

**DIGGING
DEEPER
INTO
PHILIPPIANS**

Bible Study

By

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Digging Deeper Into Philippians
Bible study by David E. Rembert

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Digging Deeper Introduction

The following Digging Deeper Bible study is a companion to the Notes and Outlines on the book of Philippians posted under the “Bible” tab. Each of the following Bible studies digs deeper into the main theme presented in each chapter of the Notes and Outlines on the book of Philippians and can be used for individual growth or group Bible study. It is recommended that each chapter of the Notes and Outlines on the book of Philippians be read in conjunction with each chapter of this Digging Deeper Bible study.

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CHAPTER ONE

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO THE

INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS

FOCUSING ON JOY

Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice!”

Please read the first chapter of the Notes and Outlines on the book of Philippians under the “Bible” tab. You will find that the primary theme for the book of Philippians is rejoicing in the Lord. The key verse is **Philippians 4:4**, *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice!”* The words joy or rejoice are used 16 times in 4 chapters. As we adhere to the truth in Philippians, focusing on joy, we will be filled with joy as we live the Christian life. The book of Philippians unlocks the secret to Christian joy.

1. Read **Psalm 16:11** and **Galatians 5:22-23**. What insights can we glean from these verses regarding God and joy?

Note: God wants us to have joy in our lives. However, realistically, there are things in life that tend to rob us of our joy. The following compares four things that can rob us of joy with four attitudes found in Philippians that enable us to maintain our joy.

2. Circumstances can rob us of joy. What are some circumstances in your life that has, at some point, robbed you of joy?

Note: Most of the circumstances we find ourselves in, that rob us of joy, are usually out of our control. The apostle Paul was thrown into prison and he had no control over that situation, even though he tried. Yet, he wrote a letter filled with joy.

3. What was it that enabled Paul to maintain his joy in the midst of difficult circumstances? Read the following Scripture, which identifies the circumstance that Paul was in, and write down his perspective on that circumstance:

- Paul was imprisoned in Rome for his faith when he wrote Ephesians. According to Paul, to whom did he consider to be the prisoner of in **Ephesians 3:1** and **Ephesians 4:1**?

- Paul was chained to a member of the Roman Praetorian Guard twenty-four hours a day for two years while imprisoned at Rome. That kind of circumstance would discourage anyone and rob them of joy. Read **Philippians 1:12-14**. What was it that encouraged Paul? Where did he place his focus? What conclusions did he make?

Note: Here is one of Paul's secrets to maintaining joy: Put Jesus first. Be focused on Jesus and His work. Paul did that and so can we, not just by looking at Christ while going through our circumstances, but also by looking at our circumstances through Christ. In other words, don't just ask the Lord why we are in a difficult circumstance, but also ask Him what He wants us to do while in that difficult circumstance. Paul rejoiced because his circumstances gave him the opportunity to strengthen other Christians, lead others to Christ and it enabled him to defend the gospel before the courts in Rome. When we are focused on Jesus, then our circumstances work for us not against us.

4. Another thing that can rob us of joy is people: Who they are, what they say and what they do. Can you think of someone who has, at some point, robbed you of joy? Write down their initials:

5. Paul identified a common problem that people have in **Philippians 2:21**. He also identified the solution to that problem in **Philippians 2:3-4**. Read these passages and identify the problem and the solution and how they both affect our joy.

Note: By using **Philippians 2:3-4** as the basis for prayer, find some time alone, pray every day this week for those people you identified in question #4 above. If needed, pray that the Lord would build into you the principles contained in these verses.

Note: The reason people exasperate us so much, is usually because we don't get our way. Here is one of Paul's secretes to maintaining joy: Put others first. Be focused on what is best for others. Take your eyes off of yourself.

6. Often times, things can rob us of joy. A wealthy man was moving into his mansion and his Quaker neighbor, who believed in the simplicity of life, was watching the activities carefully. The neighbor counted the number of chairs and tables, and the vast amount of things that was being carried into the house. Finally, he said to the new owner of the house: "*Neighbor, if thou dost need anything, come see me and I will tell thee how to get along without it!*" Abraham Lincoln was walking down the street with his two sons, who were crying and fighting. "*What's the matter with the boys,*" a friend asked? "*The same thing that's wrong with the whole world,*" Lincoln replied. "*I have three walnuts and each boy wants two!*" Read **Luke 12:13-21**. What were the brother and the rich man focusing on? According to **verse 21** what should have been their goal?

7. Read **Philippians 3:18-19**. What were the "*enemies of the cross*" focusing on?

8. Read **Philippians 3:7-8**. Where was Paul's focus?

Note: The quest for things can rob us of joy. We want to possess things and then we discover that things possess us. Here is one of Paul's secretes to maintaining joy: Get rich on knowing Jesus

and keep God's perspective on things. As **Colossians 3:2** says, "***Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.***"

9. Perhaps the thing that robs us of joy the most is worry. It not only robs of joy, but can also affect our physical and emotional well being. Worrying is taking upon ourselves responsibilities that God never intended for us to have. Write down one thing that you are currently worrying about:

10. Read **Philippians 4:6-8**. What was Paul's solution to worry?

Note: As Christians we have spiritual resources to draw upon. We have God's peace, God's power and God's provision. With resources like these, why worry? Here is Paul's secret for maintaining his joy: practice right praying (**Philippians 4:6-7**), right thinking (**Philippians 4:8**) and right living (**Philippians 4:9**).

Note: Take whatever you are worrying about and give it to the Lord in prayer as often as needed. Sometimes we pray about something and then we worry about it. That is not what God wants us to do. One of the fruits of the Spirit is joy therefore, let's grow in that joy. Don't let circumstances, people, things or worry rob you of your joy in Christ. After all, "***greater is He who is in you then he who is in the world***" (**I John 4:4**).

Note: Joy announces to the world that Jesus is alive and well working in our lives by the power of His indwelling Holy Spirit. The joy that I saw in the lives of Christians was the magnet that drew me to Jesus. "***Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice!***"

CHAPTER TWO

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-2

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Philippians 1:1-2

“Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Read Chapter Two of the Notes and Outlines on the book of Philippians under the “Bible” tab. Throughout the book of Philippians Paul sets an example for others to follow. He encourages believers to follow his example in **Philippians 3:17** and **Philippians 4:9**. In his opening greeting to the Philippians church, Paul sets the example by implementing **Philippians 2:3**, which says, “... *but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.*” Paul regarded the Philippian believers as more important than himself, so he addressed them in their exalted position as “*saints*” and himself in a humbled position as a “*bond-servant.*” Paul walked the talk. He practiced what he preached. His godly actions matched his words, therefore he was a worthy example to follow.

1. Paul gave Timothy five areas in which he was to be an example for others to follow. Read **1 Timothy 4:12** and write down what those five areas were:

Note: I know it is a convicting thought, but it is true, every Christian is an example to someone. Parents are examples to their children, children with their peers, teachers with students, workers with coworkers, neighbors with neighbors, shoppers with the checkout clerk, committee chairs with committee members, and the list goes on. The five areas that Paul listed for Timothy are not the only areas we are to be examples in, but they are the areas that people most often observe in our lives. The following looks at these five areas more closely, with some suggestions for application.

2. The first area Paul mentioned was “**speech**” referring to what we say and how we say it. In **Colossians 4:6**, Paul gave two guidelines in how we should communicate. Describe what each one means.

- *“Let your speech always be with grace.”*

- *“As though seasoned with salt.”*

Note: Perhaps you have heard the saying, “*You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink. However, you can salt the oats.*” Speech seasoned with salt makes people thirsty to hear more of what you have to say.

3. What was Paul’s purpose in giving these two communication guidelines in **Colossians 4:5-6**?

Note: Perhaps a personal illustration will help explain what Paul was communicating. After arriving at work one morning I began passing out candy that was wrapped in paper that said, “*It’s a boy!*” My wife just gave birth to our first child. As one of my coworkers took the candy he asked, “*Well, who does he look like, you or your wife?*” Now, in my younger years I tried to make a joke about everything so, I said, “*Neither, he looks like the milk man.*” This man looked at me with a shocked look on his face and said, “*How can you call yourself a Christian?*” Well, I brushed off his comment thinking he didn’t have much of a sense of humor. When I got home I related the conversation to my wife. I must say, she didn’t find any humor in what I said either. She was quite upset. It took me several days (okay, I’m a slow learner) to realize that my flippant comments dishonored her reputation as a godly woman and a faithful wife. My so called humor was not very gracious towards my wife, nor was it seasoned with salt. I upset my wife and

pushed a coworker further away from the gospel, rather than causing him to want to know more about my faith.

4. In **Titus 2:8**, Paul gave another guideline for the way we are to communicate. What was the guideline that Paul gave and why did he give it?

Note: Here are some guidelines that I find helpful:

- Give ten genuine compliments before giving one constructive criticism. *“A spoon full of sugar helps the medicine go down.”*
 - Get permission before giving someone constructive criticism. Ask, *“May I offer a suggestion?”* If people are not ready to receive constructive criticism, then there is no point in giving it.
 - Never reprimand or criticize someone in public.
 - It is better to bite your tongue than speak your mind at the wrong time or wrong place.
 - Honesty is the best policy even if the truth hurts, but make sure it is gently communicated.
 - Express genuine and thoughtful concern to each person in your area of influence, as often as possible.
 - This one is from my dad: *“If you don’t have something nice to say about someone, then don’t say it.”*
5. The second area that Paul mentioned in **1 Timothy 4:12** was **“conduct”** referring to our manner of life or way of life. The same word is used in **Hebrews 13:7**. Whose example are we told to observe and what are we told to do according to **Hebrews 13:7**?

Note: **Hebrews 13:7** certainly puts some pressure on church leaders, preachers and teachers. Identify one such leader within your own church (there are many) and commit to keep that person in your prayers this coming week.

Note: We should all consider the results of our actions before we act. We should ask ourselves: *“Do my actions add to or take away from my testimony regarding my faith?”* Here are some more guidelines that I find helpful:

- Follow the same rules you expect everyone else to follow. Set the example.
 - Don’t ask someone to do something you wouldn’t do or haven’t done yourself. People are more willing to follow your lead when they know you are willing to walk with them or *“have been there and done that.”*
 - Be predictable. Be consistent. Let people know why you make decisions a certain way. Be a positive mentor.
 - Be considerate. Keep in mind that someone else’s time is just as important as yours.
 - Be fair and impartial (**Colossians 4:1**).
 - Be approachable.
 - Do all things well (**Colossians 3:17**).
6. The third area that Paul mentions in **1 Timothy 4:12** is **“love.”** According to **Colossians 3:14** and **John 13:34-35**, why is our expressions and actions of love towards one another so important?
7. Jesus told us to love one another. Whose love are we really sharing when we love one another according to **Galatians 5:22**?

Note: God is love (**1 John 4:16**). God initiated love. He gave us His love through His indwelling Spirit, so we could share His love with others and thereby abide in His love (**John 15:10**).

Note: You have probably heard the expression, *“Actions speak louder than words.”* I think this can be true when we express our love for one another. I have found the following guidelines helpful:

- Always have the best interest of others in mind (**Philippians 2:4**). Look for ways to bless or be a blessing in other people’s lives.

- Be an encouragement not a discouragement.
- Treat those around you as more important than yourself (**Philippians 2:3**).
- Be willing to sacrifice what is important to you for the sake of another person.
- Don't tell people how important you are, but rather how important they are (**1 Corinthians 13:4**).

Note: **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a** defines love. Share some love with someone this week.

8. The fourth area that Paul mentions in **1 Timothy 4:12** is “**faith**,” which refers to both our faith in God and our faithfulness to God. Read **Romans 10:17**. Where does faith come from?
9. Read the illustration concerning Abraham in **Romans 4:19-22**. What were the result's of Abraham's faith (there are two)?

Note: Faith is complete confidence in God based upon hearing and believing God's Word. Faith is believing that God has a reason for our existence in this world even though we may feel useless to Him and a burden to others. I've been there a few times. However, I've discovered that God has a plan for my life and He is working the plan. Even though I may not always sense that He is working His plan, I know He is faithful in doing so. That is faith.

Note: The fifth area that Paul mentions in **1 Timothy 4:12** is “**purity**,” which refers to sexual purity as defined in the Word of God not as defined by the world. It also includes purity of our thoughts, the purity of the methods we use to get something done and the purity of the motives behind our actions. Personal purity is critical. Without it families and friendships fail. Here are a couple of suggestions that may help in this area:

- Make sure you have right motives for your actions. Don't have a hidden agenda.
- Keep all of your relationships pure, above board and above reproach.

Note: Setting a godly and Biblical example brings glory to God. We become a living testimony to the world through His grace, His love and His power. To God be the glory!

CHAPTER THREE

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-8

GOD AT WORK – IF I’M WILLING

Philippians 1:6

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

In **Philippians 1:6**, Paul made a very bold statement to the Philippian church that can be applied to every obedient Christian. Paul was confident that God had started a good work within the saints at Philippi and Paul was confident that God would perfect that good work and finish it. There was a reason for Paul’s confidence. These believers were fellow workers and partners with Paul in sharing and defending the gospel. They were highly motivated and committed to doing the Lord’s will, in word and deed. They willingly put themselves into the Potter’s hand and under the Master’s authority to be made into vessels of honor, doing God’s will.

God is at work in our lives as well, but sometimes our disobedience to His Word, our unwillingness to be under His authority, and/or our unwillingness to be shaped by Him into people who will do His will, can cause Him to wait. Our Christian growth can be put in neutral. I have seen God work wonders in my life and He will continue to do so if I am willing to let Him. King David understood how powerful his own will was and how it had to be in line with the will of God in order for God to work in his life. The following observes the phrase **“I will”** that was declared by David in **Psalm 101:1-4**. If we want God to work wonders in our lives, then it will be helpful to put into practice the things David was willing to do – the things that he purposed in His heart to do. They are the same things that the apostle Paul put into action.

1. Read **Psalm 101:1**. What was David's first "*I will?*"

2. What did Paul do in **Acts 16:23-34** after being beaten and thrown into prison, and what were the results?

3. What did David sing about in **Psalm 89:1**?

Note: The first "*I will*" is to sing praises to the Lord. We ought to be in a state of worship, regardless of where we are at or what we are doing. When our hearts are full of praises to our Lord for His lovingkindness, justice and faithfulness, then the Lord is well on His way to perfecting the good work that He began in us. He is well on the way to building into us His characteristics of lovingkindness, right judgement and faithfulness.

Note: Do you have times when you make a joyful noise to the Lord? Is it in the shower, in your home after everyone is gone or during a time of worship? I like to sing praises while listening to a Christian radio station, or playing my favorite CD while driving in my car. Find a time to praise the Lord by singing.

4. Read **Psalm 101:2**. What was David's second "*I will?*"

5. What are some practical ways that we can walk with integrity in our hearts? How do we do it?

Note: There was a young Christian man in a southern university. This young man made the football team as the starting split end. He was continually before God saying, "*Help me in the climax of moments to be absolutely honest. I pray for honesty – that one mark of integrity. I want to be that, Lord, and I'll work on it through the season.*" On their homecoming night they played their

CHAPTER FOUR

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Philippians 1:11

“...having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Please read **Philippians 1:9-11**. In **Philippians 1:11**, Paul made a very wonderful statement. He said, *“...having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”* The phrase *“having been filled”* translates a perfect passive participle in the Greek text referring to something that happened in the past and has continuing results. Paul made it clear that we have already been given Christ’s righteousness. His righteousness was given to us the moment we put our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord (see **Romans 3:21-22** and **2 Corinthians 5:20-21**). In addition, Paul indicated there is a continuing result of Christ’s righteousness that is part of Christian growth called *“the fruit of righteousness.”* It behooves us to understand what righteousness is and how it is to be expressed in our lives to the glory and praise of God.

1. Think about ordinary fruit such as oranges, apples, etc., and answer the questions: What is produced by fruit, what does fruit provide to others and what does fruit tell us about the fruit tree?

2. What must take place before we can bear fruit according to **John 15:1-8**?

Note: There is a necessary step that takes place when going from fruit to more fruit. That necessary step involves pruning (cleansing) through the Word of God (**John 15:2**). There is also a necessary step that takes place when we go from more fruit to much fruit. That necessary step involves a life of answered prayer (**John 15:7**).

3. What is revealed about “*the fruit of the righteous*” in **Proverbs 11:30**?

4. Read **Luke 8:14-15**. What must we do and what must we not do for us to bear fruit?

5. According to **Hebrews 12:10-11**, God’s discipline, in our lives, yields the fruit of righteousness. How is the fruit of righteousness described in this passage?

6. Before the fruit of righteousness can be expressed through our lives, we need to understand what righteousness is. What are two things that characterize “*the righteous*” in **Proverbs 11:23** and **Proverbs 12:5**?

Note: Righteousness is part of God’s divine nature and eternal attributes, and is reflected through His goodness and just actions. It is also reflected through a person’s life that desires good things and whose thoughts are morally right and fair, i.e., just.

7. In **Exodus 33:18**, Moses asked God to show him His glory (His eternal intrinsic attributes, like goodness). In **Exodus 33:19**, God said He would make all of His goodness, i.e., His righteousness, pass by Moses as He declared His name before Moses. In **Exodus 34:6-7**, God declared His name to Moses as He caused all of His goodness to pass by Moses, giving

us an expanded definition of His goodness or righteousness. Write down what God revealed about His goodness or righteousness in **Exodus 34:6-7**:

8. What are some practical ways by which we can express God's righteousness through the way we live in the following areas?

- Being compassionate:

- Being gracious:

- Being slow to anger:

- Abounding in lovingkindness:

- Abounding in truth:

- Extending forgiveness:

Note: Since we are given God's righteousness through Christ, then we are to bear the fruit of that righteousness through our lives for His glory and praise. As we are told in **Ephesians 4:24**, "*... put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness and truth.*" When our lives reflect God's righteousness, then they become a living testimony for His existence. Paul said we are to be "*...children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world*" (**Philippians 3:15**).

CHAPTER FIVE

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14

FROM LEMONS TO LEMONADE

Romans 8:28

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

God consistently took Paul’s circumstances and the opposition he faced and turned them into greater opportunities for the gospel. Several illustrations of God using this method are found in [Acts 21:17](#) through [Acts 28:31](#). As Paul said in [Philippians 1:12-13](#), *“Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else.”* Paul could say, from experience, to all of us who love God, *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose”* ([Romans 8:28](#)). To put it into a more modern vernacular, God can turn lemons into lemonade. The following explores how and when God takes this approach in our lives, for what purpose and if there are any conditions that we need to meet first.

1. What two conditions must be met, in [Romans 8:28](#), before *“God causes all things to work together for good”*?

2. One of the conditions that we must meet before God causing all things to work together for good, is our love for Him. Read **John 14:15**, **14:21**, **14:23-24**, **14:31** and **John 15:12**, and answer the question: How can we demonstrate that love?

Note: The “*all things*” in **Romans 8:28** literally means “*all things*.” God can take the bad and use it for good; the dark things, the hard things, the sad things, our suffering, or whatever the storms in life might be and use them for good.

3. In the book of Ruth we see **Romans 8:28** illustrated. Read **Ruth 1:16**, **4:9-11** and **4:21-22**. How did Ruth show her love for God and how did God use her tragedy, the loss of her husband, to work together for good?
4. In the book of Genesis we see **Romans 8:28** illustrated as well. How did Joseph show his love for God and how did God turn his slavery and imprisonment into something good? Read **Genesis 39:7-9**, **41:38-41** and **Genesis 50:20**.
5. History tells us that the apostle John was tarred and feathered before being exiled to the prison colony on the Island of Patmos. How did John demonstrate his love for God and how did God turn his banishment into something good? Read **Revelation 1:9-11**.

Note: God is in the business of turning lemons into lemonade for those who love Him. However, keep in mind, it does not necessarily happen over night. The following stories are some examples of how God’s people became living evidence for God’s existence through hardships. God used their hardships in life to bring them into conformity with Christ for His glory and then worked miracles through them:

- A Young mother may feel chained to her home as she cares for her children, but God can use those chains to reach people with the message of salvation. Susannah Wesley was the mother of 19 children, before the days of labor-saving devices and disposable diapers.

Out of the burdens, hardships and personal sacrifices of raising that large family came John and Charles Wesley, whose combined ministries shook the British Isles.

- At six weeks of age, Fanny Crosby was blinded, but even as a youngster she determined not to be confined by darkness. In time, she became a mighty force for God through her hymns and Gospel songs such as: *To God be The Glory* and *Blessed Assurance*.
 - John Bunyan's preaching was so popular and powerful, and so unacceptable to leaders in the Seventeenth-century Church of England that he was jailed in an attempt to silence him. Refusing to be silenced he began preaching in the jail courtyard. They then placed him deep inside the jail and he was forbidden to preach at all. It was there, in complete silence, that he wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress*, the great Christian classic that has ministered the gospel to tens of millions throughout the world.
 - Elisabeth Elliot was twice-widowed. Her first husband was killed by the Auca Indians of South America while attempting to share the gospel with them. Her second husband was a victim of cancer. Through her tragedy in life, God enabled her to write several books and give several lectures that have touched hundreds of thousands of people. Mine included.
 - Joni Eareckson Tada who became a quadriplegic in High School and who at one point wanted to die, has ministered the gospel through her books (more than thirty have been written), lectures and art work to hundreds of thousands of people by God's providential grace.
 - David Ring who was born with palsy, lost his parents while he was a teenager and who at one point wanted to die, has been ministering to more than 100,000 people every year through his preaching the Word of God and his ministry as a pastor.
6. All the illustrations above have one thing in common, which is part of being "***called according to His purpose.***" It is revealed in what God requires in **Deuteronomy 10:12**. What is it?

7. Identify one way you can serve God this week:

Note: When we truly love God and serve Him, then we have His promise: He will turn lemons into lemonade – He will cause "***all things to work together for good.***" We can become living evidence for God's existence as we love Him and as we faithfully live for Christ.

CHAPTER SIX

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 1:15-18

SHARING CHRIST OUT OF LOVE

Philippians 1:15-16a

Some to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love.”

My Notes and Outlines on the book of Philippians, Chapter Six - Philippians 1:15-18, explores the wrong and right methods and motives in sharing the gospel. This Bible study focuses on **Philippians 1:15-16a**, where Paul mentioned one of the proper ways to share Christ. Essentially he said, *“Do it out of love.”* The following Bible study explores what love is and what love is not. It will help us to be better prepared as good witnesses for Christ.

1. According to **Proverbs 10:12** and **Proverbs 17:9**, what does love do, what does love not do, and why?

Note: The phrase *“love covers up all transgression”* means that love promotes forgiveness and does not go around telling others about someone else's transgressions.

2. How can **Proverbs 17:9** either help or hinder our effectiveness in sharing Christ with a friend?

3. Who are we to love according to **Matthew 5:43-48**?

4. How can we, in a practical way, apply **Matthew 5:43-48** as a witness for Christ?

5. What does love accomplish in **Romans 13:8-10**?

6. In considering how to apply **Romans 13:8-10**, is there a neighbor that you need to ask forgiveness of, so that you do not hinder your testimony for Christ?

7. What does love not do according to **Romans 14:15** (compare **Romans 14:13**)?

8. **Romans 14:13 and 15** primarily talks about putting obstacles in the way of a brother or sister in Christ that may cause them to stumble in their walk with Jesus. Consider how this might be applied to an unbeliever and their response to the gospel? What are some obstacles in the lives of Christians that might hinder someone from responding to the gospel?

9. Read **Galatians 5:13-15**. What does love do?

10. How can **Galatians 5:13-15** affect the gospel (compare **John 13:34-35**)?

11. What are we encouraged to do in **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10** and how do we do it?

12. According to **1 John 3:16-18**, what does love do? How is it demonstrated?

13. By applying **1 John 3:16-18** to our brothers and sister in Christ, how can that passage affect unbelievers?

Note: Two things led me to Christ. The genuine joy I saw in believer's lives and the genuine love they demonstrated. It was only then that I was willing to listen to what they had to say about Jesus. Let's make sure we are sharing Christ out of love, not just out of obligation or obedience. People need to sense our genuine concern and love for them before they will open their hearts to the love of Christ.

CHAPTER SEVEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 1:19-20

EXALTING CHRIST

Philippians 1:19-20

“Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Please read Chapter Seven of the Bible notes on the book of Philippians under the “Bible” tab. You will notice that Paul, as we should, wanted to “*exalt*” Jesus Christ by the way he lived his life. The Greek word for “*exalt*” is “*megalunō*” from which we get our English word “*magnify*.” Paul wanted Jesus to be magnified in his life so people would be brought closer to Jesus through his life. There are several ways that we can exalt Jesus Christ. For example: When we pray in Jesus’ name we are, in essence, exalting Him before His Father as He sits upon His throne. We are praying in the name of the One who was highly exalted by His Father and given a name that is above every name. The following study will explore additional ways we can exalt Christ and what happens when Jesus is magnified.

1. Read Acts 19:8-20. What were the results of the Lord’s name being magnified in verses 17-20?

2. Is there anything in your life or in your lifestyle that needs confessed, anything you need to repent of, so Jesus will be exalted? Is there anything in your home (books, videos, etc.) that you need to get rid of, so Jesus can be exalted? Write them down and implement a plan of action:

3. Read **Psalm 40:16**. How was the Lord magnified by David and how did he instruct others to magnify the Lord?

Note: Try prefacing what you say and do, as well as your prayers, with *“The Lord be magnified!”* Ask: *“Will the Lord be magnified through this action or through what I say or through this prayer?”* Magnifying the Lord through our lives is a conscious effort on our part. It involves every waking moment we have.

4. Read **Psalm 69:30**. How did David magnify the Lord?

Note: Write down on a separate sheet of paper all the things that you are thankful for. Start each statement with, *“Lord thank you for...”* then stick it on you refrigerator or some place where you will see it every day. Keep adding to the list. Magnify the Lord through thanksgiving. Write a letter or send a note to someone thanking them for something they said or did. Recognize the Lord working in their lives. Make a conscious effort to magnify Jesus through thanksgiving.

5. Read **Job 36:22**. How is the Lord exalted?

6. List three ways in which God has exalted Himself through His power:

7. How is God's power evident in your life? How has God demonstrated His power in your life?
Write down three ways:

8. Read **Isaiah 25:1**. How did Isaiah exalt God and why?

9. Write down how God is faithfully fulfilling His plans for you?

Note: Close this study in prayer. Give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness – be specific. Declare as Isaiah did: *“O, Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name”* (Isaiah 25:1). Our passion in life needs to be a deep desire to exalt Jesus through our lives. When that happens we become living evidence for His existence.

CHAPTER EIGHT

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-26

LIVING FOR JESUS

Philippians 1:21

“For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

In **Philippians 1:21-26**, we find Christians headed in two directions. One direction is to eventually depart from this life and live with Christ in heaven forever. The other direction is to remain here on earth and live for Christ as living evidence for His existence. One way we can live for Jesus is by using our spiritual gifts.

1. Read **1 Peter 4:10-11**. In what ways are we told to use our spiritual gift(s) and why?

Note: Spiritual gifts are different from talents. Talents are given by God at our physical birth. Spiritual gifts are given by God at our spiritual birth, when we are born again through faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord.

2. What is your spiritual gift(s) and how are you currently using it?

Note: See Appendix #1. It is a chart that lists all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible and where they are found in the Bible. They are organized under four grouping with their primary function in ministry.

Note: Obviously, there are other ways we can live for Christ. The following looks at a few.

3. Read **Colossians 3:22-24**. In what ways are we told to live for Christ in the workplace and why?

4. What changes do you need to make in order for you to live for Christ in your workplace?

5. Read **Matthew 25:34-40**. List six ways we can live for Christ:

6. To whom are we to do good deeds, according to **Matthew 25:40**? Compare **Hebrews 2:11-13**.

7. Do you know of someone (a follower of Jesus Christ) you can help in one of these six areas this week? If so, how do you plan to help?

8. What is another way by we can live for Jesus according to **Matthew 4:19-20**?

Note: Those who go fishing don't always catch fish, but they always bate the hook and toss in the line. Someone else might catch the fish, when the fish is hungrier.

Note: When was the last time you told someone about Jesus? If it has been a while, then ask the Lord to give you the name of someone and begin praying for an opportunity to be His witness. Go fishing with Jesus!

9. How are we told to live in **Matthew 4:4**?

10. Are you spending daily time in God's Word? The psalmist said, "Your word I have treasured in my heart" (**Psalm 119:11**). Are you internalizing God's Word? Are you allowing God's Word to change your life? What changes do you need to make?

11. How are we told to live for Jesus in **Romans 1:17** and **Galatians 2:20**? Compare **Hebrews 11:6**.

12. How are we told to live for Jesus in **Galatians 5:25** and how do we do it?

Note: Sometimes our Christian life is like what Charlie Brown told Lucy in the "Peanuts" cartoons. Lucy said to Charlie Brown, "*Life is a lot like a deck chair. Some (referring to people) place it to see where they've been. And some so they can see where they are at the present.*" Charlie sighs, "*I can't even get mine unfolded.*"

If that describes your Christian life right now, then let me offer a suggestion that has helped me. Pray back Scripture. After reading a passage of Scripture, ask the Lord to work His Word into your life and into shoe leather for His glory by the power of His indwelling Holy Spirit. Try doing that as you read through **Psalm 119**. The Psalm is divided into 22 sections with 8 verses in each section. Take a section a day for 22 days and see what happens. Life is too precious not to unfold it every day and live it to its fullest. As Ruth Schabacker once said, "*Each day comes bearing its own gifts. Untie the ribbon.*"

CHAPTER NINE

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

KEEPING SPIRITUAL INTEGRITY

Philippians 1:27

“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel...”

In **Philippians 1:27-30**, we see what it means to walk with integrity, as far as the gospel is concerned. We are told to stand firm in one spirit. We are to have one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel and if needed, suffer for Christ’s sake. There are several other places in Scripture that talk about our walk with Christ. We are to walk faithfully and consistently with the One who has brought us into His eternal kingdom. The following Scripture explores additional ways in which we can walk with spiritual integrity.

1. Read **Ephesians 4:1-3**. This passage instructs us *“to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.”* List 4 ways, in **verses 2-3**, that describe how we are to walk:

2. Why is it impossible to say we have mastered these 4 areas?

8. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:10-12**. Describe how we are to walk according to **verse 12**:

9. How can we walk worthy of our God and how can we encourage others to do the same according to **1 Thessalonians 2:10-12**?

10. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:1**. As we walk in a manner that pleases God, what should be our goal?

11. Read **Colossians 1:10**. Describe how we are to walk according to this verse:

12. What steps can you take to make sure you are increasing in your knowledge of God?

Note: Keeping spiritual integrity is walking in a manner that is worthy of Christ, pleasing God, when no one is watching.

CHAPTER TEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT

Philippians 2:1-2

“Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”

In **Philippians 2:1**, Paul listed 4 factors that should motivate us to maintain the unity that leads to joy. See the Bible notes and outline on the book of Philippians, Chapter Ten, posted under the “Bible” tab. One of those 4 factors is the *“fellowship of the Spirit.”* Every person who has by faith trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord has been given the Holy Spirit to dwell within them (see **1 Corinthians 3:16** and **1 Corinthians 6:19**). The question is: How does the Holy Spirit interact with our lives?

1. In **John 14:26**, Jesus promised His disciples that the Father would send the Holy Spirit. According to that verse, what would the Holy Spirit do for the disciples?
2. Read **1 John 2:27**. What does the indwelling Holy Spirit do? **Note:** The phrase, *“The anointing which you received from Him abides in you”* is a reference to the Holy Spirit.

3. According to **1 John 2:27**, what are we told to do? First, read **1 John 3:24**.

Note: Keep this in mind: The Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and transforms us into the people of God.

4. Read **Romans 8:8-17**. Write down one thing the indwelling Holy Spirit does?

5. According to **Romans 8:8-17**, what are we to do? First, read **Galatians 5:16-25**.

6. Read **Acts 1:8** and **Colossians 1:28-29**. What are we given by the Holy Spirit and for what purpose?

7. Read **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**. What does the Holy Spirit give us?

8. According to **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**, what are we to do? First, read **1 Peter 4:10-11**.

9. Read **Ephesians 15:18-21**. What are we told to do as a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

10. According to **Ephesians 6:17**, what does the Holy Spirit use and for what purpose?

11. Explain how the Holy Spirit defends us in **Ephesians 6:17**. First, read **Matthew 4:1-11**.

12. What does the Holy Spirit give us according to **Acts 9:31**?

13. Read **Ephesians 4:30**. What does the Holy Spirit do for us and what are we told to do regarding the Holy Spirit?

14. By keeping **Ephesians 4:30** in context with **Ephesians 4:25-32**, what do you think grieves the Holy Spirit?

15. What is one thing that you can do this week that will allow the Holy Spirit to interact in your life in a positive way?

Note: Let's assume for a moment that you are a "neat freak." You put things away when you are finished with them, back where you found them. You don't leave your clothes scattered around on the floor. You clean up your messes when you make them. You're organized. You hate clutter. You're disciplined. You like keeping things clean and polished. However, you live with someone who is just the opposite. In a word, they are sloppy. After a while, what happens? You get frustrated, discouraged, and irritated. Tension mounts. Friction builds. That's what happened when the new nature and the Holy Spirit move into your body at salvation. The new nature shares his room with the old nature, and there is a constant civil war. Listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Learn to walk by the Spirit (**Galatians 5:16-26**). Let Him do His work by taking the Word of God and transforming you into the person God wants you to be. Let Him clean house.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

SELFISH AMBITIONS

Philippians 2:3-4

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

The word “*selfishness*” in **verse 3** can also be translated “*selfish ambition*.” It is a term that refers to a person who seeks a personal advantage or gain, regardless of how it might affect another person. It is a prideful attitude that pushes for its own way. People who are selfish, are usually loyal only to themselves. This study will explore the source of “*selfishness*” and it’s ultimate affect.

1. What sin did Satan commit in **Isaiah 14:13-14** and how did he express that sin?

Note: **Isaiah 14:12** is considered a reference to Satan because of Christ’s comments in **Luke 10:18** and the reference about Satan deceiving the nations in **Revelation 20:1-3**. Please read.

2. What will be the ultimate result of Satan’s sin according to **Isaiah 14:15?**

3. What is the sin that the Antichrist will commit in **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** and how will it be displayed?

4. What is one personal and/or practical application that you can learn from the attitude of the Antichrist?

5. Read **2 Thessalonians 2:7-8**. What will be the ultimate result of the Antichrist's sin?

6. What was Nebuchadnezzar's sin in **Daniel 4:28-30**?

7. Have you ever had a similar attitude or thought about your accomplishments? If so, write it down and ask the Lord's forgiveness:

8. From whom did you receive your abilities, talents and spiritual gifts? See **1 Peter 4:10**.

9. What was the result of Nebuchadnezzar's sin in **Daniel 4:31-33**?

10. Read **Daniel 4:34-37**. How did Nebuchadnezzar express his changed heart towards God and his new perspective on his accomplishments?

11. What did God do as a result of Nebuchadnezzar's changed heart in **Daniel 4:36**? See **1 Peter 5:6**.

12. Read **Genesis 13:1-11**. What was Lot's attitude as he decided where to live and how did he express that attitude?

13. What was Abram's approach to solving the issue about where he and Lot should live?

14. How did God respond to Abram's attitude and approach with Lot in **Genesis 13:12-18**?

15. What can you learn about your decision making process from the examples given in this study?

Note: Selfish ambitions quite often leads to an inflated ego, which can lead to a boastful and prideful heart. Here is a thought that may help to keep your ego the right size: In my professional career, the Lord enabled me, along with the help of many others, to design and engineer a project that received worldwide recognition. It was published in over a dozen technical magazines and received a very prestigious engineering award. I was feeling very good about myself. So, I asked the Public Relations Manager in our corporation to do a marketing blitz by promoting the project in local newspapers, television interviews, etc. Her response was: "*We are not self-serving.*" She took a Biblical approach that deflated my ego. As the apostle Paul stated: "***I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think***" (**Romans 12:3**).

CHAPTER TWELVE

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

THE HEART OF OBEDIENCE

Philippians 2:8

“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

In **Philippians 2:5**, we are told to have the same attitude of Christ, which is humility. In **verses 6-8**, we see the humility of Christ demonstrated. The key to His humility was His obedience to the Father. At the same time, the key to His obedience to the Father was His humility. In **Philippians 2:8** it says, *“He humbled Himself and became obedient.”* The following explores humility, the heart attitude that leads to our obedience to the Father.

1. Compare **Isaiah 14:13-14** with **Luke 22:42**. What is the basic attitude difference between Satan and Christ? Compare **John 6:38**.

Note: The heart attitude that leads to being obedient to the Father is a driving desire to do His will. This is humility in action. Not our will be done, but His.

2. What was the Father’s will, which Jesus came to fulfill according to in **John 6:38-40**?

3. What condition must be met for us to enter heaven and live forever according to **Matthew 7:21** and **1 John 2:17**?

Note: Part of God's will is to receive the salvation that is offered through Jesus Christ.

4. Read **1 John 2:15-17**. The will of God is described in this passage from a negative perspective. What is it?
5. What is the will of God mentioned in **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5a**?
6. What is God's will according to **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**?
7. What was one of Jesus' instructions concerning how to pray in **Matthew 6:10** that addresses the heart attitude that leads to obedience?
8. Do you try to exert your will upon God when you pray? What changes should you make in your prayers that will better reflect the instruction given by Jesus on how to pray?
9. What is the will of God as listed in **1 Peter 2:13-15**?

10. What are told to do concerning the will of God in **Romans 12:2** and how are we to do it?

11. What should be our attitude concerning the plans we make according to **James 4:13-17**?

Note: There are several places in the Bible that identifies God's will for our lives. But how do we know God's will if it is not specifically mentioned in the Bible? My late wife wrote these words in the front of her Bible, which I think answers that question: "*Saturate yourself with the Word of God and you will instinctively do the will of God.*" To do the will of God we must know the Word of God.

Note: Here are eight guideline questions that you can ask yourself to make sure you are doing the will of God:

1. Can I do this in the name of Jesus (**Colossians 3:17**)?
2. Can I imagine Jesus doing this or deciding this way (**1 John 2:6**)?
3. Will this action bring any glory to God (**1 Corinthians 10:31**)?
4. Would I want to be found doing this when the Lord returns (**1 John 2:28**)?
5. Will this action bring impurity or useless harm to my body (**1 Corinthians 6:18-20**)?
6. Will this activity be a hindrance to my spiritual progress or keep me from doing the work of Christ (**Hebrews 12:1**)?
7. Will my following this decision offend another Christian or cause them to stumble (**Romans 14:21**)?
8. Will this action be a help or hindrance to the unbelievers around me (**Matthew 5:16**)?

Note: For a Christian to truly have the same attitude as Christ (humility), then we must walk in obedience to the Word of God with a driving desire to do His will – Not my will, but Your will be done!

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Philippians 2:9-11

“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

In **Philippians 2:9-11**, we are told that everyone *“will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”* When we trust Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we glorify the Father. Every time we refer to Jesus as our Lord, we are glorifying the Father, but it does not stop there. We are to glorify God in all that we do (**1 Corinthians 10:31**). Glorifying God is not an option, it is to be the purpose driving everything we do in life. See the notes on the Bible topic *The Crown-ing Jewel to Life* posted under the “Bible” tab. The only true and living God deserves to be glorified, that is to say: honored, praised and exalted above everything and everyone. The following explores who is to glorify God and how He is to be glorified.

1. Read **1 Chronicles 16:28**, **Psalms 22:23** and **Isaiah 42:10-12**. According to these passages, who is to glorify God?

2. For what reasons is God to be glorified according to the following Scripture?

- **Revelation 15:4:**
- **Psalm 115:1:**
- **Romans 15:9:**
- **Isaiah 25:1:**
- **Matthew 15:31 and Acts 4:21-22:**
- **Ezekiel 28:22 and Revelation 14:7:**
- **Psalm 50:15:**
- **Acts 11:18:**
- **2 Corinthians 9:13:**
- **Galatians 1:24:**
- **Revelation 4:11:**

3. How are we to glorify God in **1 Corinthians 6:20?**

Note: God's glory can be defined as God's eternal intrinsic attributes. Therefore, to glorify God in our bodies is to manifest God's transferable attributes, which He gives us through His indwell-

ing Spirit, such as love (see **Galatians 5:22-23**). When we show His character qualities, His transferable attribute, through the way we live, then He is honored and glorified.

4. How did Jesus glorify the Father in **John 17:4**? What can we learn from His example?

5. What are some ways that we can glorify God according to the following Scripture?

- **Romans 4:19-21**:
- **Psalm 50:23**:
- **John 21:18-19**:
- **1 Peter 4:14-16**:
- **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**:
- **John 15:8**:
- **1 Peter 4:11**:

Note: When it comes to using our spiritual gifts and talents, we should use them with enthusiasm. There is a story about a young schoolboy who was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother knew that he had set his heart on it, though she was afraid he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, she drove to school to pick him up. The young boy rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. Then he said some words to her that should remain a lesson to us all: *“I have been chosen to clap and cheer!”* In the same way, God has lovingly chosen each of us for different and special tasks. Whatever that task might be, large or small, on stage or behind the scene, we are to do God’s work with enthusiasm bringing Him all the more glory. This is another way we become living evidence for His existence.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

GOD AT WORK IN US

Philippians 2:12-13

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

As a result of our salvation, we are set apart from this world, in Christ, for the sacred purposes of God the Father. Therefore, we are to let Him do His work in us and through us. As the apostle Paul said, “...*for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure*” (**Philippians 2:13**). This study explores in more detail the process that God uses to accomplish His work in us.

1. Read **Ephesians 2:8-10**. What happens as a result of our salvation in **verse 10**?
2. What are some of the good works that you are currently doing?
3. How does God prepare us to accomplish every good work according to **2 Timothy 3:16-17**?

4. What are you currently doing to make sure you are being equipped for every good work?
5. What does God give us to accomplish His good works according to **1 Corinthians 12:7**?
6. According to **2 Timothy 2:20-21**, what should we do to ensure that we are prepared for every good work and how do we do it?
7. What kind of good works did Tabitha do in **Acts 9:36**, and how can you do the same good work this week?
8. What are we instructed to do regarding good works in **1 Timothy 6:18**?
9. What are we instructed to do regarding good works in **Titus 3:1**?
10. What are we to do regarding good works in **Hebrews 10:24**? Why are we instructed to do this and what are some ways we can do it?
11. What are we told to do regarding good works in **Matthew 5:16**? What are you doing to accomplish this?

Note: Everyone saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ is God's workmanship (**Ephesians 2:10**). We are created anew (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) in Christ for good works. We are equipped by God's Word to do good works (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). God works in us to accomplish good works (**Philippians 2:13**) for His glory (**Matthew 5:14-16**). God did not create us to be pew potatoes or couch potatoes. We are to accomplish the good work that He has prepared for us to do (**Ephesians 2:10**) so we become living evidence for His existence.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

LIGHTS IN THE WORLD

Philippians 2:14-16

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.”

The apostle Paul encourages us to *“appear as lights in the world”* (**Philippians 2:15**). Paul also suggests that grumbling and disputing determines whether we appear as lights in the world or not. We cannot be lights in the world for Jesus and grumble or argue at the same time. The two are incompatible. When we complain the attention is on us, not on Jesus. The following study explores in more detail how we can be lights in the world for Jesus.

1. **Ephesians 5:8-10** lists three characteristics that are evident in our lives when we walk as children of light. Write down each characteristic and define what each one means and/or implies:

2. **1 John 1:6-7** talks about walking in darkness versus walking in light. How are we to walk in the light and what two things result from walking in the light?

Note: Walking as lights in the world involves: being kind, doing good, living our lives in righteousness (moral rectitude) and in truth (walking according to God's Word in all sincerity). It also involves maintaining fellowship with one another and keeping ourselves cleansed from sin (**1 John 1:9**).

3. How is our light in the world described in **Matthew 5:14-16**? What does this passage teach us about being lights in the world?
4. **Daniel 12:3**, is a prophetic passage that will take place during the Great Tribulation. However, we can learn some things from this verse that characterizes those who walk in the light. What do you learn about being lights in the world from **Daniel 12:3**?
5. Since we are to be lights in the world, reflecting truth (**Ephesians 5:9**), what should we be doing according **Psalms 119:129-130**?
6. What do you learn about being a light in the world from **Proverbs 4:18**? What is implied?
7. As those who have been called out of darkness and into God's marvelous light, we have a responsibility as lights in the world. What is that responsibility according to **1 Peter 2:9** and what are you doing to fulfill it?

Note: Are you taking your role as lights in the world seriously? Is there anything that you need to do differently to make sure your light for Jesus shines brightly? If so, take it to the Lord in prayer. Remember **John 15:5**, **John 16:24** and **Philippians 4:13**.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 2:17-18

SHARING JOY

Philippians 2:17-18

“But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.”

There is no question that Paul wanted the church to rejoice in the Lord and to share that joy with one another. That is the common thread that runs through the book of Philippians. Paul knew that sharing our joy with one another would bring encouragement and excitement to the church, our families, and friends. He knew it would energize the church as well as our own individual lives. The following study explores those areas where we are to be joyful. It also gives us examples of how people shared their joy and with whom.

1. Read **Habakkuk 3:17-19**. In whom did the prophet Habakkuk rejoice? Under what conditions was he determined to rejoice?
2. **Habakkuk 3:1-19** is a prayer of praise set to music (see **verses 1 & 19**). It was a poem written by Habakkuk and sung by Habakkuk with his stringed instrument. Habakkuk gave this

hymn to the choir director to be sung during public worship. With that said, with whom did Habakkuk share his joy?

Note: The basis for joy is not dependent upon our circumstances, but rather on our relationship with the Lord. Therefore, we need to share our joy with God as Habakkuk did and as Paul did in **Philippians 1:3-4**. We are to express our joy to God through prayers of praise with thanksgiving.

3. In whom did Mary rejoice, according to **Luke 1:47**?

4. Who rejoiced in **Luke 1:41-44** and why? With whom was this joy shared?

5. Read **Romans 14:17**. What are three elements that describes the kingdom of God? Where does our joy come from? Compare **Galatians 5:22**.

6. What did king David rejoice in, according to **Psalms 21:1**? With whom did he express that joy?

7. Read **Isaiah 61:10** and list two reasons why we should rejoice in the Lord:

8. According to **Revelation 19:5-8**, why will we be rejoicing in the future and with whom will we express that joy?

9. Why did the people rejoice in **2 Chronicles 7:10**? In what way can that verse be applied today?

10. Why are we to rejoice, according to **Psalm 5:11-12**?

11. Write down why king David rejoiced in **Psalm 63:7**? How has this been applied to your own life?

12. What brings us joy, i.e., what should we rejoice in, according to **Acts 15:3**? With whom should we share that joy?

13. What is it that brings joy to godly leaders, according to **Hebrews 13:17**? Why is it so important (compare **Hebrews 13:7**)?

14. What caused joy in **1 Chronicles 29:9**? How can you personally apply this verse?

Note: From the Scripture above, make a list of those with whom joy was shared. Write down something you are joyful about and the person with whom you will share that joy with this week. Make a personal commitment to bring encouragement and excitement into the life of someone else by sharing your joy.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 2:19-24

PROFILES OF GODLY MEN

Philippians 2:19-24

“But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go for me; and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.”

In the above passage, as well as other related Scripture, Paul described the profile of a godly man named Timothy. Timothy was a man who was trustworthy. He was a man that knew the Scriptures from childhood and followed Paul’s teaching, conduct, purpose, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions and sufferings (**2 Timothy 3:10-15**). Timothy had a genuine concern for people and the things of Christ. He had a good reputation. He had become a valuable resource in serving Paul, the church and His Lord. The following study explores the qualities of some other godly men as well as the promises God gives to those who are godly.

1. What godly qualities were attributed to Job in **Job 1:1**?

2. Give one example of a way by which we can turn from evil today:

3. Read **Romans 4:13; 19-25** and **Hebrews 11:17-19**. What was the primary quality in Abraham's life that made him a godly man? How have we or do we, demonstrate that quality?

4. What are some of the promises that God has given to us that we must accept by faith?

5. What godly qualities were attributed to Noah in **Genesis 6:9** and **6:22**?

6. How is **Genesis 6:22** applied to our lives today? What are some of the things that God has commanded us to do?

7. What godly qualities were ascribed to Enoch in **Genesis 5:24** and **Hebrews 11:5**?

8. We are told that Enoch pleased God. In **Ephesians 5:8-10**, we are told to "*walk as children of the light...trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*" What are some things that are pleasing to the Lord that we are to do?

9. What godly qualities were attributed to David in **Psalms 89:20** and **Acts 13:22**?

10. What godly qualities were attributed to Barnabas in **Acts 11:22-24**? As a result of these qualities, what did he do and what were the results?

11. What godly qualities were found in Steven and the other six men in **Acts 6:3** and **Acts 6:5**?

12. What do godly people tend to do, according to **Psalm 145:10-13**?

13. What can you do as a godly person to fulfill **Psalm 145:10-13**?

14. What has God promised to those who are godly in **Psalm 97:10** and **Psalm 4:3**?

Note: We have the assurance, as godly people, that God hears our prayers. Also, as godly people, we want to make sure that we are in His will doing the things that please Him. Take a moment in your prayers to ask God, by the power of His indwelling Spirit, to open your eyes and empower you to walk with Him, according to His will, applying what you have learned in this study. Keep this mind: ***“But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself; the LORD hears when I call to Him” (Psalm 4:3).***

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 2:25-30

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Philippians 2:29

“Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard.”

One of the reasons Epaphroditus was held in such high regard is because he was a minister or servant of the church. He was sent by the church to minister to the needs of Paul (**Philippians 2:25**). Of course, everyone who has placed their faith in Christ are ministers or servants of Christ and His church. The following study looks at what a minister or servant of Christ and His church should do. For additional insight, please read the Bible notes on the book of Philippians.

1. Philip was one of the seven men selected to serve tables in **Acts 6:1-5**. What else did Philip do as a minister or servant of Christ and His church in **Acts 8:5** and **Acts 8:35**?

2. What are we instructed to do in **1 Peter 4:10**?

3. After the death of Stephen (**Acts 7:54-60**), the church went through great persecution and was scattered throughout Judea and Samaria (**Acts 8:1-3**). What did the scattered church do in **Acts 8:4**?

4. What are those people with the spiritual gift of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher to do as ministers or servants of Christ and His church in **Ephesians 4:11-13**?

5. What are the leaders in the church to do according to **Hebrews 13:17**?

6. Make a list of such leaders within your church and pray for them using **Hebrews 13:18** as a guide:

7. What is one of our responsibilities according to **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**?

8. Can you think of someone who is going through affliction that you may be able to comfort?

9. What did Barnabas do as a minister or servant of Christ and His church in **Acts 11:22-23**?

10. What did Tychicus do as a minister or servant of Christ and His church in **Ephesians 6:21-22** and how did he do it?

11. What instructions did Archippus receive as a minister or servant of Christ and His church in **Colossians 4:17** and how can this apply to you?

12. What was one of Titus' responsibilities as a minister or servant of Christ and His church in **Titus 1:5**?

Note: What are you currently doing or what would you like to be doing as a minister or servant of Christ within His church? Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Ask yourself: What am I most passionate about? When I think about serving within the church, what excites me the most? Serve in that area for the glory of God.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-3

BOASTING WITH JOY IN THE LORD

Philippians 3:3

“...for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and Glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.”

In Philippians 3:3, we are told that true worshipers of God “*worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus.*” The word “*glory*” in the Greek means, “*to boast with exulting joy.*” This study explores the wrong things to boast in as well as the right things to boast in, which will give us more insight into ways that we can “*boast with exulting joy*” in the Lord.

1. Read Psalm 20:7. What are the wrong things to boast in? Put your answer in a modern vernacular:

2. According to Psalm 20:7, what is the right thing to boast in?

3. The following lists the names of God that I cover in my book (What's His Name?). After reading the names and their definitions, write down three areas that cause you to boast in the Lord with exulting joy:

- **ELOHIM:** The Strong All-powerful Faithful One.
- **YAHWEH:** The Holy Eternal Salvation Providing Self-existent One.
- **ADONAY:** The Sovereign Master of the Universe.' The Lord of lords.
- **YAHWEH-RAAH:** The LORD is my Shepherd.
- **EL SHADDAY:** The All-powerful All-sufficient Giver of Good.
- **YAHWEH-SHALOM:** The Lord is Peace.
- **EL ROI RAAH:** The Mighty One Looking to See.
- **YAHWEH-TSIDKENU:** The Lord Our Righteousness.
- **EL ELYON:** The Mighty One Most High.
- **YAHWEH-SABAOTH:** The Lord of Hosts.
- **YAHWEH TSURI:** The LORD my Rock.
- **ELOHIM CHAY:** The Strong All-powerful One Living.
- **YAHWEH YIREH:** The LORD my Provider.
- **QUNNA EL:** The Jealous Mighty One - A Consuming Fire.
- **YAHWEH-NISSI:** The Lord is my Banner.
- **ABBA! FATHER:** Daddy.
- **JESUS:** The Name Above all Names the LORD is Salvation.

4. Read **Jeremiah 9:23-24**. What are the wrong things to boast in?

5. According to **Jeremiah 9:23-24**, what is the right thing to boast in?

6. Read **Galatians 6:14**. What is the right thing to boast in?

7. Read **James 4:13-17**. What is the wrong thing to boast in and why?

8. According to **James 4:13-17**, what approach should we take to avoid sinful boasting?

9. Do you need to change your approach in making plans or setting goals? Consider what is stated in **Proverbs 16:3** and **Proverbs 16:9**. What should you be doing differently?

10. Read **Proverbs 27:1**. What is the wrong thing to boast in and why?

11. Part of our worship experience is to glory in Christ Jesus. We are to express an exulting joy in the Lord. Based on this study, what are some ways that you can express your exulting joy in the Lord this week?

Note: Here is a suggestion. Every day this month take one of the names of God that are listed in this study and express your praise to God for who He is and how that particular attribute, which is revealed in His name, has affected your life. Worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus! Boast with exulting joy in the Lord. It is another way to be living evidence for His existence.

CHAPTER TWENTY

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-7

KEEPING PEOPLE OUT OF HEAVEN

Philippians 3:7

“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

When studying through Philippians 3:4-7 the question came to mind: How could someone like Saul (before he became the apostle Paul) be so wrong? After all, he knew the Scriptures from childhood. He was undoubtedly taught to look for the coming Messiah. He prayed and fasted. He believed that someone could be resurrected from the dead, he believed in miracles and he believed in the Holy Scriptures, yet he rejected Jesus Christ, until Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus. In Saul’s case, he believed in religion, rituals and the traditions of Judaism, not necessarily in a personal relationship with God. Certainly not a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ and His reconciling work upon the cross. Paul developed his own righteousness derived from keeping the Law, rather than God’s righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus Christ (see Philippians 3:9). Saul’s religion was keeping him out of heaven. The following study explores some additional things that keep people out of heaven.

1. Read Matthew 19:16-24. What was keeping the young man out of heaven? What was preventing him from following Jesus?

2. Compare **Matthew 19:16-24** with **Luke 19:1-10**. What is the primary evidence of a person's salvation or lack of salvation?

3. **Luke 14:33** says, "*So then, none of you can be My disciples who does not give up all his own possessions.*" Possessions can become more important to us than Jesus. What are some of the possessions that may prevent people from following Christ?

Note: Zaccheus (**Luke 19:1-10**) did not give up all of his possessions. However, he was willing to give up what was needed to correct his unethical business practices and to move forward with an honest tax business. What became evident to the Lord was his changed life, his changed heart towards the poor and towards those he may have defrauded, and the fact that his possessions were no longer his idol. What became important to Zaccheus was his new relationship with Jesus.

4. Read **John 3:3**. What was keeping Nicodemus out of the kingdom?

5. According to **Romans 10:14-17**, what keeps people out of the kingdom of God and what should we be doing about it?

6. Read **Matthew 7:21-27**. Put into your own words what it is that keeps people out of heaven:

7. Describe what will keep some people out of God's kingdom according to **Luke 13:23-28** (compare **John 10:27-29**):

8. Read **Acts 28:17-27**. According to **verses 26-27**, what are some things that keep people from believing the gospel?

9. What prevents people from responding to the gospel, according to **Romans 1:18-32**? What are some of the things that will keep them out of the kingdom of God?

10. Considering what we have learned in this study, where should you put your efforts in sharing the gospel?

11. What are some ways that we can share the gospel?

12. Identify someone that needs to hear the truth about Jesus, someone who is seeking truth or open to hearing the truth and ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to share the good news about Jesus:

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-11

MORE SURPASSING VALUE

Philippians 3:8-11

“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

In Philippians 3:8-11 we see several things that are part “*of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ*” as our personal Savior and Lord. For example, we not only receive the forgiveness of sin, but in exchange we are given His righteousness and eternal life. This study will look at several other things that are part of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus, things that we receive as a result of putting our faith in Him.

1. Romans 8:16-17 mentions two things that we can consider a surpassing value as a result of knowing Jesus Christ. Explain what they are:

2. Read **2 Peter 1:2-4**. List three things that we might consider a surpassing value as a result of knowing Jesus Christ:

3. **Matthew 5:3-12** describes several inner qualities that we receive and several blessing that we receive that is part of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ. Write down the blessings:

4. What are we given in **James 1:12** and what does it mean?

5. What will the faithful leaders in the church receive according to **1 Peter 5:4**?

6. What will everyone receive according to **2 Timothy 4:8**?

7. What are some other things that we can consider part of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ according to **John 14:1-3** and **Philippians 3:21**?

8. There is another surpassing value that comes as a result of knowing Jesus Christ in **Revelation 3:21**. What is it?

Note: Certainly the list of things that we can consider part of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ can go on and on. Stop and praise our heavenly Father for all that He has given to us in Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 3:12

I'M NOT PERFECT BUT I WANNA BE

Philippians 3:12

“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”

In Philippians 3:12 Paul said, *“Not that I...have already become perfect, but I press on.”* We should have the same goal as Paul. In other words, we are not perfect or mature in our faith, but we should be pursuing maturity in Christ. The following study will look at some areas that we can focus on, as we *“press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:13).

1. What is God’s goal for you and me in Matthew 5:48?

2. By keeping Matthew 5:48 within the context in which it was given, what should we be doing to move closer to the goal that God has for us? Read Matthew 5:43-48.

3. Is there anyone that you should be praying for that fits into **Matthew 5:44**?

4. What must we do, according to **James 3:2-12**, if we want to pursue maturity in Christ?

5. List three ways by which we can come closer to accomplishing **James 3:2-12**. Read **Psalm 141:3**, **Proverbs 15:1-2**, **Proverbs 15:28**, **Proverbs 16:23-24** and **Proverbs 29:11**.

Note: One way we know that we are growing in Christ is when we can disagree with someone without becoming disagreeable. Sometimes, for the sake of unity, we must agree to disagree.

6. Read **2 Corinthians 5:21** and **Proverbs 4:18**. What does **Proverbs 4:18** imply when applied to pursuing maturity in Christ?

7. List two things that are necessary for someone to mature, or become complete in Christ according to **Colossians 1:28**?

8. Who in your life is fulfilling **Colossians 1:28**?

Note: Everyone needs someone in their life who will be a mentor. Everyone needs someone who will help disciple them, help them mature in Christ and hold them accountable. If that is missing in your life, then seek out such a person today.

9. Read **2 Corinthians 7:1**. List one area of your life in which you are to perfect holiness and write down what you need to do to accomplish that goal:

10. What else creates maturity in our lives according to **James 1:2-4**:

11. Write down an example of how **James 1:2-4** has worked in your life, or is working your life. How has the testing of your faith helped you mature in you walk with the Lord?

12. Read **John 17:23**. What does Jesus want perfected in our lives and why?

13. Are you growing in Christ? What area do you need to focus on?

Note: Take the area that you need to focus on, as you grow in Christ, to the Lord in prayer. Ask Him to do His work in you by His Holy Spirit through His Word for His glory. Become a “WANNA BE” for Jesus. Become living evidence to the world for His existence.

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

STAYING FOCUSED

Philippians 3:13-14

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Men and women who have been used of God to accomplish great things for His kingdom are able to stay focused on the Lord and the Lord’s call upon their lives. Paul certainly had that focus as noted in the passage above. In the following Scripture, we see examples of what godly men and women did to remain focused on the Lord and/or His call upon their lives.

1. David, in the midst of all his responsibilities as king of Israel, remained focused on the Lord. Read **Psalm 27:4**, and write down what David did to keep his focus.

2. Using David as an example, what can you do differently to stay focused upon the Lord in the midst of your business?

3. Both Mary and Martha, in **Luke 10:38-42**, spent time with Jesus. One was focused on the Lord, and one was distracted. What was Mary doing that helped her to keep her focus on Jesus? What was Martha doing and what advice did Jesus give to her?

4. Ignoring the gender for a moment, do you tend to be a Mary or a Martha?

5. What, if anything, should you do during your day to be more focused on Jesus like Mary:

6. In order for Paul to remain focused upon God's call upon his life, what did he need to do in **Philippians 3:13**?

7. Is there anything in your life that is holding you back, or distracting you from concentrating on what lies ahead? Write it down and give it to Jesus. He knows what to do with it.

8. Staying focused upon the Lord and His call upon our lives is not only to be a personal goal but also a family goal. What did Joshua and his family do together to stay focused on the Lord and His work in **Joshua 24:15**?

9. Read **Joshua 24:16-31**. What did the people need to do (**verses 24-27**) to remain focused on the Lord and His call upon the nation of Israel?

Note: Do you need to renew your commitment to stay focused on Jesus, to obey Him and to serve Him? If you do, take a moment and make that commitment in prayer. Then write down that

commitment in the front of your Bible as a testimony, or upon a rock and set that rock on the coffee table in your home, in front of the TV (if you have one) or in front of your computer (if you have one). Sometimes we need to set a visual reminder of our commitment in front of what so easily distracts us from focusing on or serving the Lord. Read **Hebrews 12:1-2**.

10. What did the apostles need to do to stay focused on the Lord and the Lord's call upon their lives in **Acts 6:1-7**? What was the result?

11. God has a plan for our lives. He wants us to accomplish the purpose and good work that He has planned for us to do in Christ (see **Ephesians 2:10**). What instruction did the Lord give in **Jeremiah 29:11-13** that can help keep us focused upon the Lord and His call upon our lives?

Note: Based on what you have learned from this study, what change(s) do you need to make so you remain focused on the Lord and His call upon your life?

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

DON'T FORGET

Philippians 3:13

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...”

In **Philippians 3:12-14**, we see one of the steps to take in pursuing the goal of Christlikeness. That step is: *“forgetting what lies behind”* (**verse 13**). In other words, we are not to let our past hold us back, or discourage us from pressing on towards the goal of being more like Christ. As we apply the principle of forgetting what lies behind, the Bible also tells us what not to forget.

1. Read **Deuteronomy 4:1-10**. According to **verses 9**, what are we not to forget?
2. Write down one thing you have seen the Lord do:
3. According to **Deuteronomy 4:9**, with whom are we to share what the Lord has done?

4. Read **Psalm 78:1-8**. According to **verse 7**, what are we not to forget?

5. Read the rest of **Psalm 78** and write down some of the works of God:

6. According to **Psalm 78:4-6**, who are we to inform about the works of God?

7. Read **Psalm 119:16, 83, 93, and 176**. According to these verses, what are we not to forget?

8. Read **Psalm 119:1-16**. What are some of the things that we can do, which will help us to not forget God's word?

9. Read **Proverbs 4:1-5**. According to this passage, what are we not to forget?

10. What did David do for Solomon in **Proverbs 4:3-4** and what was Solomon doing for his sons in **Proverbs 4:1**, and what are Christian parents to do according to **Ephesians 6:4**?

Note: There is a common thread that runs through many of the above passages of Scripture, and that common thread is; we are to teach and tell our children and grandchildren about the things God has done. We are to teach them God's Word, the Bible. We are to give them the wisdom that comes from knowing God and understanding His Word. We are to be their role model. **DON'T FORGET THE IMPORTANT THINGS!**

Here are the “Children’s Ten Commandments for Parents” by Kevin Lehman:

- My hands are small; please don’t expect perfection whenever I make a bed, draw a picture, or throw a ball. My legs are short; slow down so that I can keep up with you.
- My eyes have not seen the world as yours have; let me explore it safely; don’t restrict me unnecessarily.
- Housework will always be there; I’m little only for a short time. Take time to explain things to me about this wonderful world, and do so willingly.
- My feelings are tender; don’t nag me all day long (you would not want to be nagged for your inquisitiveness). Treat me as you would like to be treated.
- I am a special gift from God; treasure me as God intended you to do – holding me accountable for my actions, giving me guidelines to live by, and disciplining me in a loving manner.
- I need your encouragement (but not your empty praise) to grow. Go easy on the criticism; remember, you can criticize the things I do without criticizing me.
- Give me the freedom to make decisions concerning myself. Permit me to fail, so that I can learn from my mistakes. Then someday I’ll be prepared to make the decisions life will require of me.
- Don’t do things over for me; that makes me feel my efforts didn’t measure up to your expectations. I know it’s hard, but don’t compare me with my brother or my sister.
- Don’t be afraid to leave for a weekend together. Kids need vacations from parents, and parents need vacations from kids. Besides, it’s a great way to show us kids that your marriage is something special.
- Take me to Sunday school and church regularly, setting a good example for me to follow. I enjoy learning more about God.

Note: The Bible clearly teaches that we are to be living evidence for God’s existence in this world. A great place to start being that testimony is with our children and grandchildren.

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

RUNNING THE RACE

Philippians 3:13-14

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Paul was determined to “*press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*” He said he was “*reaching forward,*” which is a picture of a sprinter stretching every muscle in his or her body by leaning forward while crossing the finish line. Paul said, “*I press on*” which refers to an intensive endeavor. Paul gave us additional guidelines to implement as we run the race towards Christlikeness in the following passages of Scripture.

1. **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** gives us four guidelines to implement in running the race. Identify what they are by completing the following statements:
 - Run in such a way that you may (**verse 24**):
 - Exercise (**verse 25**):
 - Run in such a way, as not without (**verse 26**):

- I discipline my body and make it (verse 27):
2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:27 again. What is one way that you can discipline your body so that you successfully run towards Christlikeness?

 3. What was Paul's concern in Galatians 2:1-3 (compare Galatians 1:11-12) and how did he resolve that concern?

 4. As Paul ran the race, he shared the gospel with the Gentiles. What additional direction did James, Peter and John give to Paul in Galatians 2:10?

 5. In what ways are you involved in sharing the gospel and remembering the poor?

 6. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Paul said he had "*finished the course.*" His race toward Christlikeness was finished. Paul said, "*...the time of my departure has come.*" What was Paul's reward for finishing the race according to verse 8?

 7. Through the Lord's power working in and through Paul (Colossians 1:29), he accomplished everything God asked him to do. He "*finished the course.*" He ran the race well. What else did Paul do that enabled him to be worthy of receiving Christ's reward in 2 Timothy 4:7-8?

 8. Write down one word that describes Paul's statement in verse 7:

9. How can we, in a practical way, “*Fight the good fight of faith*” according to **1 Timothy 6:10-12**?

10. Read **Hebrews 12:1-2**. What four guidelines are we to implement, so we successfully run the race set before us?

11. “*Every encumbrance*” (**Hebrews 12:1**) can mean anything that slows us down or distracts us from running the race towards Christlikeness. It can be anything that slows us down or distracts us from doing all that God has called us to do. Consider the Olympian. Even some Olympic runners shave their heads to cut down on wind resistance. What are some encumbrances that you need to lay aside or cut out in order for you to run the race successfully towards the goal of being more like Christ doing the good work that God has prepared for you to do (**Ephesians 2:10**)? What is slowing you down?

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 3:15-19

HOW TO TREAT ENEMIES

Philippians 3:17-19

“Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.”

Paul wept over those who were called “*enemies of the cross*” (Philippians 3:17-19). He identified the things that characterized their life and their ultimate destination without knowing Christ and Paul wept. Besides weeping for those who are enemies of the cross, whose ultimate “*end is destruction*” – what else should we do towards our enemies? The following Bible study answers that question.

1. In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul tells us, “*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*” What example did Jesus give us to follow in Luke 23:33-34 (compare Ephesians 4:32)?

Note: William Arthur Ward stated, “*We are most like beasts when we kill. We are most like men when we judge. We are most like God when we forgive.*” (Taken from *Thoughts of a Christian*)

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21

TRANSFORMED

Philippians 3:20-21

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

In **Philippians 3:21**, we are told that our earthly bodies will be transformed *“into conformity with the body of His glory.”* This is certainly an exciting future to have. Jesus Himself will exert His power to change us in a twinkling of an eye (**1 Corinthians 15:51-53**). The word *“transformed”* is not used very often in Scripture, but where it is used we find some exciting things taking place or some exciting things that will take place. The following looks at what is transformed when we, by faith, trust Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord.

1. Read **2 Corinthians 3:18**. Who is being transformed and into what are they being transformed?
2. Who does the changing that is mentioned in **2 Corinthians 3:18**?
3. How does the change, in **2 Corinthians 3:18**, take place and what is our part in the process?

Note: Dr. Henry Ironside stated it so well: *“Here is true Christian growth in grace. First, Christ has to be revealed to the soul, and then as you go on day after day, as you are occupied with Christ, you become like Him. You never have to say, ‘See how spiritual I am becoming, how Christlike I am.’ This will not be necessary if your heart is taken up with the Lord Jesus. If occupied with Him, other people will soon realize that you are becoming more and more like Him as the days go by.”* (Taken from *2 Corinthians*, page 91, by Dr. Henry A. Ironside. Published by Loizeaux Brothers, Neptune, New Jersey 1939). To put it another way, people will see that you are becoming living evidence for His existence.

Note: The transforming process of becoming more like Christ begins and continues when we fix our gaze upon the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ (His eternal intrinsic attributes).

4. In **Matthew 17:1-9**, Peter, James and John got a glimpse of the glory of our Lord. What was their response?

5. Write down the response that others had when they were allowed to see the glory of the Lord in **Isaiah 6:1-5**, **Ezekiel 1:1-28** with **Revelation 4:6-11** and **Revelation 1:12-18**:

6. Stop and contemplate the person of Jesus Christ and His eternal intrinsic attributes. What do you need to change today as a result?

7. Read **Romans 12:1-2**. What is to be transformed?

8. How does the change in **Romans 12:1-2** take place? What must the believer do according to **verse 2** and why?

Note: The Spirit of God takes the Word of God and transforms us into vessels prepared to do the will of God for the glory of God. Read **2 Timothy 2:20-26** and **3:16-17** as well as **Hebrews 4:12**. Don't *“be conformed to this world”* – rather be transformed into Christlikeness *“by the renewing of your mind”* – by the power of God's Spirit working in you, through the power of God's Word. Put your faith in Jesus and then walk by faith with Jesus.

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-3

STANDING FIRM

Philippians 4:1

“Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.”

Paul instructed the Philippian church to *“stand firm in the Lord.”* Of course, that exhortation applies to all of us. We are all to stand firm in Christ. The question becomes: How do we do it? What must we do to stand firm in the Lord? What attitude should we have? What causes, or motivates us to stand firm? The following gives some answers to these questions.

1. Read **1 Corinthians 15:54-58**. List two reasons why we can and should stand firm:

2. Read **Galatians 5:1**. In what way should we stand firm? And, for what reason should we stand firm? Compare **Romans 6:17-18**.

3. What can we do that will demonstrate we are standing firm in the Lord according to **Philippians 1:27-28**?

4. Read **Ephesians 6:10-17**. What are we to do to stand firm in the Lord?

5. Read **Ephesians 6:10-17** again. What are you doing, or what should you be doing, on a daily basis, to assure yourself and others that you have on the full armor of God?

6. Describe how we are to stand firm according to **2 Thessalonians 2:15**:

7. In what are we to stand firm according to **1 Peter 5:12**?

8. Is there an area of your life in which you are not standing firm? Write down what that area is and what you need to do to stand firm in your faith:

Note: Christianity is under attack from all sides. The church has been infiltrated by false teachers trying to diminish its effectiveness. Jesus is being mocked. The Word of God is being described as a book of myths and children's fables. Christians are being challenged in what they believe and why they believe. The line has been drawn in the sand by those who oppose Christ and the Word of God challenging believers to cross over that line and dare to stand up for Jesus Christ. The time has come for every follower of Jesus Christ to make a stand for Jesus and for the fully inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. No more compromising who Jesus truly is: God the Creator, God the Savior, the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Messiah who will return soon to sit upon the throne of David. No more compromising the Word of God, from **Genesis 1:1** to **Revelation 22:11**. The time is now! Stand firm in Christ! Stand up for Jesus!

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

“THE LORD IS NEAR” – HOW NEAR?

Philippians 4:4-5

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.”

We are told in **Philippians 4:5**, *“The Lord is near.”* There are three ways we can view that statement. First, the Lord is near in the sense that God is everywhere present. Second, the Lord is near since the Holy Spirit indwells believers. Third, the Lord is near in the sense that He is coming back for His church at any moment. Since Paul was *“waiting for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory”* in **Philippians 3:20-21**, then I believe Paul’s statement *“The Lord is near”* is referring to Christ’s return for His church. The question that I would like to address from Scripture is, how near? Let’s look at what Jesus said.

1. Write down what the disciples asked Jesus in **Matthew 24:3**:

Note: **Matthew 24:4-8** gives us the signs to look for, the things that begin to happen, before our Lord returns for His church. They intensify during the first half of the Great Tribulation, see

goodness, faithfulness and gentleness. He had self-control. Is your lamp for Jesus burning brightly as you wait for His return?

8. Knowing that our Lord's return is near, what are we instructed to do in **Hebrews 10:23-25**?

9. What are we instructed to do in **James 5:7-9**, knowing that our Lord's return is near?

Note: Read **Romans 13:11-14**. Because the return of the Lord is near we are instructed to lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. We are instructed to behave properly and put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh concerning its lusts. ***"The Lord is near."*** How near is the Lord? Nearer than you think. Are you ready? Are you living as though He is coming at any moment? Do you have on your armor of light? Are you walking as children of Light (**Ephesians 5: 7-10**)? ***"The Lord is near!"*** Live like it!

CHAPTER THIRTY

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING

Philippians 4:6-7

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Paul encouraged believers to pray in **Philippians 4:6**. Prayer is the key that releases our anxieties and opens the door to the peace of God. The exhortation to pray and the instruction in how to pray are found throughout Scripture. The following study looks at Daniel, Hezekiah and Jesus as examples of those who had an effective prayer life. The goal of this study is to encourage a more disciplined prayer life, so that we pray about everything.

1. Read **Daniel 6:1-11**. Compare Daniel’s prayer in **verses 10-11** with Paul’s direction for prayer in **Philippians 4:6**. What are the similarities?

2. In **Daniel 6:7-9**, king Darius signed an injunction prohibiting people, like Daniel, from praying to God. In what ways has our own government passed similar laws?

3. What was Daniel's response to the law signed by Darius in **Daniel 6:10**?

4. What do you think our response should be to the laws we have today that prohibit prayer?

5. Read **Daniel 6:12-28**. Daniel was thrown into the lion's den for breaking the law that prohibited prayer, but God intervened on his behalf. Summarize the second decree that Darius made in **verses 25-27**:

Note: Would you be willing to face the death penalty over prayer? Daniel did. Daniel understood that talking to God was more important than his physical life. Daniel believed in the power of God who responds to our prayers when they are made from a pure heart. See **Daniel 6:22**.

6. How can you improve your own prayer life based on Daniel's example?

7. Read **2 Kings 19:10-19**. Compare Hezekiah's prayer in **verses 15-19** with Jesus' instruction on how to pray in **Matthew 6:9-13**. What are the similarities?

8. Hezekiah prayed for and received deliverance. What was his ultimate prayer request in **2 Kings 19:19**?

9. In Jesus "high-priestly" prayer, in **John 17:1-26**, He prayed for unity among believers in **verses 20-23**. Why did Jesus pray for unity among believers?

10. What did Jesus teach about prayer in His parable in **Luke 18:1-5**?

11. What exhortation did Jesus give His disciples about prayer in **Matthew 26:40-41**?

Note: Dr. J. Vernon McGee states, *“The greatest need of the present-day church is prayer. Prayer should be the vital breath of the church, but right now it is gasping for air. One of the great Bible teachers of the past said that the church goes forward on its knees. Maybe one of the reasons the church is not going forward today is because it’s not in the right position to go forward – we are not on our knees in prayer.”* (Taken from *On Prayer* by Dr. J. Vernon Copyright © 2002 by Thru the Bible Radio Network. Published by Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee. Used by permission. All rights reserved).

How about you? Are you in the right position to go forward as a follower of Jesus Christ doing the will of God fulfilling the good work He wants you to do? Are you in the right position to be living evidence for His existence in a world filled with people who are on a plight of eternal condemnation? Are you on your knees in prayer?

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

MORE THINGS TO DWELL ON

Philippians 4:8-9

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

In **Philippians 4:8-9**, Paul listed eight things we are to dwell on so we experience the presence of the *“God of peace.”* The word *“dwell”* can be defined as something we ponder, or meditate on. The following Scripture will explore some additional things that we are to ponder, or meditate on as well as some of the life changing results when we do.

1. Read **Proverbs 15:28**. On what are we to ponder, and why do you think it is important? Before you answer the question compare the following Scriptural references: **Proverbs 15:2**, **Proverbs 10:32** and **1 Peter 3:15**.

2. What are we to meditate on in **Joshua 1:8** and why?

3. What did David meditate on in **Psalm 63:6-8**?
4. What did the psalmist meditate on in **Psalm 77:12**?
5. What did the psalmist meditate on in **Psalm 119:15**?
6. What did the psalmist meditate on in **Psalm 119:27**?
7. What did the psalmist meditate on in **Psalm 119:148** and when did he do this?
8. What did the psalmist meditate on in **Psalm 119:99-100** and what were the results?
9. What did David meditate on in **Psalm 145:4-6** and why?
10. Read **Psalm 1:1-3**. What results can we expect in our lives when we meditate on God and His Word?

Note: We are not to live for this world, we are to live for the world to come. We are in this world, but not of this world (**John 17:16**). We may work in this world, but we live up there, “...*where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father*” (**Colossians 3:1**). We are to set our “*minds on the things above, not on the things that are on earth*” (**Colossians 3:2**). Don’t grab onto the things of this world, but rather grab onto Christ and the things of God. Don’t listen to or dwell on the wisdom of this world. Listen to and dwell on Jesus and His Word. When we do, we prosper in everything we do down here (**Psalm 1:2-3** and **Joshua 1:8**).

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13

THE SECRETE TO CONTENTMENT

Philippians 4:11

“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”

We live in a society that promotes discontentment. Billions of dollars are spent by manufacturers and advertisers every year to get us to be discontent. They want us to change the way we look and the way we spend our time. They say we deserve to have more, we need to take that well deserved exotic vacation, we need to have more fun. They seem to say, *“If you would just make more money so you can buy more stuff, then you will be content with your life.”* However, the Bible clearly teaches that we are to be content with what we have. The following study examines additional Scripture on the subject of contentment. First, please read the Bible notes on **Philippians 4:10-13** posted under the “Bible” tab.

1. In **Philippians 4:11-12**, Paul used the term *“I have learned”* two times. What did Paul learn?

2. What enabled Paul to learn contentment in **Philippians 4:13**?

3. What specifically does the “*all things*” in **Philippians 4:13** refer to in the context of **Philippians 4:11-12**?

Note: Contentment is something that we learn as the Lord takes us through various experiences in life. In fact, the Lord may purposely take us through a process in life for the sole purpose of teaching us how to be satisfied and how to get along with what we have.

4. Read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. Write down the things that Paul said he was content with in **verse 10**:

5. What enabled Paul to be content according to **2 Corinthians 12:9**?

6. Read **Luke 3:14**. What area did John the Baptist tell the Roman soldiers to be content in?

7. According to **1 Timothy 6:6**, what does contentment enhance?

8. What are we told to be content with in **1 Timothy 6:8**?

Note: Contentment comes when we become satisfied with what God has provided us in this life. Our focus is to be upon Him and His righteousness, rather than upon the accumulation of the material possessions, see **Matthew 6:25-33**.

Note: It is important to keep in mind that the Lord does not condemn having possessions as long as we recognize that they are graciously provided by Him. What He does not want, is our discon-

tentment with what He has provided. Having money is not what is evil in His sight, ***“For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10)***. Our focus is to be upon Him who richly supplies us with all things, which in turn we are to use in His work and for the care of others, see **1 Timothy 6:17-19**. I dear friend of mine, who was very wealthy, told me that we are to be like an open conduit. We are to let God pour as much of His resources as He wants through that conduit, we are to keep enough to care for our family, and then use the rest to do His work and to build His kingdom. We are not to have sticky fingers, keeping more than we need. God will always supply our needs, not our greeds. If we get greedy, He may stop pouring His resources through us and use someone else.

9. Read **Hebrews 13:5-6**. What should we be content with and in what way should that contentment influence our character?

10. According to **Hebrews 13:5-6**, what can we confidently say and why?

11. From our study, what enables us to be content?

12. Identify one area in your life in which you need to be more content:

Note: Take that area to the Lord and ask for His power to be content, so godliness will have the greater gain in your life.

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 4:14-17

MINISTERING TO THE AFFLICTED

Philippians 4:14

“Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.”

The Philippian church shared in Paul’s affliction as noted above in **Philippians 4:14**. Keep in mind that Paul was under house arrest and chained to a Roman soldier twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. That meant Paul had to pay for his own rented quarters and buy his own food without any means to do so. The Philippian church shared in Paul’s affliction by being financially involved with his ministry and by providing financially for his needs. They also shared in his affliction by sending Epaphroditus to help Paul in the ministry and take care of his personal needs. The following Scripture looks at some additional ways in which we can minister to the afflicted.

1. **Acts 12:1-5** talks about Peter’s imprisonment while **James 5:14-16** talks about those who are sick, which are too different kinds of affliction. Read those passages and write down the one common activity that Christians did for the afflicted:

2. When someone is afflicted it can be a very emotional time. Read **Romans 12:15** and write down what we are told to do in those cases:

3. What are we to give to those who are afflicted, according to **Job 6:14**?

4. Read **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**. What are we to do for the afflicted and how are we to do it?

5. Describe a time when God comforted you. Answer the question: Did God use another person to bring you that comfort? If so, how did God use that person?

6. Read **Hebrews 13:3**. Before we pray for the afflicted, and weep with the afflicted, or show kindness, give comfort, or help financially and/or physically we should do what we are told in **Hebrews 13:3**. Put in your own words what it means when we are told to ***“Remember the prisoner, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated.”***

7. Do you know anyone who is afflicted? How can you minister to that person? Write down an area from the above study that you can do to minister to the afflicted:

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 4:18-19

NEEDS NOT GREEDS

Philippians 4:18-19

“But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

God gave clear direction to believers and to the church; we are to care for the needs of others. God also gave us several examples to follow. The Philippian church being one. They were a church who cared for the needs of others. God also taught us how to have our own needs met. Notice I said our needs, not our greeds. God clearly teaches all believers not to be greedy. And, when He gives us an abundance, He teaches us what to do with that abundance. This study will compare greeds with needs, the greedy with the needy and the results of each.

1. Read Isaiah 56:11, and describe what a greedy person is like:

2. According to Romans 1:26-29 and Colossians 3:5, how is greed defined?

3. Read **Ephesians 4:17-19**. What is connected to greediness?

4. Read **2 Peter 2:12-16**. What is greed associated with?

5. What does a greedy person do, according to **Psalm 10:3**?

Note: The phrase “*spurns the LORD*” in **Psalm 10:3** is a very strong statement. It carries with it the idea of someone treating the Lord with contempt, despising what belongs to Him (believers, the Jewish people, the church, etc.) and what He has ordained (such as marriage).

6. According to **Ephesians 5:3**, what place is greed to have within a believers life?

7. Read **Luke 12:15-31**. Summarize our Lord’s teaching concerning greed:

Note: It is clear, the Father knows what we need (**Matthew 6:8**) and will give us what we need when we put into practice the principle of sowing and reaping (**Galatians 6:7** and **Philippians 4:15-19**) and when we seek His kingdom and His righteousness (**Matthew 6:25-33**). However, there is much more we need to do when we consider our needs and the needs of others as we will see in the following Scripture.

8. What are we instructed to do in **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12** so we will not be in need?

9. What are we instructed to do in **Hebrews 4:16** if we are in need of anything?

10. How does God supply the needs of others according to **Romans 12:13**, **Ephesians 4:28**, **James 2:15-17** and **1 John 3:17-18**?

11. What institution did God use to take care of Paul's needs in **Philippians 4:15** and for the needs of others in **Romans 15:26**?

12. Read **Proverbs 14:31**. What happens when someone gives to the needy?

13. **Matthew 25:31-40** is a prophecy that points to when Jesus, as King, will return to earth in His glory and sit on His glorious throne (**verse 31**). Those who are blessed by His Father will inherit the kingdom that was prepared for them from the foundation of the world (**verse 34**). Those who were blessed by the Father are those who had compassion on the poor and provided for their needs (**verses 34-40**). They are a very special group of people. However, they are identified as more than those who have compassion on the poor and needy. Who are they? How are they identified in **verse 37** (compare **2 Corinthians 5:21** and **Philippians 3:8-9**)?

DIGGING DEEPER

INTO

PHILIPPIANS 4:20-23

GLORIFYING GOD

Philippians 4:20-23

“Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.”

Have you ever asked: What is the purpose of life? What is the most important thing that we can accomplish in life? The answer is this: Glorify God with our lives. One of the core components of the Christian faith is this statement: *“The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”* As we are told in **1 Corinthians 10:31**, *“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* What does it mean to glorify God? It means to give Him the highest honor by exalting Him above ourselves and everyone else (see the Bible notes and outline on the topic *The Crowning Jewel to Life: “Do All to The Glory of God”* posted under the “Bible” tab. The following study addresses the question: What are some practical ways that we can glorify God through our daily lives?

1. Read **Psalm 86:9-12**. How did David, as king of Israel, glorify God?

2. What did David say about the name of God in **Psalms 8:1** and **8:9**?

Note: The book titled “*What’s His Name?*” (available at www.xulonpress.com) shows how we can glorify God through knowing and understanding His names.

3. How did those in the Philippians church bring glory to God according to **Philippians 1:11**?

4. How is the fruit of righteousness defined in **Proverbs 11:30**? What is one way it can be put into practice?

5. According to **Romans 15:4-6**, what can we do to glorify God? Compare **Philippians 2:2**.

6. Read **2 Corinthians 4:15**. How can God be glorified?

7. According to **Philippians 2:9-11**, what happens when someone declares that Jesus is their Lord?

Note: The greatest honor that we will ever have in this life and the life to come is to bring glory to God the Father and God the Son, see **Revelation 5:9-14**.

8. How can we glorify God according to **Matthew 5:14-16**? Compare **Ephesians 5:8-10** and **Philippians 2:14-16**.

9. How is God glorified through us in **John 15:8**? Compare **Galatians 5:22-25**.

10. How did Abraham glorify God according to **Romans 4:19-21**? How does that affect us? How can we glorify God by applying this passage?

11. What is another way we can glorify God in **Romans 15:7**?

12. Read **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**. What are we to do to glorify God? Compare **1 Peter 1:14-16**.

13. How are we to glorify God in **1 Peter 4:10-11**?

Note: Every person who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ has received the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then gives us spiritual gifts and empowers us to use those gifts in serving one another in the church. There are 22 spiritual gifts listed in the Bible. See Appendix #1, *Spiritual Gifts In Perspective*. These are in addition to our talents. We all have at least one spiritual gift to use in serving one another, building up the church in unity and in bringing God the glory. God created us, redeemed us through His Son, indwells us by His Spirit and equips us by His Word to accomplish His work for His glory. Therefore, as we are told in **1 Corinthians 10:31**, “...*Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*”

APPENDIX #1

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN PERSPECTIVE

Note: The following is a list of all the Spiritual Gifts mentioned in the Bible.

GROUPING OF GIFTS	PRIMARY FUNCTION IN MINISTRY
<p>SPECIAL GIFTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apostles (1 Corinthians 12:28 & Ephesians 4:11) 2. Prophets (1 Corinthians 12:28 & Ephesians 4:11) 3. Evangelists (Ephesians 4:11) 4. Pastor-Teachers (Ephesians 4:11) 	<p>EQUIPPING the saints for ministry.</p> <p>“...For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).</p>
<p>SPEAKING GIFTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prophecy (Romans 12:6-8,13 & 1 Corinthians 12:8-10) 2. Teaching (Romans 12:6-8, 13 & 1 Corinthians 12:28) 3. Exhortation (Romans 12:6-8, 13) 4. Word of Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8-10) 5. Word of Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8-10) 	<p>PROCLAIMING the message of God.</p> <p>“Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).</p>

GROUPING OF GIFTS	PRIMARY FUNCTION IN MINISTRY
<p>SERVING GIFTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Serving (Romans 12:6-8, 13 & 1 Peter 4:9-11) 2. Helps (1 Corinthians 12:28) 3. Leadership (Romans 12:6-8, 13) 4. Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28) 5. Giving (Romans 12:6-8, 13) 6. Showing mercy (Romans 12:6-8, 13) 7. Discerning of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:8-10) 8. Faith (1 Corinthians 12:8-10) 9. Hospitality (Romans 12:6-8, 13 & 1 Peter 4:9-11) 	<p>PERFORMING the work of God</p> <p>“...Whoever serves, is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies;...” (1 Peter 4:11).</p>
<p>SIGN GIFTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28) 2. Interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:8-10) 3. Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28) 4. Healing (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28) 	<p>CONFIRMING the authority of God.</p> <p>“Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands” (Acts 14:3).</p>

WHEN EACH BELIEVER EXERCISES THEIR GIFT...

1. The whole church is built up (Ephesians 4:12, 16).
2. Each believer discovers a place and function of importance (1 Corinthians 12:14-24).
3. Individual believers are established and encouraged (Romans 1:11-12).
4. Each individual is equipped to minister (Ephesians 4:11-12).
5. The church becomes effective for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7).
6. The church grows (Ephesians 4:16).
7. Jesus Christ is glorified (1 Peter 4:11).
8. Believers become living evidence for God’s existence (Matthew 5:16).