Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.”**

God said, the king should: (1) not acquire great numbers of, (2) not take many, and (3) not accumulate large amounts of (Deut 17:16-17). God knew that these things could cause a man to stumble and sin and spoil his relationship with God. It’s good for any man who wants to be victorious to **beware**

**F : Fame
F : Females
F : Finance**

Similarly, it is good for women who want to shine for Jesus to beware:

**M : Me-ism (pride)
M : Men & Marriage
M : Money & Material things**

According to 1 Peter 2:9 I am also royalty, I am also a king. As far as **the Word of God** is concerned, the king had to:

- Write (copy) his own “Bible” (v18)
- Keep it with him (v19)
- Read it “.....life”(v19)

This would make him (1) fear God, (2) obey God, and (3) stay humble. Like him, **I am to read the Bible all the days of my life!!** (v19). According to 1 Peter 2:9 I am also a priest, a Levite. A Levite is chosen: (1) to come earnestly, (2) to the place God chooses, (3) to stand, (4) to minister in the Lord’s name *always* (Deut 18:5-7).

Pray “Lord, help me be and do something beautiful for You.”

Go + Do what I can and what I can’t (with His help).

14 March: There is a war!

Pray “Father, may I know victory through the Victor, Jesus Christ”

Read Deuteronomy 20-22 and Mark 14:26-50

Think + write I am engaged in a war, “a war between the saint and Satan. And it is such a bloody one that the cruelest war ever fought by man will be seen but sport and child’s play compared to this. Alas, what is the killing of bodies to the destroying of souls?” (*W. Gurnall*). Paul says it is “a life-and-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels”, the demons (Eph 6:12; *The Message*). “The stage on which this war is fought is every man’s own soul.” According to John Bunyan, “the most delicate Christian *must* become a stern warrior...”!! God says, “When you go to war against your enemies...”:

- Do not be(Deut 20:1)
- Remember, God will be.....(v1b)
- Do not beor.....(v3a)
- Do not be(v3b)
- God goes.....me (v4) - to fight for me and
to give me victory.

Victory in the Christian life is evidenced by:

V : Victory over all sins in my life and by Vitality

I : Intercession: a real burden to pray

C : Courage to live, speak and stand up for Jesus

T : Teamwork; being *one* in real fellowship with other believers

O : Open Bible: the Bible is living to me, not dead

R : Radiance: radiating the life of Christ - Love

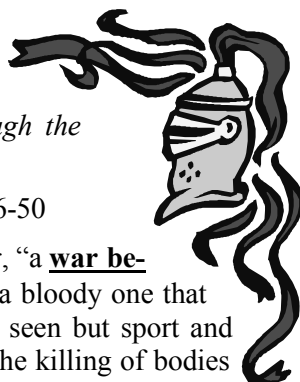
Y : Yearning for souls: a deep, urgent desire for lost people to be saved

In Deut 21:18-21 God said a stubborn and rebellious son (or daughter- *my addition*), who will not listen to his parents, must be
.....by all the men of his town!! Contrary to such “Bad Boyz” and “Bad Girls”, Jesus showed us how to be children that are pleasing to God. He said:

- Father, “not what I will, but ***what You will***” (Mark 14:36)
- “Abba, Father”, which means, “***Dear Father***...”!! (v36)

Pray “Dear Father, thank you for giving me Victory in this war.”

Go + Do what God asks of His son-soldiers and daughter-soldiers.



15 March: Far Following?

Pray “Lord, may Your light reveal and dispel all darkness in me”

Read Deuteronomy 23-25 and Mark 14:51-72

Think + write

Peter followed Jesus “.....” (Mark 14:54).

To **follow Jesus at a distance** means that I:.....

.....

The consequences of such **far following** are:

- ☹ I’ll sit with the mockers (v 54 and Ps 1:1)
- ☹ I’ll stand in the way of sinners (v 70 and Ps 1:1)
- ☹ I’ll walk in the counsel of the wicked (Ps 1:1)
- ☹ I’ll **deny** Jesus Christ! (v 68,70,71)

To “deny” means to disown, avoid, relinquish, let go of, refuse, put off, and disappoint. I am guilty of denying Jesus when I

.....

The moment Peter Realized his sin and Remembered Jesus’ words to him (v72) he Repented in *deep brokenness* and was later Restored by Jesus and Re-commissioned in His service (John 21:15-22). For the rest of his life his Relationship with Jesus was one of full, faithful and fruitful love. That’s why it was none other than Peter who later said, “unto you therefore which believe **He is precious**”!! (1 Peter 2:7;KJV).

Yesterday, I read: “A woman must NOT wear

clothing, nor a man wear,

for the Lord your God detest anyone who does this” (Deut 22:5). This is the word of the Lord. If a girl gets married and it is found that she is not a **virgin** any more, but that she behaved promiscuously while she was still in her father’s house, then she must be

.....(Deut 22:20-21). This shows that **God hates immorality**. He says that those who are sexually immoral and impure “will NOT inherit the”(Gal 5:21).

Others did not inherit the Promised Land, because, when they were **tired** and **lagged behind** (Deut 25:18), the Amalekites cut them off. Let’s stay close to God’s true followers and NOT lag behind!!

Pray “Lord Jesus, help me not to be a far follower!”

Go + Do what is needed to stay close to Jesus.

Clothed to the glory of God



*“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do it all to the glory of God.”*
(1 Co 10:31)

Clothing can glorify God. It can show the humble, modest beauty of a pure heart. It can draw people towards good. It can make Jesus glad. On the other hand, clothing can instead glorify a girl or a boy. It can draw attention to the body and tempt others to envy or to lust. It can reveal a worldly heart. It can tempt the devil to tempt you, ...and worst of all, it can grieve the heart of God.

Clothing is not a simple matter. It shows the state of my heart. Clothing can seduce me or help secure me. Watchman Nee (a true man of God) said: **“By your clothes men shall judge whether or not you are a Christian.”**

I trust that you want to be all that Jesus wants you to be. With that in mind may I share some thoughts with you about this important matter?

What does the Bible teach us about clothing?

1. Clothing is for covering

We read in Genesis 3 (see verses 6,7 and 21) that our first parents “made **coverings** for themselves”. After that God improved on it and

“clothed them”. Any clothing that tends to *expose* is not from God, but from the flesh, from Satan. In Luke 8 we read that the man that was possessed by many demons had no clothes on. While God wants us to cover our bodies, the devil wants us to expose it. Maybe by shortening the dress, or opening one button, or shortening the sleeves or the tops, or cutting a slit, or lengthening the v-shape collar, or using see-through material, or wearing skirts or pants that seem to fall off all the time, or whatever. Some like short tops and say it’s okay, because it covers them, but the moment they lift their arms a bit or pick up something, they have to grab the bottom of their top to keep themselves covered. This is a shame in the Christian church.

2. Clothing was given by God

“*God* made ...clothing for Adam and his wife and dressed (clothed) them.” (Gen 3:21, *The Message*). When we get or buy clothes we should be guided by God. He should help us select. Go through your cupboard and drawers and look at your clothes one by one. Ask yourself: Did God give me each of these items? Will He give such a piece of clothing? Look at the style, look at the extent it is clothing for covering (or not for covering), look at the words on the T-shirts...

3. Clothing should glorify God

We have seen that whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we are to “do it all to the glory of God” (1 Co 10:31). This means also dressing to His glory. Our clothes should not glorify our bodies, or our bank accounts, or our beauty, or our muscles, but our Maker. It should not draw eyes to us, to our muscles or our bodies, but to Jesus. Now, put on your clothes, one after the other, look in the mirror and ask yourself: Does it draw attention to me? Does it glorify me (in any way) or does it glorify God?

4. Men’s clothing and women’s clothing should be different

God tells us very clearly in Deuteronomy 22:5 that “a woman must not wear men’s clothing, nor a man wear women’s clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this.” There are many reasons why God tells us not to do this (which we won’t go into now), but even if He would not tell us the reasons, the fact that He tells us *not* to do it should be sufficient reason for us NOT to do it. Sisters should know

that men sin mainly through what they *see*. If you like it or not, you should know that when a woman wears pants, men tend to look at her body and many sin with their eyes. Do you want that? If you do, you are lost. If not, praise God, ...but then - don't wear pants! It seems to me as if some women are very happy to wear punjabi's, just because it gives them a culturally legitimate reason to wear pants. I know a punjabi is not men's clothing, but the way it is sometimes worn - with a long slit or a very short top - makes it look more like men's clothing, with more exposure of the bottom part. I believe this grieves God.

5. My clothes should not cause someone to stumble and sin

Jesus said, "But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him (or her) to have a large millstone hung around his neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man (or women) through whom they come!" (Matt 18:6-7). In Jeremiah we read, "How skilled you are at pursuing love! Even the worst of women can learn from your ways. On your clothes men find the lifeblood of the innocent poor..." (2:33,34)

6. My clothes should be modest and proper

The Lord further tells us: "I want woman to...not draw attention to themselves" (NLB), but "to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God" (1 Tim 2:9-10). *The Message* translation says: "I want women ... not pimping before a mirror or chasing the latest fashions but doing something beautiful for God and becoming beautiful doing it." In 1 Peter 3: 3-4 we read, "Don't be concerned about the outward beauty..."(NLB), "your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful."

7. My clothing is part of my message

John the Baptist came preaching in the desert. His “clothes were made of camel’s hair” (Matt 3:4). This doesn’t mean we must wear camel’s hair clothes! No, but it does mean that his clothes were part of his message. Even Jesus referred to that. See Matt 11:8. On the other hand we read in Proverbs 7, “Then out came a woman to meet him, *dressed like a prostitute* (dressed seductively - NLB) and with crafty intent. She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home.” Her clothes are part of *her* message.

The lesson is clear: my clothes are part of my message! The question is: What message do others get when they see my clothes? Do they see that I love the world? Do they see that I dress myself like a “corner-boy”? Do they see that I love fashion? Do they see that I love fine, expensive clothing? Or do they see that I love Jesus and care only to glorify Him, being dead to the world?

Amy Carmichael, who was a missionary in Tamil Nadu said:

***Dead to the world and its applause
To all its 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.***

May this be our message too.

8. My clothing is primarily spiritual

We read in the Word of God that we are to be clothed with Jesus Himself (Gal 3:27). He should cover us. As we walk in Him, clothed with Him, God will be glorified and not us. We will not cause people to stumble and sin, to the contrary, they will be drawn to Jesus. He wants to clothe us with salvation (2 Chron 6:41 and Isaiah 61:10), with righteousness (Job 29:14, Ps 132:9), with humility (1 Peter 5:5), with praise (Is 61:3). When we are clothed with Jesus Himself and His Spirit teaches us what clothes to wear, and what clothes not to wear, God will be glorified.

What should I do?

If you **realize** that your clothes are

- filthy in God's eyes (as Joshua's were, as recorded in Zech 3:3),
- Contaminated/polluted with leprosy or mildew - spiritually (Lev 13),
- foreign to God and His kingdom (Zeph 1:8),
- spotted with sin (Jude 23), or
- have the appearance of evil (1 Thes 5:22), and
- not pleasing to God...

Then...

- ✝ **Repent** deeply and whole-heartedly,
- ✝ Confess your sins (specifically) and
- ✝ Ask the Lord to forgive you your sins
- ✝ Ask the Lord to cleanse and change your heart
- ✝ Ask the Lord to give you a hatred for clothes that are spotted with sin (Jude 23).
- ✝ In Leviticus 13 we read that the clothes that were polluted with leprosy were to be burned (and completely destroyed)
- ✝ Those that had a few spots of leprosy were to be altered and cleansed and only then used again.

Remember:
**If my heart
is not properly clothed
with salvation,
with Jesus,
my body
will most probably also *not* be clothed properly.**

May the Lord lead you as you radically follow Him,
love Him and obey Him!

Let us glorify the Lord together...!

16 March: I'll always choose Jesus

Pray *"Lord, may You be satisfied."*

Read Deuteronomy 26,27 and Mark 15:1-26

Think + write "You have now become the people of the Lord your God" (Deut 27:9). When I am part of the "**people of God**", when I have become a child of God (John 1:12), He says I must:

- ☺the Lord my God (v10) and
- ☺His commands (v10).

God says a man or a woman is **cursed** when (s)he:

- ☠ Carves an image or casts an(v15)
- ☠ Dishonors hisor.....(v16)
- ☠ Does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out (v26)

When Jesus was unfairly tried before Pilate, the people were given the opportunity to **choose** between Him and Barabbas (Mark 15:6-13). They did not choose Jesus, but Barabbas! I need to ask myself:

- Have I chosen Jesus?
- Have I chosen any sin?
- Have I chosen any sinner (before Jesus)?
- Have I chosen anything of the world (above Jesus)?

Pilate made an awful decision: he chose to satisfy the crowd!!! (v15). The Bible says: "Wanting to"
he released Barabbas...and had Jesus flogged and crucified!
"**Wanting to satisfy the crowd**" is shown by:.....
.....

When I seek to satisfy the Crowd
I crucify Christ ...

Pray *"O Lord, please help me. I want to satisfy You
and not the crowd."*

Go + Do what will satisfy Jesus...

17 March: Be blessed!

Pray “Lord, thank you for showing me the way of blessing...”

Read Deuteronomy 28 and Mark 15:27-47

Think + write The “crowd” mocked Jesus and said: “Come down from the cross and save yourself!” (Mark 15:50). A certain godly man said, “A man (or a woman) who has taken up their cross is characterized by...”

1. You know they will never come back again
2. They have given up all plans of their own
3. They only look in one direction...

To me this means:.....
.....
.....

God wants me to

1. Obey Him(Deut 28:1)
2. Carefullyall His commands (v1), and
3. Serve Him.....and.....(v47). This is a good test for my relationship with God. If I do not walk with God and serve Him with loving, joyful obedience, my relationship with Him is not right.

He says that if I am fully obedient “all these *blessings*”(v2-14) will come upon me and accompany me:

- He will send a blessing onI put my hand to (v8)
- He will establish me as part of His holy people (v9)
- All the people will SEE that I am a child of God (v10)
- He will blessthe work of my hands (v12), etc....

On the other hand, if I do NOT obey and carefully follow the Lord, many *curses* will come on me, e.g.:

- ☠ You will be(v16a)
- ☠ You will be plagued with(v21)
- ☠ The Lord will strike you with wasting disease (v22). In certain parts of the world “wasting disease” is the term used for AIDS...
- ☠ I will be d.....(v25),
- ☠ You will be anxious and despairing (v65), etc... (See v16-68!!)

Pray “Father, may I live in the sunshine of Your blessing.”

Go + Do what God told me to do - carefully and joyfully!

*18 March: It's **NOT** too difficult...*



Pray “Lord, please show me the Way of Life”

Read Deuteronomy 29-30 and Mark 16

Think + write From Deut 29:29 (which is easy to remember!) I learn that the things I don’t know and don’t understand belong to God (and I don’t need to worry about it), but what is revealed and known by me, I should DO and obey.

God says that if we **Return** to Him and **Obey** Him (Deut 30:2), He will **Restore** us (v3) and change our hearts, ...so that we may **Love Him with all...**and **Live!!** (v6). How wonderful!! He says, “Now what I am commanding you today is for you” (Deut 30:11). Do you believe this? God says that what He tells me to do is *not too difficult for me to do* (with Him)!! He says: “I have set before youand.....”(v19)

“Now choose life” (v19)

...So that you may (1) **LOVE God**, (2) **LISTEN to His voice** and (3) **HOLD FAST to Him**, for

“the Lord is your life” (v20)

I need to **CHOOSE** not according to what I **SEE** or **FEEL**, but according to what is **RIGHT**.

The early Christians proclaimed and greeted each other by saying (Mark 16:6):

“He has risen!”

Jesus says (Mark 16:15-18), also to me:



.....into all the world



and.....the good news



to..... In the Amplified Bible I read:
“to every creature [of the whole human race]”.

Pray “Lord, I’ll obey You, because I love You.”

Go + Do it!

19 March: Your words are Life to me

Pray “Lord, may Your kingdom come.”

Read Deuteronomy 31,32 and Luke 1:1-23

Think + write

In Luke 1 I read and learn that **John the Baptist** was:

1. Aand.....to his parents (Luke 1:14). *Am I?*
2.in God’s sight (v15). *Am I?*
3. Never took(v15). *Do I?*
4.with the Holy Spirit (v15). *Am I?*
5. Brought many peopleto the Lord (v16). *Do I?*
6. Wentbefore the Lord (v17). He did not stop serving God.
Do I go on with God?
7. Brought fathers’ and children’s hearts together again (v17). *Do I?*

To **enter the Promised Land** of victory in Jesus, God says:

- Beand.....(Deut 31:6)
- Do not beor.....(v6)
- God will gome (v6)
- He willme or forsake me (v6)
- Do not be d.....(v8b)

God teaches me that the **Word of God** (the Bible) should be **read** to “men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns” (v12). All should **listen** to it and **learn to fear the Lord** (v12). The words of God are “not justwords for you - they are”(Deut 32:46-47).

From “**The Song of Moses**” (Deut 32) I learn that:

- My words (teaching) should be like dew andon tender plants, not like hail or stones (v2);
- God is my(v4a);
- He is my, my(v6);
- He guards me (v10), and trains me to fly high (v11), and carries me when necessary (v11), and leads me (v12), and feeds me (v13);
- I should beware of becoming fat and deserting the Lord (v15);
- God will have compassion on His servants when He sees their strength is gone (v36)... How wonderful!

Pray “Father, thank you for all you are to me and others.”

Go + Do His desire.

20 March: Filled with God's Spirit!

Pray “Lord, may I too be filled with Your Holy Spirit.”

Read Deuteronomy 33-34 and Luke 1:24-56

Think + write Moses pronounced a **blessing** on the different children of God (Deut 33). If I put myself in their position and live the life they lived, I learn that, by God's grace:

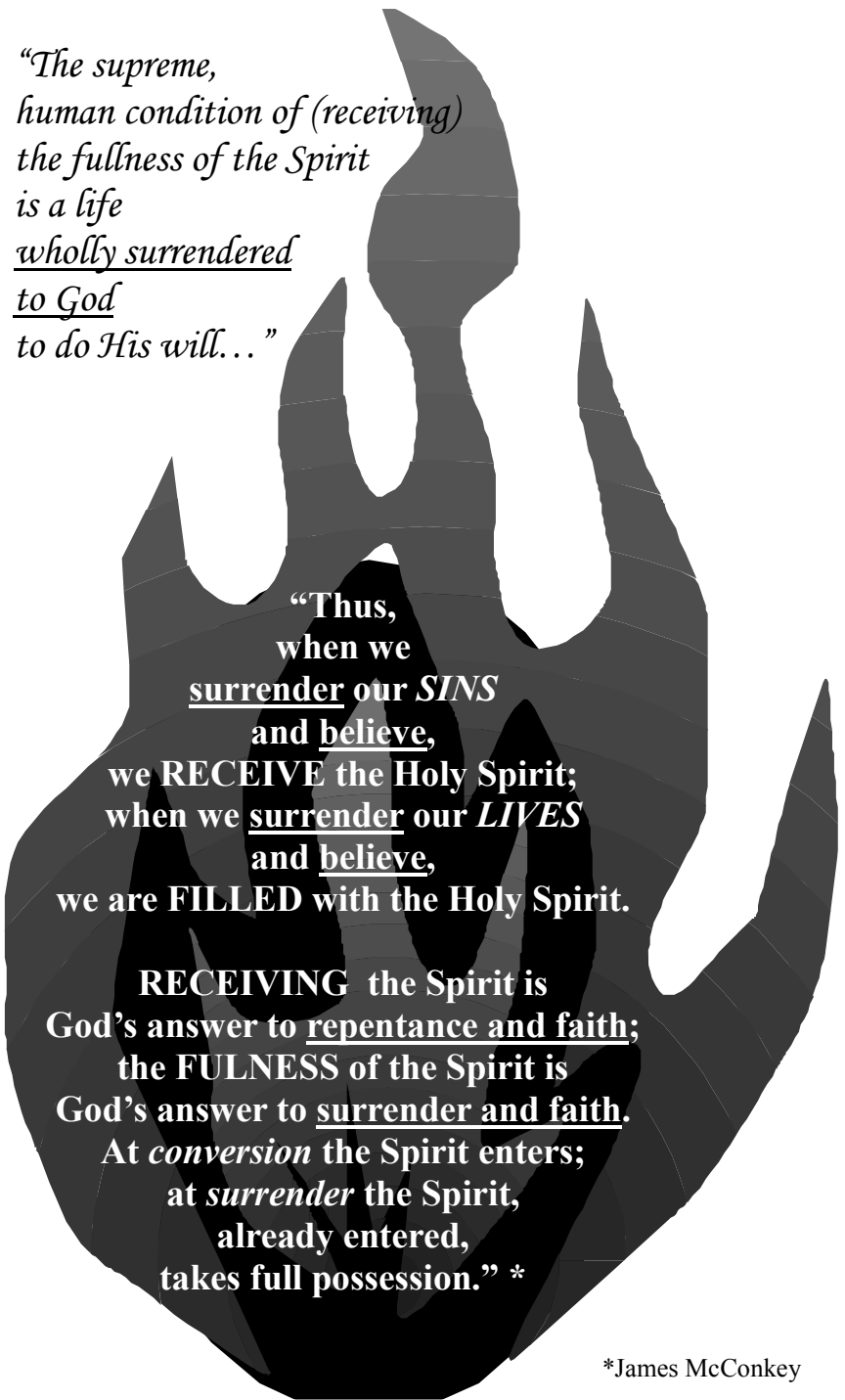
- * God will help me against my spiritual and physical enemies (v7)
- * He will bless the work of my hands (v11)
- * I may rest secure in the Lord (v12), between His shoulders (v12)
- * I am the beloved of the Lord (v12)
- * I can rejoice as I go out every day to face life's challenges (v18)
- * I can be full of the blessing of the Lord (v23)
- * There is no one like God (v26)
- * He is my Refuge (v27)
- * His everlasting arms are underneath me (v27)
- * He is my Shield and Helper, my Glorious Sword (v29)
- * The favor of the One who dwelt in the burning bush is mine (v16)
- * My Spring (my Fountain), Jesus, is secure (v28).

After Moses laid his hands on Joshua he was **filled with the Spirit** of wisdom (Deut 34:9). In **Isaiah 11:2** I also read about Jesus, that “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of, the Spirit of and of, the Spirit of and of the” In the same way ***I need to be filled with the Spirit of God daily.*** Jonathan Edwards (who was mightily used by God in revival) said: “*The Spirit of God is the chief of blessings, for it is the sum of all spiritual blessings; which we need infinitely more than others, and wherein our true and eternal happiness consists...*”

The angel told **Mary** that “The will come upon you” (Luke 1:35) and that “.....is impossible with God”(v37). The Holy Spirit could come upon her, because the Lord was with her (v28), she was pure (v34), saved (v47), humble (v48), surrendered (v38), and she believed (v45).

Pray “Father, I ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit.”

Go + Do what God wants so that He can do what He promised.



*“The supreme,
human condition of (receiving)
the fullness of the Spirit
is a life
wholly surrendered
to God
to do His will...”*

**“Thus,
when we
surrender our *SINS*
and believe,
we RECEIVE the Holy Spirit;
when we surrender our *LIVES*
and believe,
we are FILLED with the Holy Spirit.**

**RECEIVING the Spirit is
God’s answer to repentance and faith;
the FULNESS of the Spirit is
God’s answer to surrender and faith.
At *conversion* the Spirit enters;
at *surrender* the Spirit,
already entered,
takes full possession.” ***

*James McConkey

21 March: **Grow strong and Be strong**

Pray “*Lord, there is none like You!*”

Read Joshua 1-3 and Luke 1:57-80

Think + write When Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit he prophesied (Luke 1:67) that **Jesus would:**

- * Be like ***the Rising Sun*** to shine on those living in darkness (v78)
- * ***Rescue us*** from our enemies (v74)
- * ***Enable us to serve Him*** (v74)
without fear
in holiness and righteousness
before Him
all our days (v75)

John the Baptistand becamein
.....(v80). As a young person I also need to
grow and **become strong in Spirit**, like John the Baptist. It will be
shown by:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

God commanded Joshua (and He commands me!!):

- Getto cross over and enter the Promised Land (Jos 1:2)
- Be and (v6,7,9,18!!)
- Be careful to obey and do everything in the Word of the Lord (v7,8)
- on the Word of the Lord - day and night (v8)
- Do not be terrified or discouraged (v9) - This is a command!!

To **meditate** on the Word of the Lord means “*deep thinking (in the Lord’s presence) on the truths and spiritual realities revealed in Scripture, for the purpose of understanding, application and prayer.*”

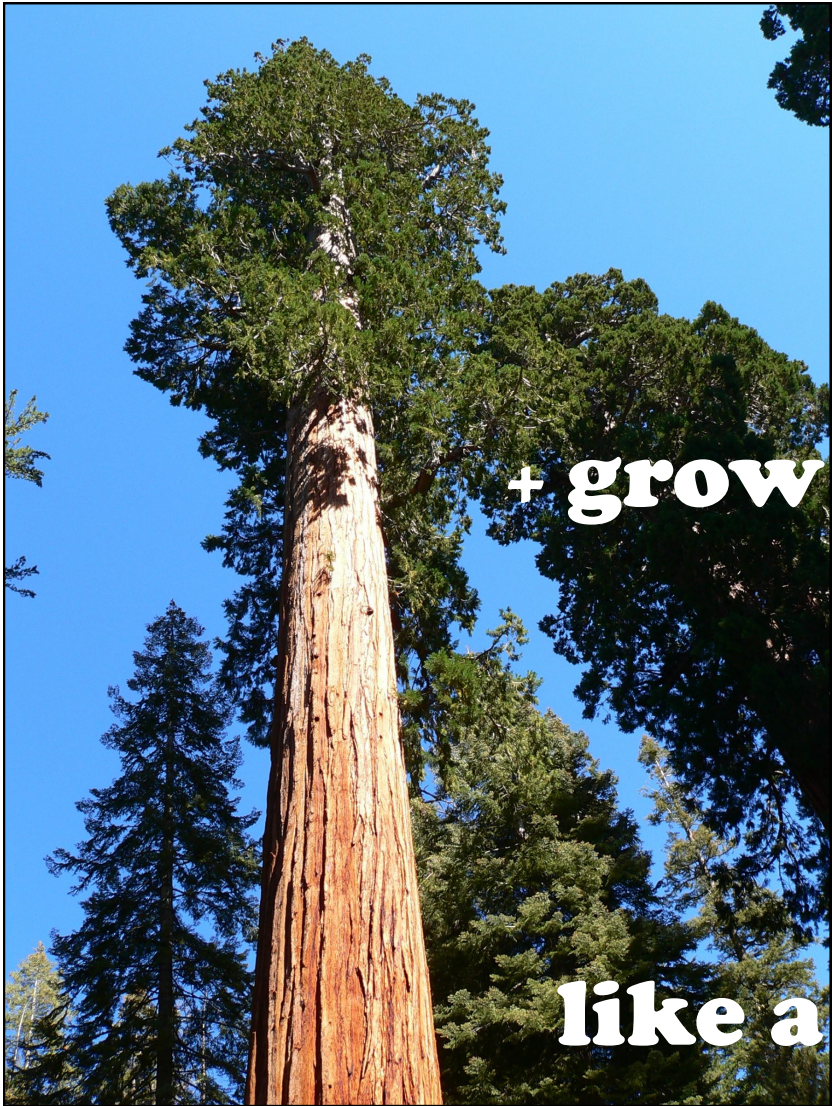
God promised Joshua (and me!!):

- ✠ I will be with you (v5)
- ✠ I will never leave you nor forsake you (v5; Matt 28:20)
- ✠ I will give you every place where you set your foot (v3)
- ✠ I will let you be prosperous and successful (v8)

Pray “*Father-God, I want to follow and obey You like Joshua did.*”

Go + Do as Joshua did.

STAND



SEQUOIA

The **Sequoia** tree is

- of the **TALLEST** trees in the world
- of the **OLDEST**... (even 3000 years!!!)
- of the **STRONGEST** trees
- of the **TOUGHEST** trees
- of the most **MAJESTIC** trees...
- **GLORIFYING GOD!**



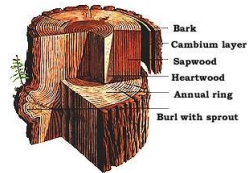


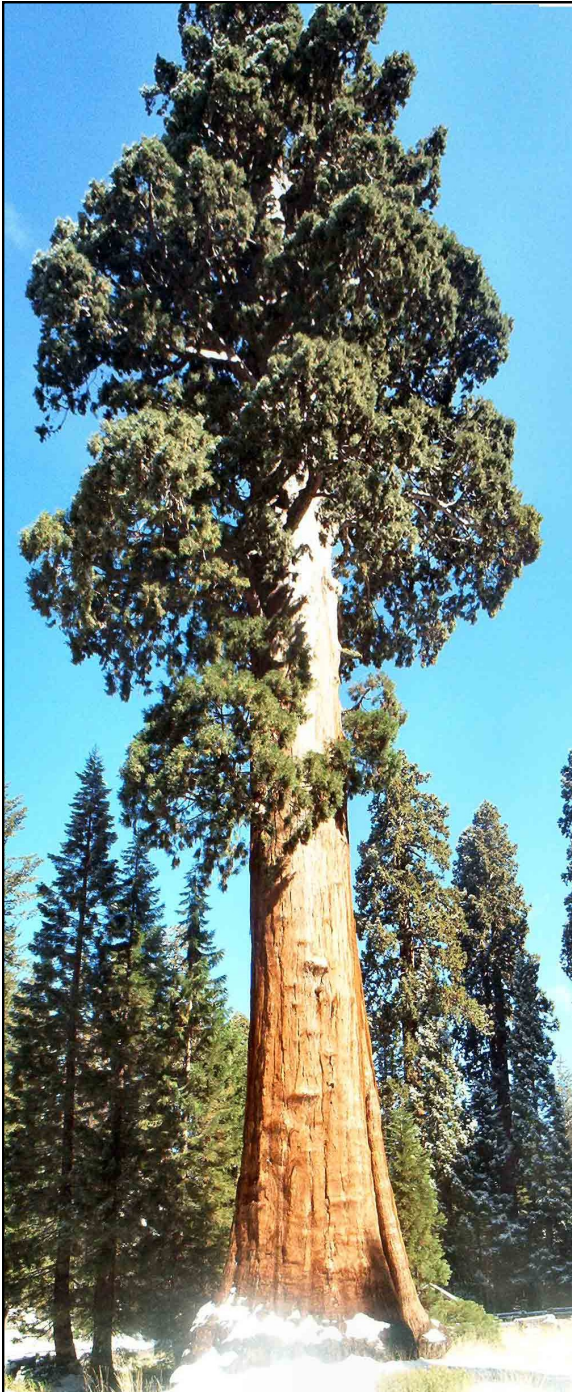
It can WITHSTAND many attacks...!

1. Strong WINDS and HARSH WEATHER only serves to strengthen this tree!
The fierce winds creates tiny

fractures in the bark, which makes it more flexible, able to bend but not break...

2. It endures hundreds of SNOWSTORMS...
3. It survives FOREST FIRES...!! It's amazing. While other trees are burnt up, this one can withstand a forest fire. The bark is 2 feet thick! "After a fire, a tree can smolder for 6 to 12 months from the 'pain and suffering' of the flames that lashed at the bark" and survive... The bark contains tannin, which "acts as a natural fire retardant to neutralize the burning embers that embed themselves in the tree" during a fire. It is able to quench these "fiery darts" ...!
4. Fires actually cause the CONES of the tree to dry out, pop open and disperse its seeds. There are up to 200 seeds in one small cone.
5. The crown of the tree (the top branches and leaves) are often out of reach of the direct fire...
6. Because of its height, it's often struck by LIGHTNING!! Even this does not kill a sequoia!! It may leave scars, but it still STANDS and continues to GROW!
7. After a fire, a certain horn-tailed WASP (the "fire wasp") poses a danger as it bores into the softened bark (due to the fire) trying to deposit its deadly larvae deep within. Just like after a fierce attack of the devil, he may come with a small thing and find entrance in a person's heart (due to their woundedness and vulnerability).
8. Its ROOTS may reach out to a diameter of 200 feet...





Psalm 1:3
“He will be
like a tree
firmly planted...”

“Those who
wait for the Lord
will gain
new strength...”
Isaiah 40:31

22 March: Do I have room for Jesus?

Pray “Lord, please be at home in me.”

Read Joshua 4-6 and Luke 2:1-24

Think + write

Even today, most people do NOT have **heart-room for Jesus** (Luke 2:7). They are full of other things - of *sin*, of *self* and of the *world*. Jesus says: “Here I am! ***I stand at the door and knock***. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...”(Rev 3:20). When I’ve opened the door and fully made room for Jesus, there’ll be ***NO room for sin***, ...but there will be room for the Bible, people, service and whatever God’s will is. Write When, Where, Why, What I did, Why and How I opened the door of MY HEART for Jesus:.....

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

Jesus’ coming into a person’s life brings great JOY (Luke 2:10). **Happiness depends on happenings, but JOY comes from JESUS!!** For my joy (which is Jesus’ joy - see John 15) not to wither and dry up (Joel 1:12), I need to:

- ✚ Be saved and experience salvation continually (Ps 51:12,32)
- ✚ Have no un-confessed, secret sins (Ps 32)
- ✚ Repent whole-heartedly (Nehemiah 8:1-12 and Ezra 3:10-13)
- ✚ Stay in His Presence (Ps 16:11, KJV)
- ✚ Seek, find and eat His Word (Jeremiah 15:16)
- ✚ Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22) - who’s fruit is joy...

Forty thousand men of the two and a half tribes on the east of the Jordan crossed over before the Lord for(Josh 4:13). **When I “cross over”** to the life of victory in Jesus, I too need to

- ♦ ***Be ready*** for(Eph 6:12).
- ♦ ***See Jesus*** as the of the army and my life (5:14)
- ♦ ***Be barefoot*** (a loyal, loving slave of Jesus) before Him (v15)
- ♦ ***Be humbled*** on my face (and not on my back) before Him (v14)
- ♦ ***Listen to Him*** and follow His instructions (Josh 6:2-7).

Pray “Lord Jesus, be my Captain, my Commander too.”

Go + Do what is needed that He can Come in as my Commander.

23 March: Defeat Defeat!

Pray “Lord, may I never loose You and not miss You!”

Read Joshua 7,8 and Luke 2:25-52

Think + write Jesus was destined (among other things) to cause the thoughts of many hearts to be(Luke 2:35). **Thoughts and words and deeds come from the HEART** and not just the head. Sometimes the devil can inject thoughts in one’s mind and I need to discern between the two. Anna “spoke about the child (Jesus) towho were looking forward” (v38) to His coming. ***Do I speak about Jesus to ALL He leads me to speak to?!*** I read (v40,52) that **Jesus grew and became strong physically and spiritually** (in wisdom, grace and obedience). As a child of 12 years old He showed us a **Way of Evangelizing** the religious leaders, by:

1. ***Sitting*** among them; identifying with them (v46)
2. ***Listening*** to them (v46). Someone said: “How will they hear if we don’t LISTEN?!” This is very true.
3. ***Asking questions*** (v46), the right kind of questions...
4. ***Understanding*** them and showing understanding (v47)
5. Letting them then hear **His answers** (v47). I want to do as Jesus did. These are good, godly principles for evangelizing as well as for counseling.
6. ***Doing His Father’s will***, being busy in His Father’s house (v49).

In Joshua I see the Causes and the Cure for **SPIRITUAL DEFEAT** (especially after victory). In Achan’s life, **Desire** for what was forbidden by God (Ch 7:21) led to **Disobedience** when he saw and took a beautiful robe, silver and gold (v21) and hid it (v21). This brought **Darkness** and a curse in his life and family. **Dependence** on the Lord was undermined and the Israelites went into battle without consulting the Lord (v3). They became **Divided**, was **Defeated** by a small city (v4), and ended up **Downcast** and **Discouraged** (v5). The **CURE for the spiritual defeat** was for them to (1) ***Cry to God*** (v8); (2) ***Consecrate*** themselves (v13); (3) ***Confess their sins*** (v11,19); (4) Be ***Cleansed*** from the curse (through death to all that brought the defeat and through burning all that was cursed)(v25); and (5) through ***Christ*** leading them again (8:1) in victory!

Pray “Father, keep me watchful, especially after a great victory!”

Go + Do what is needed to remain in Victory.

24 March: Baptized with Fire!

Pray “Lord, baptize me with Your Holy Spirit and Fire!”

Read Joshua 9,10 and Luke 3

Think + write

The Good News that John preached (Luke 3:18) was:

- ✓ “Repentance for theof sins”(v3)
- ✓ “He will baptize you with theand with”(v16). This means:.....
.....
.....

Have I been baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire? Yes / No

J.H. McConkey said: “*When we surrender our **sins** and believe, we **receive** the Holy Spirit; when we surrender our **lives** and believe, we are **filled** with the Holy Spirit. The receiving of the Holy Spirit is God’s answer to repentance and faith; the fullness of the Holy Spirit is God’s answer to surrender and faith. At conversion the Spirit enters; at surrender, the Spirit, already entered, takes full possession. The supreme human condition of the fullness of the Spirit is **a life wholly surrendered to God to do His will**.*” I read of Jesus that “as He was, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him” (v21,22).

In Joshua 9 I learn that in this normal Christian life of spiritual warfare, I need to always “**Beware Snares**” (traps), “**Suspect everything**” and “**Watch**” against deception! Joshua was NOT watchful enough and he did NOT “.....of the Lord” (v14). As a result he was DECEIVED by the Gibeonites!! (v22). From this I learn that.....
.....
.....

To conquer the 5 hidden, enemy kings (10:16), the Israelites had to:

- Open the mouth of the cave (v22);
- Bring these kings out to Joshua/Jesus (v22);
- Put their feet on their necks (v24); and
- Kill them (v26). I need to do the same with SIN and any spirits.

In this war Joshua “**left NO survivors**”(v30)!! It is said many times...

Pray “Lord, help me too to leave **NO survivors of sin** in my life.”

Go + Do what will expose them and extinguish them!



25 March: Totally destroy sin!

Pray “Lord, may there be more men and women like Joshua - who will completely destroy sin in their lives.”

Read Joshua 11-13 and Luke 4:1-32

Think + write

I learn from Joshua’s life that half-hearted Christianity is a curse. Whenever Joshua went to war against his (and God’s) enemies, he was NOT half-hearted. The Bible says, “Hedestroyed them” (Joshua 11:12). This statement is repeated over and over in Joshua 11:

- “He totally destroyed them, not sparing anything...”(v11)
- “They completely destroyed them, not sparing anyone...”(v14)
- “That he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy...”(v20)
- “Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns”(v21).

Though this I learn that **when I fight against SIN**, I need to totally destroy sin, not sparing anything, not sparing any ONE sin, but exterminating all sins, as well as the things and places that give a home for sins to breed in... The sins I need to totally destroy are:.....

.....
Only after Joshua totally destroyed all these enemies did they experience REST from war (v23) and could most of the Israelites inherit the land promised to them by God. The Levites did not get any land, because.....

.....(13:14,35)

I choose (1) to totally destroy sin in my life, (2) to not seek any earthly inheritance, but (3) to have Jesus as my inheritance!!

Full of the Holy Spirit and led by the Spirit, **Jesus conquered** Satan’s temptations in the desert (Luke 4:1-13). He totally destroyed the temptations to (1) the lust of the flesh (v3), (2) the lust of the eyes (v6), and (3) the pride of life (v10) and continued to walk in the power of the Spirit (v14). According to Luke 4:13 I realize that even if I had victory over sins I need to ***be watchful***, because.....

Pray “Lord, give me Your Spirit to fight sin and always conquer.”

Go + Do what will **totally destroy all sins in my life**.

If you
don't
KILL SIN,
SIN
will
KILL you!

26 March: Authority to Fight

Pray “Lord, may You be glorified in all my battles.”

Read Joshua 14,15 and Luke 4:33-44

Think + write

I read in Luke 4 that Jesus’ message had (v32) and that “withand power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come OUT”(v36). Jesus still does this today, if people would just come to Him to do it for them. When the Bible says that Jesus **rebuked the fever** of Peter’s mother-in-law, it implies that the fever was caused by a personality who needed to be rebuked. Inanimate things are not spoken to in a personal way. The fever was caused by a demon, whom Jesus rebuked and it left her, together with the fever it caused (v39). Jesus did not change, He is still the same and will do the same for those who come to Him. This is wonderful! Praise the Lord! It is furthermore good to remember that **authority comes through Purity and Pentecost** (the fullness of the Holy Spirit).

I see from **the life of Caleb** that he was a **Fighter for Jesus**...

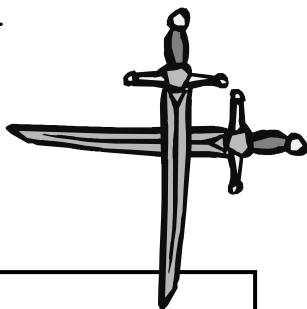
- He was full of the Holy Spirit
- He had a Spirit (Num 14:24), God’s Spirit
- He followed God fully (Num 14:24, KJV)
- He followed God passionately (Num 14:24, *The Message*)
- He followed God (Josh 14:8)
- He was still strong at the age of 85 years! (Josh 14:10,11)
- He was as vigorous as a young man to go out to battle (v11)
- He asked for the toughest tasks or challenges - the mountains and the giants (the Anakites)(v12). He was eager to conquer the hardest areas and most difficult people for God - like a true missionary!
- He trusted in and depended on the Lord to help him (v12) - which was most important!
- He believed the promise of God that He would drive out the enemies before him (v12).

***Do I have the Spirit of God, as Caleb had? Do I follow God fully?
Do I have faith to tackle and conquer the “giants” and “mountains”
in my life, as he did?***

Pray “Lord, please make me like Caleb, for Jesus’ sake.”

Go + Do what Caleb did...

*The Conquest of Canaan,
as described in the book of Joshua, is a picture of
how the Lord wants me to enter
the life of Victory in Jesus -
and remain victorious
over all sins and self and spirits of evil.*



The book can be summarized as follows:

Conquest of Canaan

**Commission/Commands of God & the
promises (1:1-9)**
Consecrate yourselves (3:5)
Cross over...(4:13)
Cut off the flesh (5:2) in my life and be
Completely Cured (5:8)
Celebrate Calvary - the Passover (5:10)
Commander/Captain revealed - Christ! (5:14)
Conflict - war! (4:13)
Conquer! (6:20 & Ch 10)
Compromise through Darkness (Ch 7: Achan)
and Deception (Ch 9: Gibeonites)
Confession of sin! (7:19)
Covet not! (7:21)
Complete destruction of enemies (Ch 11/21;44)
Completely take the promised land (13:1)
Carried out mission (22:3)
Careful to keep command (22:5) & love God
(23:11)
Covenant renewed with God (Ch 24)

27 March: Climbing Higher

Pray “Lord, give me the mountains - that I may conquer through You - to Your glory!”

Read Joshua 16-18 and Luke 5:1-16

Think + write

Ephraim and Manasseh were also given the forested “hill country” (Josh 17:18). One stanza in a poem by George MacDonald states:

“And now, where'er my feet may roam,
At sight of stranger hill
A new sense of the old delight
Springs in my bosom still,
And longings for the high unknown
Their ancient channels fill.
For *I am always climbing hills*,
From the known to the unknown—
Surely, at last, on some high peak,
To find my Father's throne.”

There were 7 tribes who, despite the fact that they entered the Promised Land, still **did not take possession** of their actual inheritance (18:2). Joshua asked them: “How long will you take before you begin to take possession” of what the Lord has given you?(v3). In the same way, *there are many children of God who have given their lives to Christ and have opened their hearts to Him, but they have NOT yet taken possession of what God has given them in Christ....they still live in spiritual poverty.* For instance, God promises:

- Victory over sin (1 John 5:18)
- The fullness of His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38,39)
- Power to overcome the world and Satan (1 John 2:13,14; 4:4)
- Power to BE witnesses for Jesus (Acts 1:8)

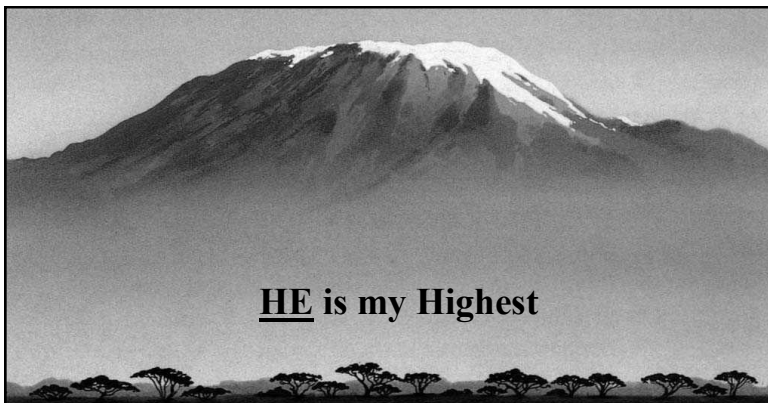
The question is: *“Have I taken possession of these promises in Christ? Have these promises become true in my life or not yet?!”*

My response is:.....

.....
The disciples left.....and.....
Him (Luke 5:11). I read, Jesus “often withdrew to lonely places and.....”(v16). ***Do I follow Him in this??!!***

Pray “Lord, I will follow You. Please help me by Your Spirit.”

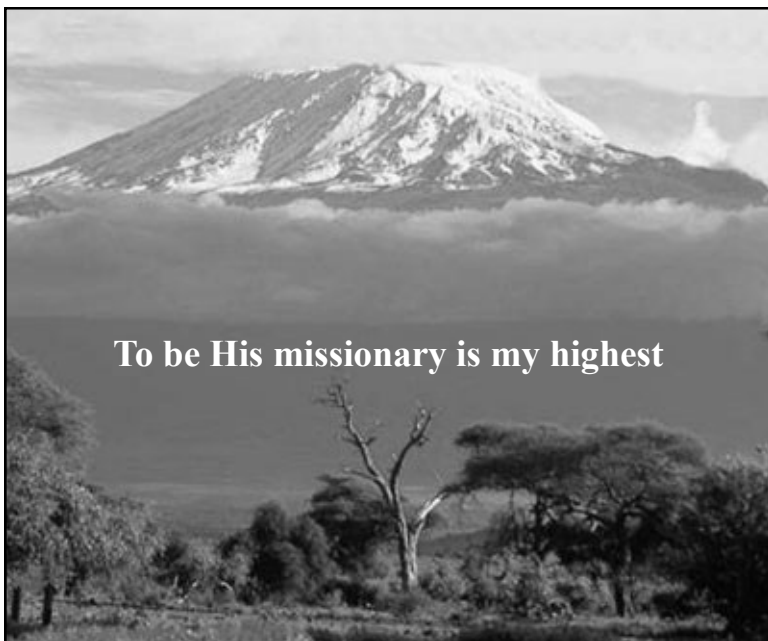
Go + Do what the disciples and Jesus did (v11 and 16).



HE is my Highest

Kilimanjaro is ***the highest*** mountain in Africa and the highest *free-standing* mountain in the world...

It reminds me of this crucial question: “What is my highest?” “What is the highest in my life?” Is it education, or riches, or fame, or possessions, or people? No, God is my Goal. ***He is my Highest, and to be His missionary in this world, that is my highest.***



To be His missionary is my highest

Climbing Challenges

Sir John Hunt, who led the expedition that first reached the summit of Everest, said the three main challenges that for so long prevented men and women to reach the top were:

1. The high ***altitude*** (of more than 29 000 feet) with the lack of life-giving oxygen.
2. The uncertainty of the ***weather***, with the so-often sudden and serious storms.
3. The difficult ***terrain***, with the extra-ordinary demand on the experience and skill of the climbers.

According to Len Moules (missionary in the high Himalayas for 20 years), these three challenges or problems are also encountered in the endeavor to climb the spiritual Everest. We can see that, so often, there is:

(1) A lack of oxygen, or a lack of the “Breath of God” in people’s lives. Without the ***Spirit of God*** in a person’s life, (s)he cannot even start the climb, let alone reach the Summit! See Rom 8:9 and John 3:7. I need to ask myself: Have I been born again by the Spirit of God? Have I received the Spirit of God? Is the Spirit of God living in me? Do I live by the Spirit? Do I walk in the Spirit and do I keep in step with the Spirit? If I lack the Spirit of God, I lack spiritual oxygen and I will never succeed to reach the Summit...



(2) Just as the unpredictability of the weather, with the sudden and severe ***storms*** and winter gales, prevented many from climbing to the top of Everest, ...in the same way, the sudden “lashing winds of temper and lust” and the sudden “storm passions of sin

and self” and of spirits of evil, have prevented many from reaching the Top. This is a major challenge in the spiritual climb. But, praise God,

there is a Way—through Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God! See Romans 6-8. This is wonderful! The storms of sin or self or spirits need NOT prevent anyone from reaching the Summit any more! No, this is why Jesus came: to take away the sins of the world, to break the power of sin, to deal with all “self” on the Cross (by letting us be crucified with Him on the Cross), to conquer all spirits of darkness, and to destroy the works of the devil—to God’s glory.

(3) The challenge of the extremely difficult terrain was and is still formidable. Apart from needing the skills of mountaineering *and* rock climbing *and* doing it at very high altitudes, Sir John said: “The peak of Everest would demand an undistracted mind as well as a reserve of strength... This was the supreme question to whose solution the whole of our planning was ultimately directed.” In the same way, Jesus says, *if any of us wants to climb God’s mountain, “If anyone wishes to be a follower of mine, he must leave self behind; day after day he must take up his cross, and come with me. Whoever cares for his own safety is lost; but if a man will let himself be lost for my sake, that man is safe”, and will reach the Top...* Len

Moules says: “All the experience required for the ascent of our Inner Everest is lodged in our **Guide**. We are nothing, we know nothing and we can do nothing. The sooner we realize this, the better the problem



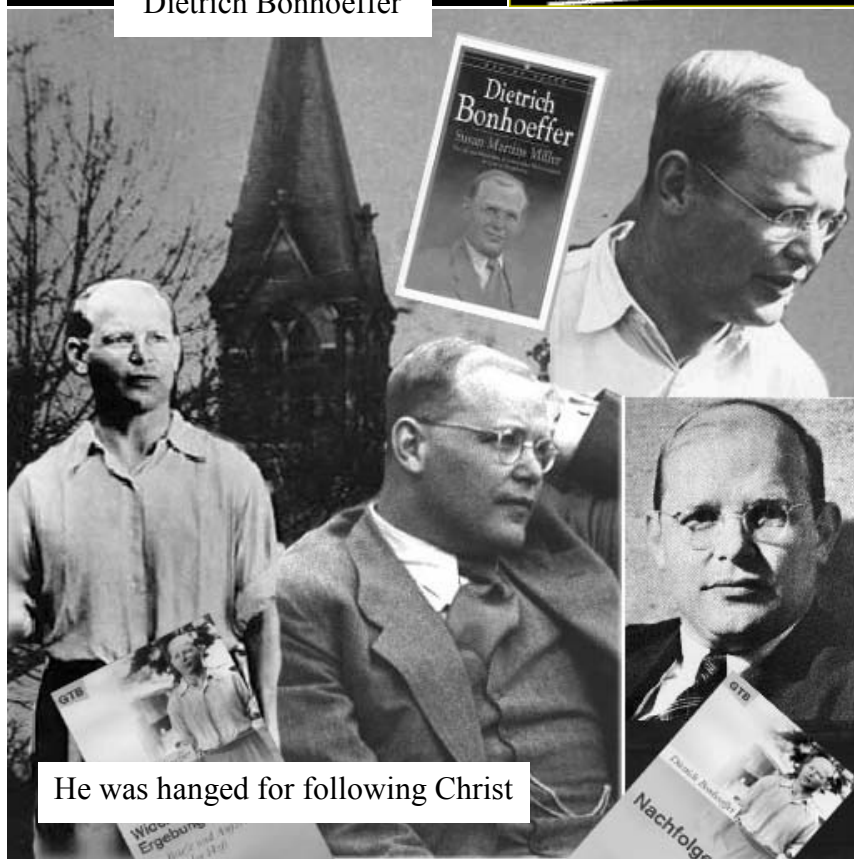
is understood. Our Divine Guide asks of us but one thing—implicit and continual obedience...”. To this we can add that, in order to conquer the difficult terrain, with all it’s hidden and not-so-hidden dangers and difficulties, we also need a working knowledge of spiritual warfare. See Eph 6:10-20 and Rev 12:11. We’ll never be able to “go higher”, unless we’ve learned to fight against and overcome the powers, principalities and evil spirits in the “heavenly realms”.

***Climbing with Christ, I can overcome
all the Climbing Challenges!***

When we are called
to **FOLLOW** Christ,
we are summoned to an
exclusive attachment
to his person...



Dietrich Bonhoeffer



He was hanged for following Christ

28 March: Follow Me!

Pray “Lord, I know the best life is to follow You and to have fellowship with You.”

Read Joshua 19,20 and Luke 5:17-39

Think + write

Jesus said to Levi (and to ME): “.....Me” (Luke 5:27).

To follow means that.....

To follow Jesus means that I.....

.....
To Levi, following Jesus meant that he left
(v28). Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hanged by Hitler’s forces, said:
“*When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die*”!! He also said:
“*When we are called to follow Christ, we are summoned to an exclusive attachment to his person.*” To me this means that.....

.....
It implies a leaving of all of my old way of life (“*the abandonment of every previous attachment*”) and a cleaving to Christ alone. Following also entails OBEDIENCE. Bonhoeffer said: “*Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes.*” “*The call to follow means... adherence to the person of Jesus Christ and fellowship with him.*” I know that to follow Jesus for myself, I need to leave behind the following:.....

.....
Jesus says: “I did not come to call the righteous, but.....
to repentance”(5:32) and follower-ship and fellow-ship.

A beautiful example of a **faithful follower of God** is also what I’ve seen in the life of Caleb. He “followed the Lord.....” (Joshua 14:8). He left Egypt behind, he left the desert life behind, he left even his fellow half-hearted “followers” behind, and he followed God all the way.

Pray “Lord, may I follow You like Caleb did.”

Go + Do the next practical step required of me by God.

29 March: The Promised Holy Spirit

Pray “Lord, may Your will and Your way become clear to me.”

Read Joshua 21,22 and Luke 6:1-26

Think + write

From Joshua 21:43-45 I learn that (1) the Lord *promised* to give them the land, (2) They had to go through a long time of *preparation* and even war before He could give it to them, and (3) They finally took *possession* of it, along with the rest and the complete victory over all their enemies that God gave them. So, I see that God works in this way:

1. He gives a **Promise**
2. I go through **Preparation** to receive it
3. I actually take **Possession** of it, by God’s grace

God has graciously *promised* me the following:.....

.....

I am in *preparation* as far as the following is concerned:.....

.....

I have taken *possession* of the following already:.....

.....

Put in other words, I see the same pattern in how God promised and gave *the Holy Spirit*:

- In John 20:22 (KJV) He said: “**Take**” (implying the *promise*)
- In Acts 1:8 (KJV) He said: “**Tarry**” (implying the *preparation*)
- In Heb 6:4 there’s reference to **Taste** (implying the taking *possession* of the promise).

The greatest Promise is the gift of the Holy Spirit!! Peter said: “Repent and be baptized (the *preparation*), every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins (the *preparation*). And will receive (the taking *possession* of) the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is forand for all who are far off...(the *promise*)” (Acts 2:38,39)!! This is wonderful!!

Pray “Lord, I repented of all my sins, I am ready to receive your Gift of the Holy Spirit...”

Go + Do what God tells me to do. He gives the Holy Spirit to those who.....Him (Acts 5:32)!!

The Promise...!

- “...you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The PROMISE is for you and your CHILDREN...” Acts 2:38,39
- “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my SPIRIT on all people. Your SONS and DAUGHTERS will prophesy, your YOUNG MEN will see visions...” Acts 2:17 & Joel 2
- “...that we might receive the PROMISE of the Spirit through faith” Galatians 3:14; “...wait for the PROMISE of the Father... You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” Acts 1:4,5

The Pre-conditions...

- ✎ I need to BELIEVE that God’s promise is true, also for me!
- ✎ I need to realize that I NEED this Promise...
- ✎ I need to be EMPTIED before I can be filled...
- ✎ I need to be THIRSTY for Him—not for any selfish reason
- ✎ I need to COME to God
- ✎ I need to REPENT and RENOUNCE all sins and every sin...
- ✎ I need to OBEY God
- ✎ I need to SURRENDER and YIELD my ALL to Him & His will
- ✎ I need to ASK God
- ✎ I need to “DRINK” - receive by FAITH, which is a gracious act of my will, based on God’s promise and character. See Galatians 3:14; John 7:37-39; Luke 11:13; Acts 2:38,39; Acts 5:32; Isaiah 44:3; Mark 11:24; Romans 12:1-2

The Product...

POWER to BE Jesus’ witness wherever I am and wherever I go
POWER for service...

POWER to overcome sin and to live a life of **PERSONAL PURITY**...
POWER in **PROCLAIMING** God’s Good News ...privately & through the **PREACHING** of His Word...

PRAYER that is inspired by the Spirit of God, that is powerful, that can prevail, ...and receive God’s answers and change the world...

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP of peace & love & fellowship & oneness with God... See Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26-27; Romans 8:2,13; Galatians 5:16; 1 Co 12:4,8-11

30 March: Be a good tree

Pray *“Lord, You know best how we should live as people.”*

Read Joshua 23,24 and Luke 6:27-49

Think + write

Jesus teaches me how to relate to different people. He says:

- “.....your enemies” (Luke 6:27)
- “Be, just as your Father is merciful”(v36)
- “Dojudge”(v37)
- “Docondemn”(v37)

He also teaches me that

- I must not firstly look at the speck of sawdust in another’s eye (v41), always seeing other’s mistakes and being blind to my own.
- I must pay attention to the plank in my own eye (v41), the wrong thing that is in me.
- I must first take it out of my own eye (v42)
- Then I will see clearly what’s the problem that the other person has (v42), and be able to
- Remove it from the other person’s eye, without doing damage (v42).

From Jesus’ story of the Two Trees (v43-45) I learn that

1. Good trees do not produce bad fruit
2. Bad trees do not produce good fruit
3. Whatever I do and say come from my heart (v45) - if it’s evil, I’m evil; if it’s good, I’m good (by God’s gracious working in having changed my heart).

Am I a bad tree or a good tree?!

Joshua’s last words before he died were very important. He said:

- “Be very” (Joshua 23:6)
- “Be careful to.....all that is written in the Book”(v6)
- “Do NOTwith these nations”(v7)!!!
- “Hold fast to the”(v8)
- “Be very careful tothe Lord your God”(v11)
- “Fear the Lord andHim with all faithfulness”(24:14)
- “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve”(v15)
- “Now...yield your hearts to the Lord” (v23)

Pray *“Lord, I will serve You and obey You”* (Joshua 24:24)

Go + Do what Joshua warned me to do.

Roots

+



Fruits



Healthy grape vines



Sick vines!

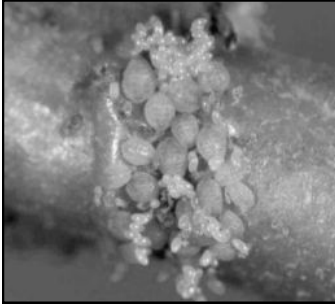


- ☹ Yellow leaves
- ☹ Less growth
- ☹ Less fruit
- ☹ Poorer fruit
- ☹ No fruit
- ☹ Death of vine
- ☹ Spreads to others
- ☹ Destruction of whole vineyard

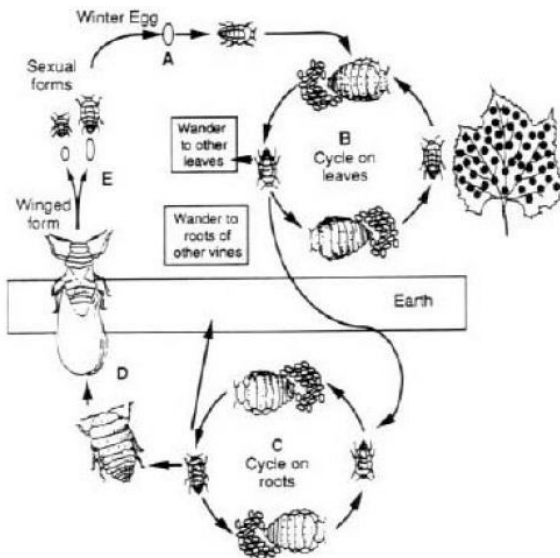
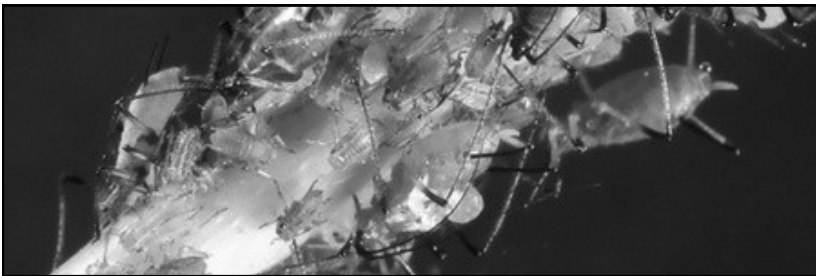
**The FEATURES
and the FRUITS
are determined by
the ROOTS...**

One of the biggest enemies of the grape vine is
Phylloxera

ROOT DISEASE



Many
Phylloxera
insects
clumping
around
a tender
ROOT!



Phylloxera
attacks the
LEAVES and
the ROOTS...

It's presence
and damage is
sometimes only
seen after 5
years!

It can destroy a
whole vineyard!

There are NO effective chemical or biological control methods
for Phylloxera ROOT DISEASE...

It is nearly impossible to eradicate and
the only treatment is

- ➡ Cutting off all the vines (not just the branches);
- ➡ Digging out all the roots;
- ➡ Grafting the vines on new roots that are resistant to the Phylloxera root disease; and then
- ➡ Replanting all the grafted vines on these resistant root-stocks.



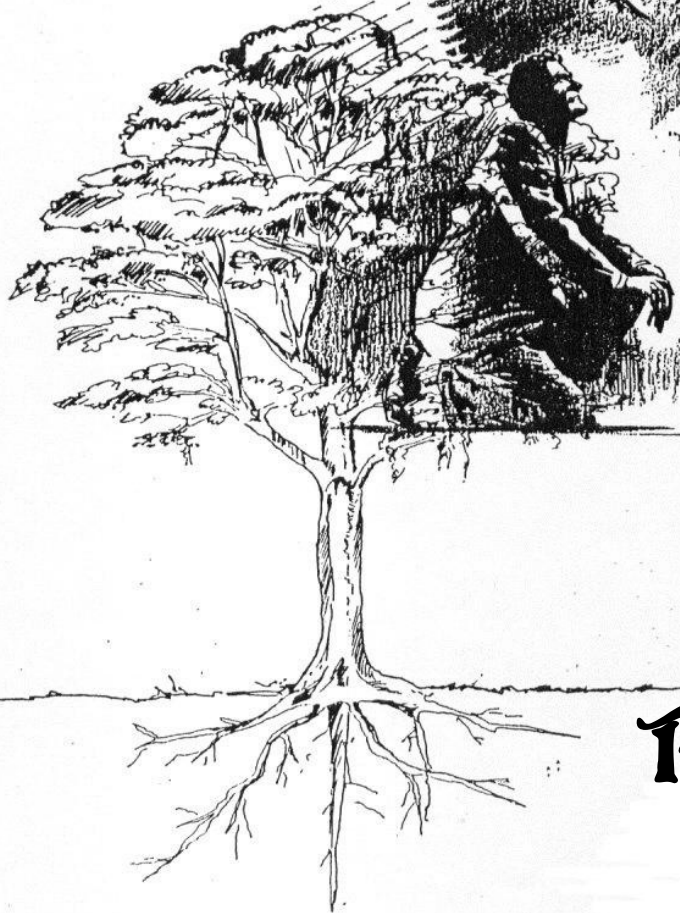
Read
Romans
11:17-24
about being
grafted in
God...!



Dr Andrew Murray wrote in “The Inner Life”: “The phylloxera in the vineyards is a root-disease, and it has been found that the ONLY CURE is to take out the old roots and provide new ones. The old species of grape is grafted on (another) root, and in the course of time you have the same stem and branches and fruit as before; but **the roots are new and able to resist the disease.** It is in the part of the plant that is hidden from sight that the disease comes, and where healing must be sought... How the church of Christ, and the spiritual life of thousands of its members, suffers from root-disease, the neglect of secret conversation with God! It is the lack of secret prayer that explains the feebleness of the Christian life to resist the world. It is the neglect of the maintenance of that hidden life, ‘rooted in Christ,’ ‘rooted and grounded in love,’ that explains its failure to bring forth fruit abundantly. The only thing that can change this in the life of the believer is the restoration of the inner chamber. As Christians learn what it is to make the secret personal fellowship with God their chief concern, true godliness will flourish. ‘If the root be holy to the Lord, so are the branches.’ (Rom 11:16) If the morning hour be holy to the Lord, the day with its duties will be so, too. If the root be healthy, so are the branches.”

To grow in God we need...

Wings



Roots

31 March: Loving Jesus more and more

Pray “Lord, may I live through You and love You, always.”

Read Judges 1-5 and Luke 7:1-50

Think & write Dr Luke tells us about a young man that was (1) not talking, (2) carried by others, and (3) ...dead! (Luke 7:12-15). Even today, there are many **young men and women** like that - (1) they do not talk about Jesus, (2) they are always carried by their parents or counselors, and some are (3) dead spiritually! But Jesus said: “Young man (young woman), I am saying to,!”(v14). I obey, Lord. John the Baptist was also a young man that got up and served God. He was a **Rock** and not a **Reed**! (v24). When “a woman who had lived a sinful life” (v37) was forgiven much by Jesus, she loved Him much... “but (Jesus said) he who has been forgiven..... loves.....”(v47).

I will LOVE JESUS MORE AND MORE when I:

- **DO** what He tells me to do: “Those who DO what Christ tells them to will learn to love God more and more”(1 John 2:5, LB).
- Practice continuous **repentance** and as a result experience more and more forgiveness (Luke 7:47)
- **Go and work with Jesus** (Song of Songs 7:11-12)
- When I get a **revelation** of Jesus’ love to me (1 John 4:19)
- Experience the continuous working of the **Holy Spirit of Love** (Rom 5:5)
- When I **spend time alone with God** and do everything with Him and for Him (i.o.w. when I “practice the Presence of God”).

Deborah, who led Israel to victory with God’s help, said: “**May they who love You be like the sun when it rises in its strength**”! (Judg 5:31).

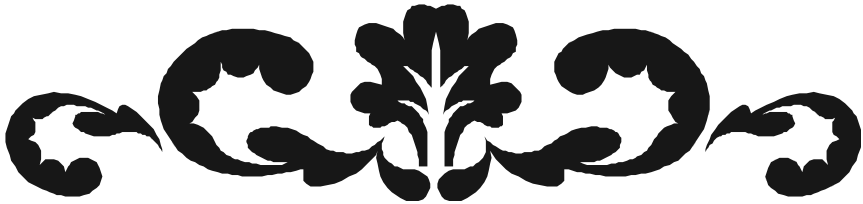
When I love Jesus I’ll be like Jael (Heber’s wife) who took a tent peg and a hammer (4:21), and while Sisera, the commander of the king of Canaan (4:2), slept, “she drove the peg into the ground (right through his head!), and he died”(4:21). She was praised for that by Deborah, who said: “So may all Your enemies perish, O Lord!”(5:31). *She was NOT like the many men of Dan, Asher and Gilead, who, instead of going to war, lingered by the ships (5:17), stayed with the comfortable campfires (5:16), and remained on the beach (5:17)...* **Praise God for such women!!!**

Pray “Father, make me like Jael and Deborah and John the Baptist!”

Go + Do what Jael did - ruthlessly KILL sin in my life.

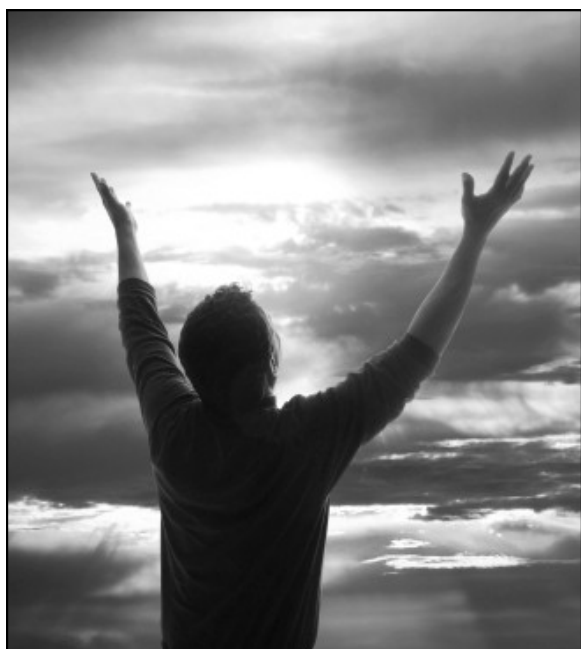
“Lord,
you know all things;
you know that I love You.”

John 21:17.



“Those who DO
what Christ tells them to
will learn to
love God more and more”

1 John 2:5; Living Bible.



Notes

Lord Jesus, I love
You with all my
heart. You are my
heart's Life. I will
obey You and tell
others about You !
I am Yours.



**Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.**

Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and “beautiful” for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect, and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it *is* Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.

**Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, ALL for Thee.**

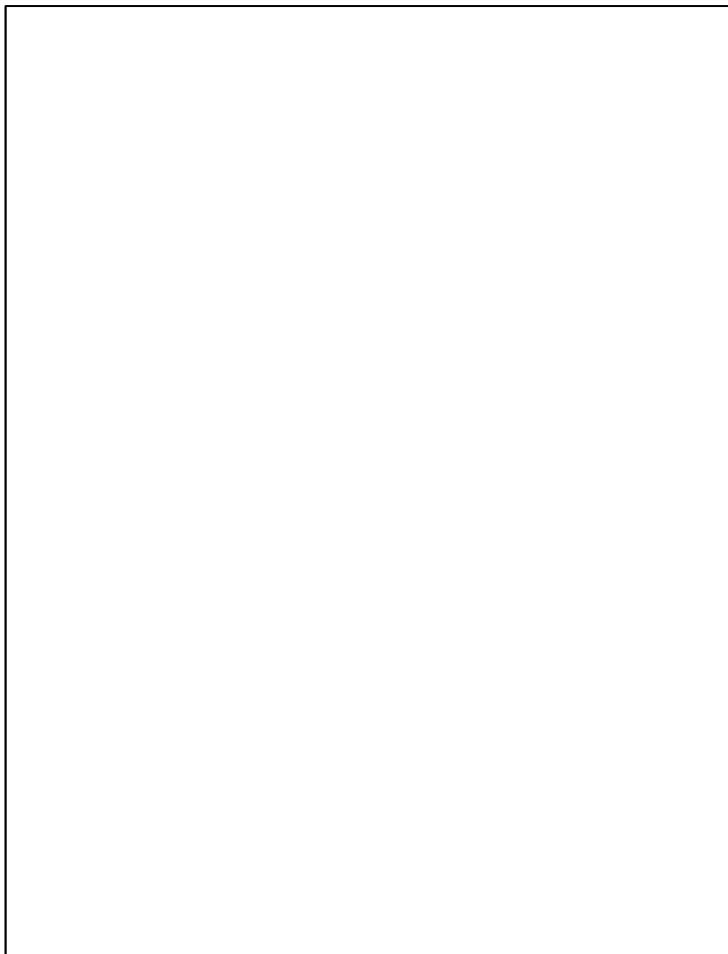
**Take myself,
and I will be
ever,
only,
ALL for Thee.**

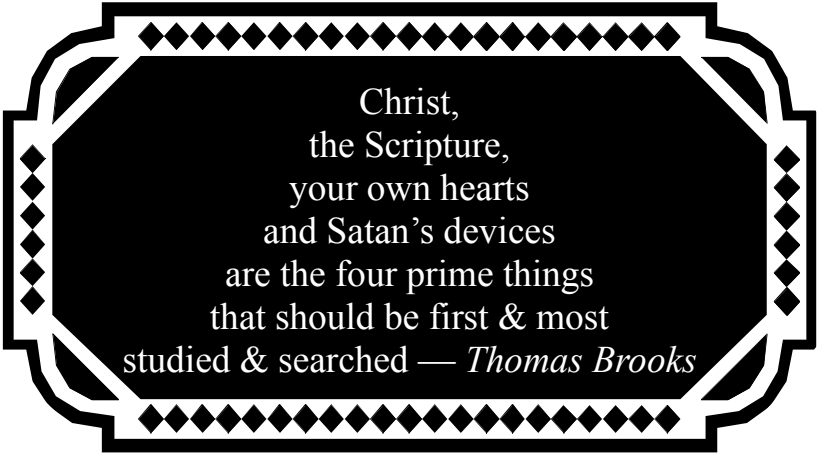
She later wrote that every
“**Take**” in this poem should
be re-written as “**Keep**...”!



Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

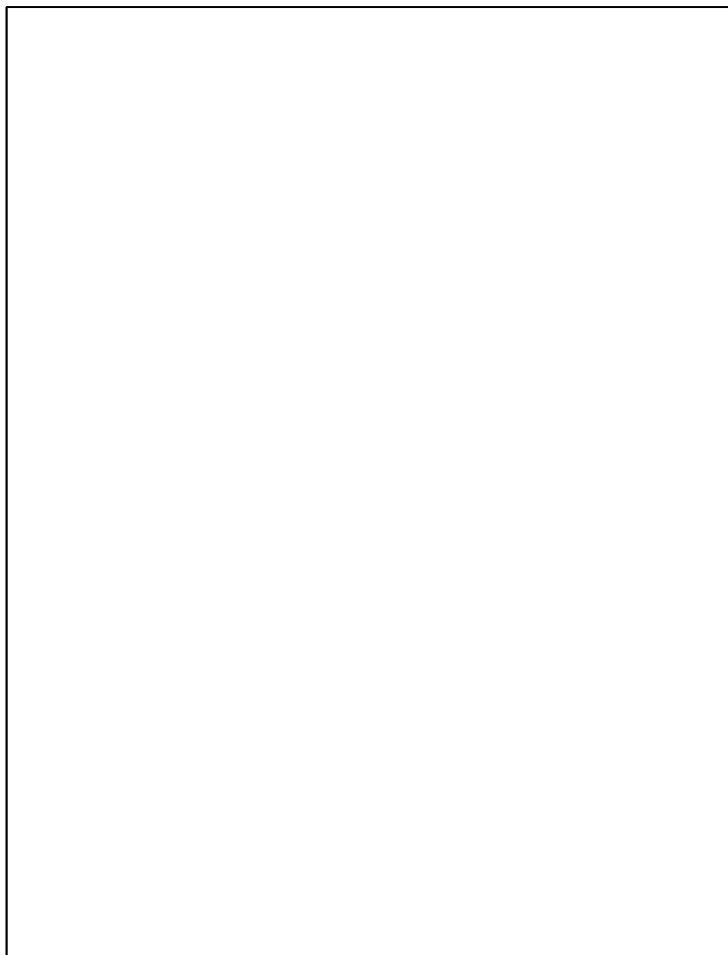
Notes





Christ,
the Scripture,
your own hearts
and Satan's devices
are the four prime things
that should be first & most
studied & searched — *Thomas Brooks*

Notes





Swallows “know when
it's time to come back again”

(MSG)

“But you, my people,
don't know...”

(CEV)

Jeremiah 8:7