

ALL IN



A
SERIES
ON
CHRISTIAN
LIVING

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And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

—MATTHEW 28:18–20



OUR MISSION
IS TO HELP
PEOPLE MOVE
FROM WHERE
THEY ARE TO
WHERE GOD
WANTS THEM
TO BE.



Meadowbrook
CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION: GOING *ALL IN*

As Christians, we're more than fans of Jesus; we're followers of Jesus.

This means we allow Him to be our Lord—our superior, our boss. We're not just following the idea of Jesus; we are following His teachings and instruction. The Great Commission doesn't say to "go and make church attenders"—it calls us to be and make *disciples*.

In this journey of discipleship, it is vitally important for every believer to be able to grow and develop in the following areas of faith:

- **Prayer**
- **The Word**
- **Worship**
- **Serving**

This e-book, adapted from a sermon series of the same name, is meant to encourage you to go *All In* on these foundational disciplines of the Christian faith.

Perhaps you have felt daunted by prayer, by Scripture, by worship or by serving others. Perhaps you have counted yourself out or assumed these disciplines are for other Christians of greater knowledge, prowess or devotion. But you already have the greatest and most precious thing you could ever have: a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Now, take ownership of your faith. You *can* be proficient in your prayer life, in your Bible study, in your worship and in your acts of service. *You* can do this, too!

Remember that discipleship is not just about what you do, but what it produces. You are blessed to be a blessing to others and to bring glory to God.

When you are confident and consistent in these four areas of discipleship, you will become more and more happy, stable, fruitful and blessed. You become more like Jesus! And this betters the entire Church, the world and the people around you. To "become a better *me*" is to "become a better *we*."

Discipleship is made up of *steps* on a *path* that take you to a *place*.

The *growth* leads to *fruit*.

The *process* leads to *purpose*.

Let's start walking.



As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7



PART 1: PRAYER

1. YOUR FUTURE IS PAVED IN PRAYER

Being in a relationship requires communication. When someone asks, “When was the last time you talked to so-and-so?” they are essentially asking, “How intimate is your relationship? How consistent is your communication?”

In your relationship with God, your primary form of communication is prayer. Through Jesus Christ, you have been invited into relationship with Him—and then you’re invited into communication.

You can and should have a powerful, productive prayer life. But remember that it isn’t prayer itself that you need—it’s God! Prayer *connects* you with God. And your goal should be to live in constant contact with Him.

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

MARK 11:24

The Barriers to Prayer

Because communication is a key part of relationships, it can also become one of the top problems in relationships. Poor communication, wrong communication, no communication—all of these strain connection. This is true in your prayer life with God as well.

The biggest problem with praying is ... we don’t! However, the best way to learn to pray is to *pray*.

Jesus taught that you “always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1b) and that you should “ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:24b). It seems straightforward—still, James noted, “You do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2b).

What are some reasons you might not practice prayer? Maybe you don't understand how prayer operates. Perhaps you don't believe prayer works—or you don't believe it works for *you*, even if it works for other people.

Well, be encouraged: Time and again in Scripture, we are told **there is nothing God cannot do, help or fix. We can pray with confidence in Him and in how we connect with Him**, trusting that He is going to do something in our lives, even in our problems.

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

MARK 1:35

Never Surprised, Always Amazed

There is a pattern in the New Testament: **Jesus went from place of prayer to place of prayer, with miracles in between.** Consider accounts like Mark 1:32–35, where Jesus spends an evening healing the sick and casting out demons—then wakes early the next day for private time in prayer.

This pattern continues in the lives of the disciples and apostles, where we see prayer precede mighty moves of God (like in Acts 12:1–19, where Peter makes a miraculous escape from prison, supported by the prayers of his community and guided by angels).

Stories like these impart a lesson about the dynamics of prayer: **We should never be surprised but always amazed at what God will do.**

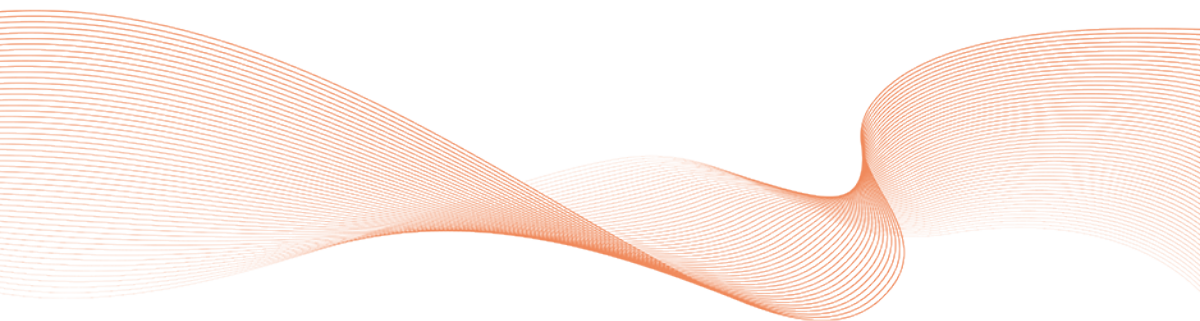
“You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it,” Matthew 21:22 (NLT) says. This verse points toward the future. You may not be able to change your present, but you can prepare your future. Your future is paved in prayer.

Get ahead in prayer. Most successes are prayer successes, and most failures are prayer failures. Don't just let things happen to you; don't let an undesirable “now” continue or let a desirable “now” go unpreserved. Show up prayed-up!

George Mueller, a well-known evangelist and philanthropist who cared for thousands of orphans in his lifetime, famously did not directly ask for support from donors. Instead, he described living in a constant state of prayer, trusting God to provide—which He did.

“I live in a spirit of prayer,” Mueller said. “I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming!”

Prayer is about connection to God—and it should be your way of life.



2. SIX PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

Let's be honest, prayer is complex.

Prayer is supernatural. It has deep theological underpinnings. **We can only ever have a partial grasp of the sacred truths of prayer.**

At the same time, for the people lifting prayers to God, the act of prayer is also not that complex. Think of it like starting a car: Most likely, you push a button or turn a key without fully understanding the complexity of how the car functions. Still, you have confidence that it works. In your prayer life, you can “turn the key” in a consistent, trusting, joyful manner.

Confidence only grows with practice. Repetition has a simplifying effect on even tricky skills or concepts. Picture a seasoned musician running through their scales; they have mastered a skill, so it has become simpler to them. Similarly, **confidence in prayer stems from consistency and simplicity.**

Here are six principles that will bring simplicity and vitality to your prayer practice:

1. Pray to the Father.

In Matthew 6, Jesus presents a model for prayer. “When you pray,” He says, “go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” (verse 6). He goes on to share what is now known as The Lord’s Prayer, beginning, “Our Father in heaven” (verse 9).

God wants us to come to Him and know Him as our source. This is the starting point.

Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

JOHN 16:23B

2. Pray in Jesus' Name.

Jesus urges that, as we pray to God the Father, we should pray *in* the name of Jesus (John 16:23, John 14:13).

The name of Jesus—"the name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9)—resonates and reverberates. It cuts through darkness; it causes demons to flee.

The power of prayer lies in Jesus' name, and we've been given the right to use it.

3. Pray in Line with God's Word.

In His Word, God reveals what He has promised; **for every problem there is a promise, either specifically or categorically.**

"If we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us," we read in 1 John 5:14b (AMP).

As you study the Bible, you will gain knowledge of what God offers and confidence to pray to Him, whether you need peace, help, healing, provision, guidance, forgiveness ... the list goes on.

And whatever you ask for in prayer, believing, you will receive.
MATTHEW 21:22 (AMP)

4. Pray in Faith

James 1:5-6 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."

We know that wisdom is considered "the principal thing" (Proverbs 4:7). If praying in faith works for something as important as wisdom, then it works for everything else. Our prayers should be unwavering and full of faith.

There is a faith vocabulary you can tap into in prayer. For example, people often end prayers with “Amen,” a faith declaration literally meaning “let it be so.”

Faith also says, “Thank you.” **You shouldn’t ever utter a prayer that doesn’t include gratitude.** Don’t talk to the almighty God without thanking Him for something.

5. Be Real

In Luke 18:9–14, Jesus compares two prayers offered in a temple. One prayer is longer, louder and full of pride. The other prayer is shorter, delivered from “afar off” and full of humility. The latter, Jesus tells us, is “justified” and “exalted.”

Matthew 6:5 also cautions about being hypocritical or showy in prayer. Prayer doesn’t require you to change your voice or to use many or eloquent words. Rather, prayer should be simple, heartfelt, humble.

These are very practical prayer principles, encouraging you to be alert—present, intent, awake and watchful. Pray with focus, skill and intensity—the opposite of being sloppy, sleepy, empty, rushed, mindless, pious or lethargic in prayer. Don’t get caught in a repetitive rut (Matthew 6:7). Watch your tone and inflections. When you pray, remember you are talking to Someone; you’re not making a speech, working yourself up, muttering thoughtlessly or recalling something religious.

Your heart cannot be in what your mind is not on. Be mindful and authentic in prayer.

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

COLOSSIANS 4:2 (NLT)

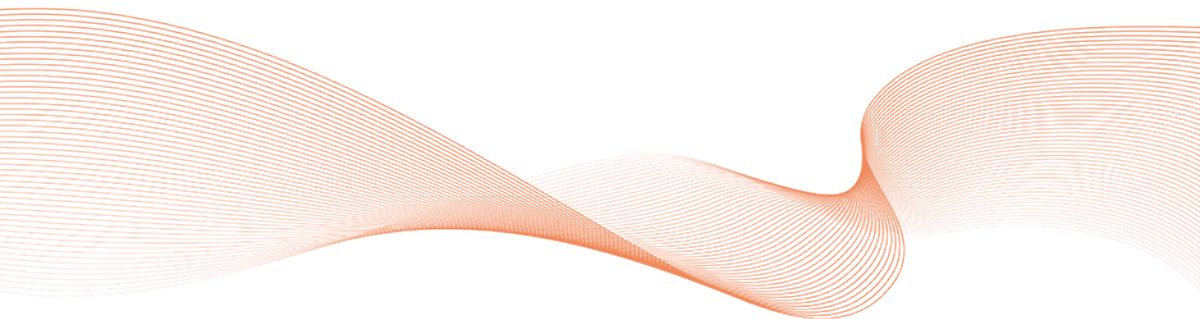
6. Assume “the New Testament Prayer Posture.”

In 1 Timothy 2:8, Paul says, “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”

The outward lifting of hands shifts our physical and spiritual posture upward during prayer. Crucially, we are to lift our hands without wrath and without doubting. These two things can choke our prayers. They leave no room for kindness, peace and forgiveness.

Forgiveness is *hard*. Perhaps this is why, when Jesus sets up the model of The Lord's Prayer, He saves forgiveness for the end: "Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him [drop the issue, let it go]" (Mark 11: 25, AMP).

Get the doubt out. Forgive people. Let go. Then, lift your hands.



3. THREE KINDS OF PRAYER

There are many settings or events for prayer. People pray as part of daily routines like meals or bedtimes. There are prayers structured for repentance or dedication. There are individual prayers or prayers in community, such as prayers of agreement among two or three people or corporate prayer in larger groups. Some prayers are reactive, others are proactive. You can pray for or with somebody or offer prayers of intercession.

At a basic level, however, there are three main kinds of prayer, which encompass all of these prayer opportunities.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Prayer & Supplication

The first two types of prayer are often coupled together (such as in Ephesians 6:18 or Philippians 4:6): prayer and supplication.

“Prayer,” here, refers to praying in general, to obtain good or to avert evil.

“Supplication” is more specific and refers to prayers of greater intensity and duration. Not all prayers need to be lengthy and wordy—even “Help!” is a complete prayer! But sometimes prayers of supplication require more time and specificity. There is no set formula or timeline; **the goal is whatever is needed to fully transfer the burden from your soul into God’s hands.**

In the Spirit

A third type of prayer—sometimes known as “praying in the Spirit”—is a supernatural gift. It is powerful, but it is also often misunderstood.

Part of praying in the Spirit is that you have a Helper, the Holy Spirit, in prayer. But there is also a supernatural, private, devotional “prayer language” in the Spirit.

Some ideas about prayer language or “tongues” are outdated or emphasized in the wrong way. Praying in the Spirit can be seen as “a Pentecostal thing,” “a charismatic thing” or just “a weird thing.” But it’s a Bible thing! **Let’s “rightly divide” Scripture (2 Timothy 2:15) so we don’t miss out on what it really means to pray in the Spirit.**

1 Corinthians 14:14–15 (AMP) reads: “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unproductive [because it does not understand what my spirit is praying]. Then what am I to do? I will pray with the spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me] and I will pray with the mind [using words I understand]; I will sing with the spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me] and I will sing with the mind [using words I understand].”

This is key: praying with the Spirit and praying with understanding.

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

JUDE 1:20

It’s important to establish that “tongues” shows up in Scripture to refer to two different spiritual gifts. One is private, one is public. One is about people speaking to God, the other is about God speaking to people, which requires interpretation.

There are many benefits to speaking privately to God in a prayer language. You can pray the perfect will of God, and **the Spirit helps you to pray when you don’t know what or how to pray.** It’s a deeply spiritual and edifying experience that both magnifies God and builds you up. This language allows you to give thanks well and to pray out mysteries.

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul offers guidelines for making the most of this spiritual gift. First, as *The Message* paraphrases, Paul writes, “If you praise him in the private language of tongues, God understands you but no one else does, for you are sharing intimacies just between you and him” (verse 2). Your own prayer language is best practiced devotionally, in your most intimate and intercessory moments with God.

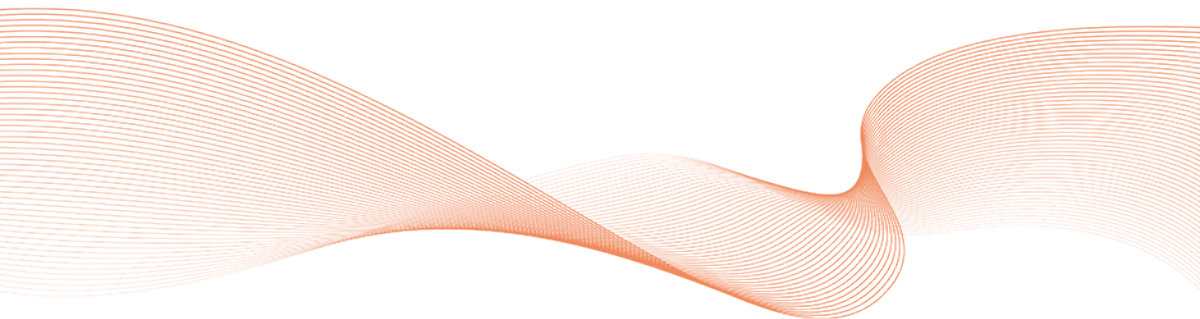
Paul's letter goes on to caution about coming together as a church and praying in tongues publicly with those who are "unbelievers" or "uninformed." "Will they not say that you are out of your mind?" Paul writes (verse 23, AMP). Some translations suggest speaking publicly in tongues risks alienating people or giving them something to gawk at.

Instead, as Paul puts it, "In the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue" (verse 19, NKJV).

In church, we should desire inspired teaching and preaching—clear truths shared with the believer and unbeliever alike.

In private, we are invited to use our prayer language, which enhances, enriches and empowers our ability to connect with God.

No matter what form of prayer you are practicing, know this: Prayer matters. Prayer works. Prayer changes things.



4. CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

Perhaps the biggest reason people don't pray is because they lack confidence.

Everyone deals with this to some extent. The enemy of your soul has worked hard to develop in you a sense of insecurity and inferiority and a fear of rejection.

A lack of confidence manifests in a number of ways. **Avoidance, perfection or procrastination are common ways people express their insecurities. All of these might manifest in your prayer life, too.**

You might be very familiar with what this lack of confidence sounds like. It says, "Will God even hear me? Will He answer me? Is He able to? Even if prayer works, it won't work for me. I'm unworthy. If God only knew me ..."

But confidence in prayer sounds entirely different.

Confidence in Prayer Says ...

"There Is Nothing Too Big for God."

"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You," Jeremiah 32:17 says.

God's greatness is the beginning place of confidence in prayer.

You might wonder if you can pray to God about the little things. Or you might wonder if there are some problems in your life that are simply too big. The truth is it's all "small" to Him—meaning, **God can do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think"** (Ephesians 3:20).

Whatever prayers you bring to Him, however big or small your needs and hopes might seem to you, God is operating with a different scale. He cares, He can handle it, and He welcomes you to come to Him.

“We Have Full and Free Access.”

Have you ever been reading something online or catching up on the news and you hit a wall? “For subscribers only.” You don’t have access.

With God, you are like a premium subscriber. You have free and full access. You are invited to approach Him in prayer.

None of us will ever have an inkling of just how powerful God’s grace is. **But Jesus has cleared the way for us to come before the “throne of grace”—without any sense of guilt or inferiority.** In fact, we can come to Him with cheerfulness and confidence!

Hebrews 10:19–22 (NLT) tells us, “And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.”

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

HEBREWS 4:16

“We Pray According to His Will.”

If you’re not praying God’s will, you risk praying with presumption. You’ll be guessing, off-course and misaligned.

Where do you find God’s will? In His Word. **Prayer rests on faith, and faith rests on God’s Word.** Remember, for every problem there is a promise.

There needs to be a whole lot of “You said” in your prayers!

“God, You said Your mercies are new every morning”
(Lamentations 3:22–23).

“You said You will never leave me and never forsake me”
(Hebrews 13:5).

“You said You will surround me with favor like a shield” (Psalm 5:12).

“You said You will restore what has been lost” (Joel 2:25).

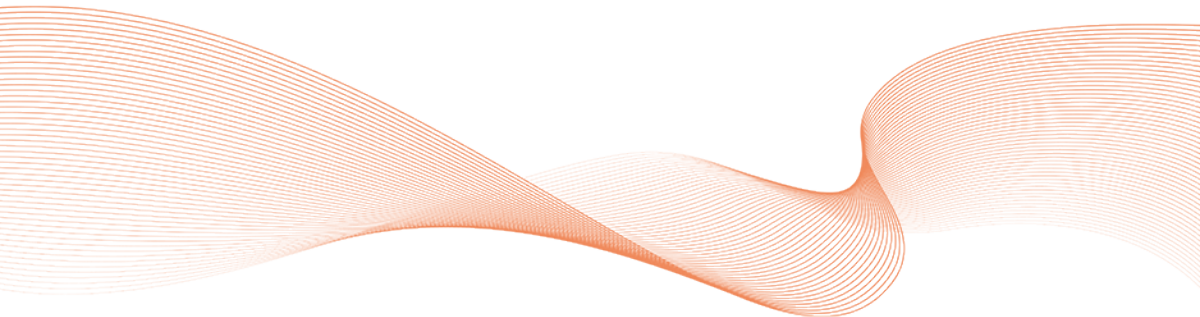
1 John 5:14-15 (AMP) encourages us to have a “[remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.”

Pray About Everything

Philippians 4 gives us a simple process for prayer: “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. **Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.** Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus” (verses 6–7, NLT).

You might have difficulty even imagining this kind of ease and confidence in prayer! Here’s an imperfect but perhaps helpful illustration: Think of it like going to a restaurant—and not just any restaurant, but a reputable, beloved, five-star restaurant. Your table is reserved; you can trust that your place is secured, and they have been waiting for you. The Host—the Holy Spirit—welcomes you, guides you and makes you feel comfortable. You are given a Menu—God’s Word—which offers you a clear vision of all that is promised and available to you. You identify what you need or what you have been hoping for, and you place your order, so to speak, in prayer. You have the ultimate Server in Jesus, who makes it possible for you to communicate to the Chef—God. You wait peacefully with expectation and without worry, and when you receive—when your faith becomes sight—you can’t help but say, “Thank you.”

Finally, when you ask for the check, your Server tells you, “You owe nothing. It’s all on me. Please come again.”



PART 2: THE WORD

5. MORE THAN A BOOK

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT), we read, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”

Sit with that: *All* Scripture—from Genesis to Revelation—is inspired and useful!

We can take God at His Word. He’s not going to come up with something new. His Word is forever settled (Psalm 119:89), and His truth endures (Psalm 100:5)—in fact, it endures “to all generations.” The Bible isn’t just a book for your great-grandparents or those who came before you; it’s also for *you*. It is relevant, true and a bright light, for everyone.

Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations.

PSALM 119:89-90a

Listening, Not Just Reading

To say the Bible is “inspired” means it is “God-breathed.” It is a divine collection of 66 books. Over 1,500 years, more than 40 scribes were stirred and moved by God to write these canonical texts. Scripture is like God’s voice in written form.

Usually, someone purchases a book, reads it once and then keeps it on a shelf, perhaps occasionally reflecting on it or simply forgetting it. But the Bible is not like other books—Scripture is *alive*. **You don’t just read the Bible; you let it speak to you. You don’t rush it; you take your time with it and return to it over and over.**

Psalm 19:7-11 (NLT) tells us, “The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making

wise the simple. The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living. Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair. They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them.”

These are powerful promises and claims. There is nothing else like Scripture!

This is also why the enemy of your soul wants to keep you from the Bible. Even he knows what it is and what it will do; after all, he remembers having to flee when Jesus confronted him with Scripture in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). He wants to keep you out of God’s Word and keep God’s Word out of you. He will always be able to supply you with reasons to reject or simply ignore the Bible.

Don’t give in. Instead, nurture a deep hunger for God’s Word, so that nothing else satisfies.

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

PSALM 119:97

A Storied & Historical Book

The Bible is not just a book—but even as a book, it is exceptional.

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time, without a close second. It is also the most translated book, with thousands of languages having at least a partial Bible. Around the world, some people risk their lives just to read, study and translate the Bible in areas where it is not permitted.

There are an estimated 24,000 whole or partial early manuscripts of Scripture, and scholars report remarkable consistency and purity across these texts and scrolls. The manuscript evidence for the Bible far exceeds that of other commonly copied ancient written works, such as those by Plato, Aristotle or Homer.

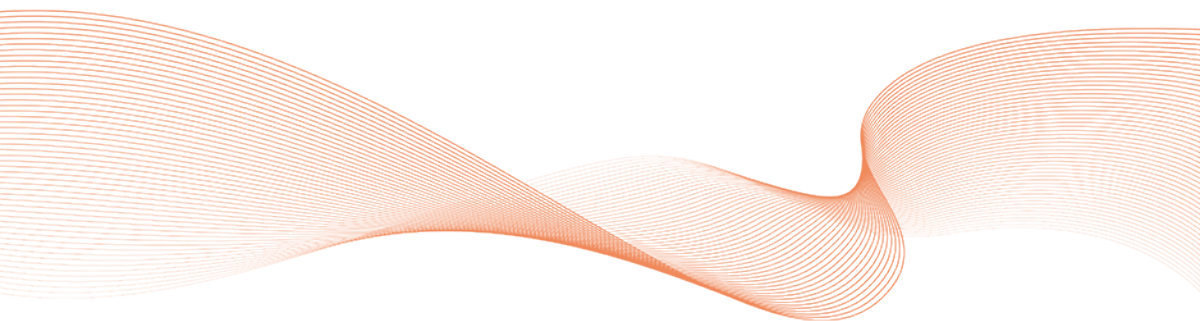
Beyond the pages of the Bible, there are also archeological proofs for what it documents: cities, seals, coins, boats, buildings, tombs, inscriptions and more. The accounts of Scripture are rooted in actual places, people, events and items.

However, **perhaps the biggest proof of all for the Bible is that it changes lives.** We could never know all of the stories that attest to the Bible's transformative power, but even well-known ones offer striking examples: Think of C.S. Lewis, an atheist who became a leading thinker and apologist, or John Newton, a slave ship owner who became a slavery abolitionist (and went on to pen "Amazing Grace").

Clearly, the Bible's place in history and significance today is undeniable, for Christians and non-Christians alike—though Christians recognize the Bible as something more: inerrant, authoritative and inspired by God, from cover to cover.

The Bible is the main way God wants to reveal Himself and instruct us in life. He moved through 40 different scribes—including farmers, kings, shepherds, sages, fishermen and more—guiding their hearts, minds and hands to share His Word.

The Bible is *life-giving*, *life-saving* and *life-changing*.



6. THE WORD IS LIGHT

Scripture offers many symbols and metaphors to help us think about what the Word of God represents in our lives: bread, meat, seed, gold, milk, a mirror, an anchor, honey, a sword, a hammer, even life itself.

Many times, we are told that the Word is *light*.

Psalm 119:105 reads, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” You might imagine a lantern, held out in front of you. It does not illuminate your whole path at once—but the light always cuts through the dark and illuminates your next steps.

The Word is light, and the light shows you the way. What does the light of God’s Word allow you to see?

First, it helps you to see God—who He is, what He’s like, what He wants for us. Scripture reveals God’s nature, His character, His plans and promises.

The Word also helps you to see your own path. It illuminates where and when to take your next step (or where and when to avoid stepping!).

Finally, the Word helps you to see the world around you. In Scripture, we learn about God’s thoughts and ways, and we gain perspective about how He sees people and the issues of our day.

The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
PSALM 19:8 (NIV)

The Right Next Steps

As the Word sheds light on your path, it might also course-correct you. Proverbs 6:23 (NIV) says, “For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life.” Scripture doesn’t just show you the right steps; it also keeps you from making the wrong ones.

Proverbs 4:18–19 (NLT) describes two paths: “The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like total darkness. They have no idea what they are stumbling over.”

What is the difference here? *Light*.

The gleaming path of righteousness is lit by following and having a genuine relationship with Jesus—the light of the world (John 8:12)—and by following God’s Word. In fact, we’re told that the Word *is* Jesus! John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

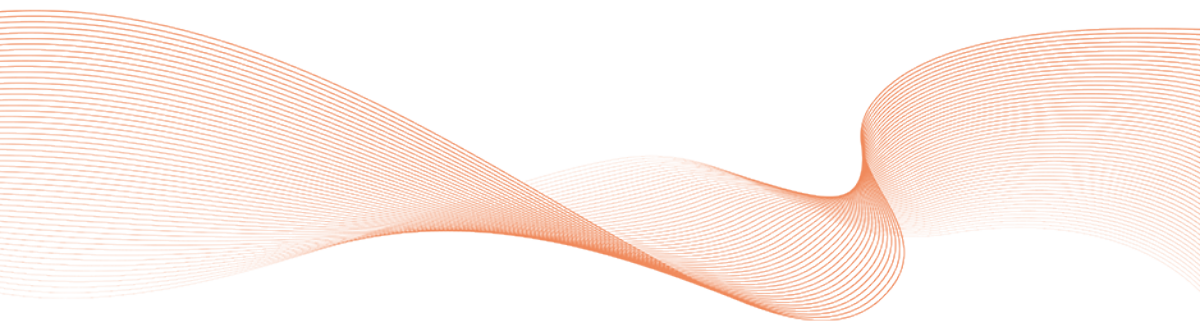
You cannot say you are following Jesus if you are not also following His Word.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

PSALM 19:7

When you read the Bible, you aren’t just getting information, you’re getting understanding. As Psalm 119:130 says, “The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”

What you understand can never be taken away from you! Understanding becomes knowledge, and knowledge becomes application. This is the path to becoming “doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22).



7. HOW TO READ & STUDY THE BIBLE

Jeremiah 15:16 says, “Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” You should *hunger* for God’s Word!

There are three primary ways to regularly engage with the Bible and “be fed:”

- **Daily reading.** You should be feeding on the Bible consistently, every day and over time.
- **Regular study.** This does not need to occur daily, but perhaps it becomes part of your routine at least weekly. This might look like setting aside time and using tools to go deeper into a book, topic, character or event in the Bible.
- **Teaching.** When you go to church, you should receive clear teaching and sound doctrine. (This was a main concern of the apostle Paul in his writings to New Testament churches.) Accurate Bible teaching and preaching can help you gain internal understanding and encourage your daily walk with God.

In this chapter, we’ll go over some habits and recommendations that can make your Bible engagement more sustainable, effective and life-changing. But first, a practical recommendation that underscores all the other advice that follows:

Get a Study Bible!

There are many reputable translations of Scripture. (See the resources at the back of this book for a list of just some of these.) Teams of scholars have done in-depth research into original languages and carefully put the Bible into the vernacular of today.

There are also some versions of the Bible that paraphrase Scripture. These are not technical translations—they should be used more like secondary sources, alongside a credible translation. Still, these paraphrased versions might offer beautiful or original ways of

understanding passages, like flying over a mountain from a different angle.

Find the Bible translation that “fits” well for you—and get it in a “study Bible” format. There are highly trusted, well-sourced study Bibles to help you thoroughly understand, interpret and apply Scripture as you go. Spending time with the Bible can change your life. **A study Bible will anchor and amplify the text during your reading times.**

Those who discover these words live, really live; body and soul, they’re bursting with health.

PROVERBS 4:22 (MSG)

A Careful Approach

Your attitude and frame of mind when you approach the Bible impact your outcomes. For instance, **if you approach Scripture out of a sense of obligation, reading it will feel like a dry ritual**, stripped of its power and meaning.

Here are principles that might help you get in the right frame of mind and receive all you can from the Bible:

- **Accept the Bible as God’s Word.**

The Bible is not just a source of religious information, but a source of Truth.

Receiving God’s Word means recognizing its authority. We read in 1 Thessalonians 2:13, “When you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.”

Don’t let skepticism or cynicism hinder your trust in God and His Word. Let Him tell you how to live!

- **Have a right heart.**

Mark 4:14–20 (as shared in *The Message*) offers a vivid metaphor for the different ways people receive and treat God’s Word:

“The farmer plants the Word. Some people are like the seed that falls on the hardened soil of the road. No sooner do they hear the Word than Satan snatches away what has been planted in them. And some are like the seed that lands in the gravel. When they first hear the Word, they respond with great enthusiasm. But there is such shallow soil of character that when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it. The seed cast in the weeds represents the ones who hear the kingdom news but are overwhelmed with worries about all the things they have to do and all the things they want to get. The stress strangles what they heard, and nothing comes of it. But the seed planted in the good earth represents those who hear the Word, embrace it, and produce a harvest beyond their wildest dreams.”

You want to be “good earth!” So, get your heart ready when you approach the Bible. Don’t just rush in, carrying your worries, shame, grudges or busyness. **When you open your Bible, take a few moments to sort and settle some things in your soul**, preparing the soil to receive the seed of God’s Word and produce a harvest.

- **Invite the Holy Spirit to teach you.**

In 1 Corinthians 2:10-13, we are reminded that “no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God,” and that the Holy Spirit will help us understand what God wants to freely give us.

When you read the Bible, invite the guidance of the Spirit: “You know the deep things of God. You know light and dark. **What do I need to see today? Will You show me?**”

- **Make time & space.**

A tragedy of our culture is its pace. It’s all too easy to let either busyness or laziness get in the way of something like personal Bible reading and spiritual growth. Don’t give God your leftovers!

Bible teacher Fuchsia Pickett noted that unwise use of time is one of the greatest deterrents to Christian growth, and that Bible study is the most effective tool of the Holy Spirit to bring the Christian into conformity to Christ. Understandably, Satan uses every device possible to keep us from the Word of God.

When you make the Bible a priority, that means it should come *prior*—that is, it should be *first*, before everything else. This might mean that it literally comes first in your day. Perhaps you need to get up earlier to make room in your schedule for reading the Bible before other responsibilities. Just as church days affect the rest of our days, Bible moments affect the rest of our moments!

- **Be consistent.**

With anything that is meant to help and strengthen your body—exercise, diet, supplements, examinations—consistency is key.

This is a spiritual truth as well. **The more consistent you are in studying the Bible, the more it helps you.** We are to treat God's Word like daily bread.

As you aim to be consistent, remember that God is a God of grace. If you get out of rhythm, get back in!

Entry Points to the Bible

The Bible is not put together like any other book. You might understandably feel overwhelmed by opening it, choosing which Book or chapter to read or organizing a regular reading practice with such a large and complex book.

Here are a few simple ways to structure your time with the Bible and jump in:

- **Read a Proverb a day.**

The Proverbs is a book of wisdom, offering skillful and godly advice about a range of things relevant to our daily lives: friendship, work, money, speech, parenting, self-control and more.

And, conveniently, there are 31 Proverbs! **Every month, you could return to the Proverbs, reading (roughly) one chapter a day.**

- **Spend a lot of time in the Letters.**

Much of the New Testament is made up of letters, also known as epistles. These include Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John and Jude.

The teachings in these letters focus on doctrines of forgiveness, grace and righteousness, but also offer wisdom for how to live with family and neighbors. Importantly, **the epistles are intended to give instruction to born-again, Spirit-filled, New Testament believers**—for those in the Early Church, and for us today.

- **Follow Jesus in the Gospels.**

The New Testament begins with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, four Books known as the Gospels, which largely cover the life and ministry of Jesus on earth. This is where you see Him in action!

Read and sit with sections of these Books at a time. **Watch and follow Jesus in the Gospels—how He speaks, when He’s quiet and how He interacts with people.**

- **Read Psalms at night.**

The Book of Psalms is the longest in the Bible. It includes 150 chapters of varying lengths and varying tones by varying authors. A throughline of the Psalms, however, is comfort.

Make it an evening practice to **read from the Psalms, inviting comfort and courage back into you at the close of your day.**

- **Read from a good daily devotional.**

There is no shortage of devotionals available today. Most of these break down specific passages, supporting them with commentary and prayers or declarations. Some are intended for certain audiences or for certain seasons or times of day. **Find a good devotional companion that helps you to unpack God’s Word and encourages your regular Bible-reading routine.**

- **“What’s your problem?”**

The Bible applies to everyday life. What you are going through—the problem you are currently facing—may help light up the Bible for you in a different way that speaks to your moment.

Remember, **for every problem there is a promise**. There are even “promise books” or devotionals that help to group and categorize lessons from the Bible by certain themes, events or issues.

Maybe you need help processing anger, fear, temptation, envy, anxiety or sickness. **Consider your problem a door to understanding God’s Word in a new, personal way.**

Techniques to Increase Understanding

It used to be that only certain holy men had access to the Bible. Today, you live with unprecedented access to read, know and love the Bible, for yourself. God’s Word is available to you, and you *can* do this!

Here are a few techniques to bolster your confidence and help you to grasp the truths of Scripture:

- **R.P.M.—Read, Ponder & Memorize**

Read the Bible slowly and intentionally. And once you have read God’s Word, continue to ponder. Consider it. Think about it. Meditate on it.

The evangelist and philanthropist George Mueller once wrote in his journal, “I saw that the first and primary business to which I ought to attend to every day was to have my soul happy in the Lord. ... How I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished. ... Now what is the food for the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God; and here again, not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts.”

One way to really put a handle on Scripture is to memorize it. Don't just know it; learn it by heart. There are many methods and moments that might help you incorporate Bible memorization into your everyday life. Perhaps start with using your commute or drivetime to dwell on certain passages.

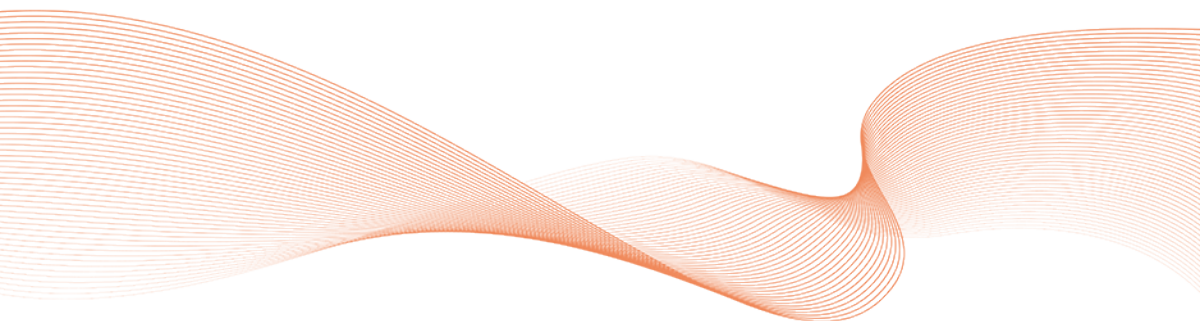
- **O.I.A.—Observe, Interpret & Apply**

There are certain questions you can ask that will help guide your journey through God's Word. You could filter any of your regular interactions with Scripture—whether in daily reading, personal study or church teaching—through these lenses.

- **Observation:** *What does this passage say?*
- **Interpretation:** *What does this passage really mean?*
- **Application:** *What am I to do with this passage?*

Thankfully, you don't have to answer these questions alone! There are many Bible study sites, apps and software that can help you find the answers. In the resources at the back of this book, you'll find lists of free and paid tools that might be of use to you, in addition to owning a study Bible.

However you engage with the Bible—by yourself or in church teaching, through a favorite study Bible or in a few minutes on your phone, while studying “new” passages or memorizing familiar ones—**treasure the Scriptures. We are to value, prize and embrace God's Word.** Psalm 119 suggests it should be “hidden” in your heart (verse 11). Like the Psalmist, “rejoice at [God's] word as one who finds great treasure” (119:162).



PART 3: WORSHIP

8. WHAT WORSHIP IS & DOES

Everyone is a worshiper. **The question is not whether you will worship, but who or what you will worship.**

In Acts 17:22-27, Paul addresses the Athenians' tendency to worship generally or vaguely, pointing out their altar to an "unknown God." He then proclaims a specific God to them—a "Lord of heaven and earth" who is "not far from each one of us"—and encourages them to find their way toward "the One you worship without knowing."

Depending on where you direct it, your worship will result in either fullness or emptiness. Saint Augustine wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." That restlessness eases when we worship God, the ultimate object of our worship. He is above all, made all, can do all and is worthy of our praise.

Psalm 95:1-6 (ESV) says, "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!"

Your worship is shaped by how you see God. It's a response to and an acknowledgement of His perfection, greatness, goodness, patience, provision, protection and grace. **Authentic worship flows from a personal revelation of who He is and what He has done for you.**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

The Heart of Worship

Scripture highlights many worshipful activities: lifting hands, kneeling, praying, shouting, playing instruments, serving, bowing, singing, dancing, reading the Bible, clapping, declaring ...

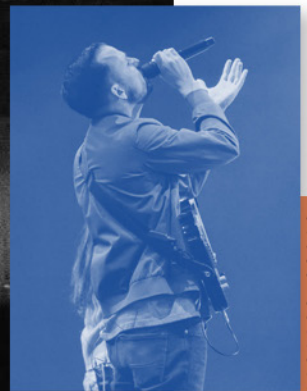
We are also called to *be* worshipful—that is, to live a life of worship, where reverence of and adoration for Him permeates our days, our thoughts, our decisions and our activities.

Whatever form worship takes, *the heart* is the heart of true worship.

Matthew 15:8–9a says, “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me.” Jesus is rebuking religious people who worship with their body while being disconnected from the heart. He is reminding us that worship is first spiritual. You can’t lift your hands high enough, sing loud enough or jump high enough to get God’s attention if your worship is not grounded in the Spirit.

If your heart is not deeply invested in your acts of worship, you’ll simply be observing a ritual or going through the motions. This kind of worship is empty and fruitless.

THE WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT AT MBC



At Meadowbrook Church in particular, we have certain priorities and “postures” for worship, which we structure our gatherings around:

LIFT UP

This refers to a time of praise and worship through music. Singing is one of the best “group activities” for worship.

LOOK UP

This refers to moments of corporate prayer.

LISTEN UP

This refers to receiving sermons and teachings.

LIVE IT OUT

This refers to going out from church into the rest of our weeks, to live a life of worship.

Worship requires focus. Remember that the heart is the heart of worship—but **the heart cannot be in what the mind is not on.** Individually and collectively, we need to protect our focus in worship.

This means avoiding things that would break or block the focus of others! Don’t be late. Don’t distract. Don’t divert attention from God. Practice self-awareness. 1 Corinthians 14:40 says, “Let all things be done decently and in order.” Discern what forms of worship are not only God-honoring but “decent and orderly” for group expression, versus individual times of worship by yourself.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

PSALM 150:6

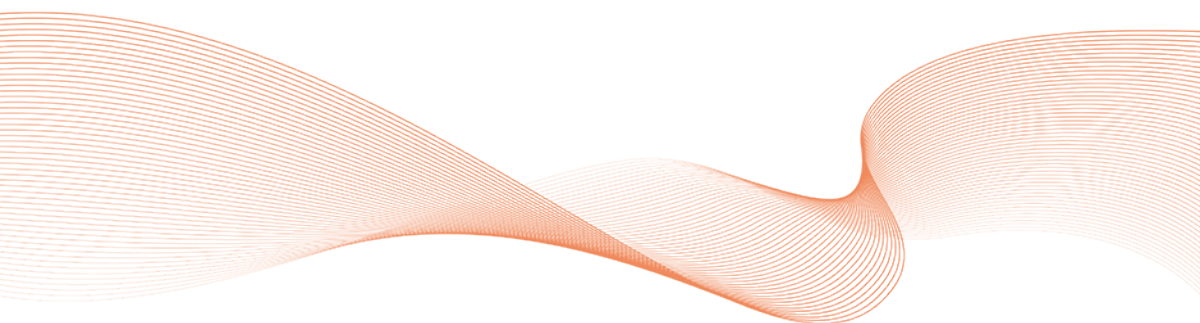
A Vertical Shift

Worship is like a holy reset. Most things in life are horizontal—they relate to the world and people around us. Worship, however, is vertical. It directs upward. **Worship orders and reorders our hearts, minds and lives around God.**

Worship is also an invitation into His presence. We're told that God is enthroned in, or inhabits, the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3). Yes, God is omnipresent, meaning **He is everywhere present at once—but He is not everywhere present *in the same way***. When Christians gather in worship, God is uniquely and divinely present.

Worshipping as a church, specifically before receiving teaching, is also profound because it prepares our hearts to be good soil for the seed of God's Word. Jeremiah 4:3 says, "For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: 'Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns.'" **Praise and worship acts like a plow, breaking up the pressures and problems of life that might trample or pack down our hearts.**

Worship is more than a "song service." It helps life flow back into us. But while we benefit when we worship, we should never forget that worship is not actually about us. It is *for* and *to* God. It is about honoring the One to whom we owe everything.



9. THE HOW & WHY OF WORSHIP

It's one thing to worship; it's another thing to *be* a worshiper. This is true of most skills. For instance, you could play golf and still by no means *be* a golfer!

The goal is for worship to be more than an activity; it should be a key part of your identity.

To sustain your focus as a worshiper, you will need to understand both the “how” and the “why” of worship. Let's draw a comparison to another essential routine: From a young age, you learn *how* to brush your teeth, in a technical sense. But going through the motions of brushing your teeth every now and then does little to maintain healthy teeth and gums. You embrace toothbrushing as a sustained, effective habit when you also grasp the urgency of the *why* behind it.

As a worshiper, your “how” won't last without the “why.” Why do we worship? Because God is worthy. And why is He so worthy? Revelation describes passionate worshipers in heaven, kneeling and singing and proclaiming His worthiness, because God “created all things” (4:11) and because His Son “redeemed us to God by Your blood” (5:9).

God is worthy of our worship, because He's the Creator and the Redeemer. Because He made us and He saved us. Every time you worship, however you worship, let this be in the front of your mind!

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.

REVELATION 4:11

In Spirit & in Truth

John 4:23-24 (NLT) reads, “But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

This might feel a bit abstract, so let's break it down.

To worship in Spirit is to worship from the heart. This means you should be genuine in your worship. *The Message* describes worshipping in Spirit as worshipping “out of your very being.” When you worship this way, your heart and soul are engaged, filled with awe, love and reverence for God.

To worship in Truth is a conscious, intentional, informed effort. Worship is not just an emotional experience; you should actually be *thinking* as you worship. And the focus of your thoughts is on the One True God. Embrace heart *and* brain-based worship! Run your thoughts through your speech center, declaring God's goodness and greatness.

The Greek word used for “truth” in John 4:24 refers to integrity, to having nothing hidden. You can't fake or hide anything with God. Worshipping in Truth is not half-hearted, distracted or performative; it is sincere, open and focused on Him.

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

PSALM 100:1-2

Enter with Thanksgiving

In Psalm 100:4-5, we find a progression which helps us to focus our worship: “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.”

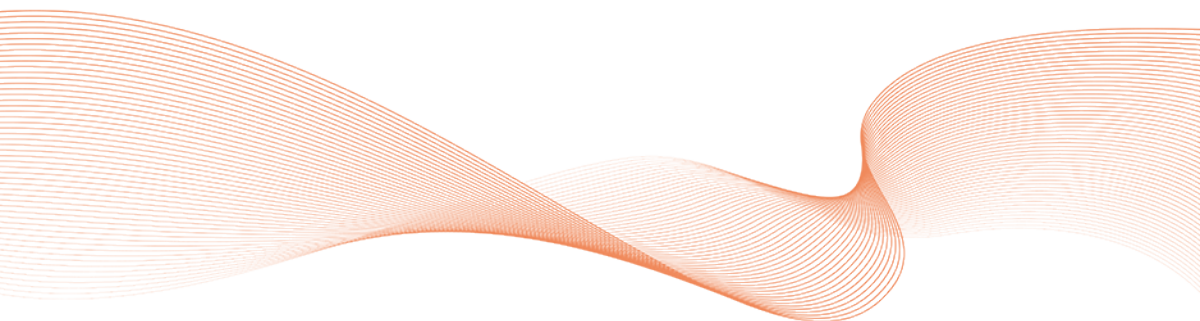
In other words: We are gradually ushered into God's presence as our thanksgiving moves into praise and then into worship.

Many times, the Psalms encourages us to give thanks to God “for He is good! For His mercy endures forever” (Psalm 136:1, among other passages). Our thanksgiving is a natural response to God's goodness

and mercy—who God is, what He does and how and why He does it. God is not fickle; He is endlessly good and kind toward us. His mercy endures.

Worship begins with thanksgiving. This is the secret sauce!

As *The Message* puts it in Psalm 100:4, “Enter with the password: ‘Thank you!’”



PART 4: SERVING

10. SAVED TO SERVE

Ephesians 2:10 (AMP) reads, “For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].”

Believers are saved to serve.

Yes, we are saved from sin. We are saved from ourselves. We are saved from eternity in hell. But God did not save us just to “collect” us or stash us away. He saved us and fixed us up, so we are “ready to be used for good works.”

Service is where Christianity shows up. In James 2, we’re told that “faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (verse 17). In fact, we’re encouraged to show faith *by* our works (verse 18).

Jesus, for one, agrees. He says in John 13:35, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” The love He speaks of is the very expression of faith (Galatians 5:6) and through that love we serve one another (Galatians 5:13b).

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

GALATIANS 5:6b (NIV)

Because He First Loved Us

The *agape* love we receive from God—the highest form of love—is the catalyst for serving others.

Do you *really* know that God loves you? Think about and realize the depth of His love toward you: He is kind and good to you. He has protected and provided for you. He has set you free. He helps you. He says He will never leave you and never forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). He

restores and justifies you. He hasn't just forgiven and redeemed you from your sins, He says He doesn't even remember them (Hebrews 8:12)! He quiets you with His love (Zephaniah 3:17).

That is the kind of love God has for us, and it is the impetus for us to love and serve others.

1 John 4:19 says “We love Him because He first loved us”—or, in many translations, it omits one word and simply says, “We love because He first loved us.” Both versions are true and profound: **Because of God's love, we return His love, and we share love with others.**

In Luke 7:41-43, Jesus shares a parable about two debtors who are forgiven of their debts. One is forgiven for a small amount, and the other for a large amount. The latter, Jesus says, will love more because they have been forgiven of much.

When you serve, you're not trying to repay God or do penance. You have already been forgiven, and Jesus has paid the price for you. Rather, you serve out of gratitude that overwhelms and compels you.

Your depth of awareness of how good, kind and merciful God has been toward you determines the depth of love and gratitude in you toward God. Discipleship makes you aware of that love and keeps you humble and in awe.

“Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?” Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have rightly judged.”

LUKE 7:42b-43

The Wide-Reaching Call to Serve

Even when it looks like we're serving people, we're really serving the Lord. In Matthew 25:40b, Jesus says that “inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

Where do you serve? Everywhere.

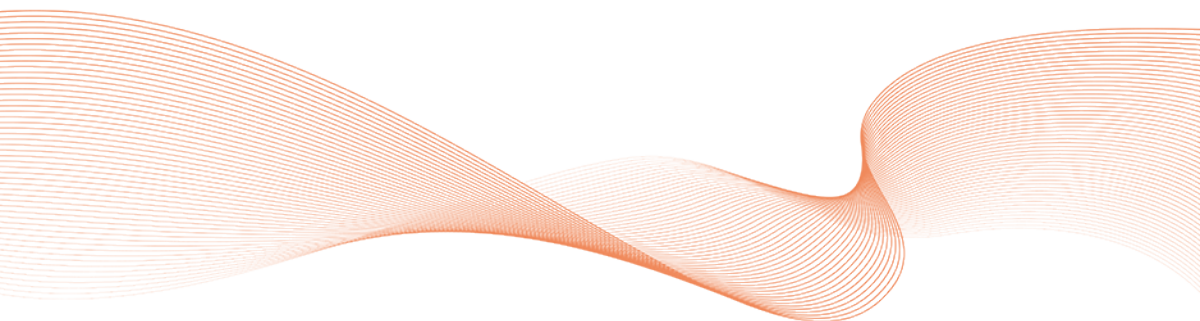
Take inventory of the gifts God has given you—your talents, connections, resources, platform, opportunities—and the places you can offer them in service— at home, at work, in your church, in your neighborhood, in your marriage. Keep your eyes open to the variety of gifts that may be useful for service: specific trades, as well as talents for leadership, administration, giving, encouraging, listening, fixing, cooking, praying, smiling, organizing, teaching, playing music or even cheering others up.

Who should serve? Everyone.

Regardless of our generation or our status, we are all called to serve. This calling is not a recruitment; it's a reminder of God's goodness toward you. Jesus is not just looking for volunteers to give of their time; He's looking for believers who recognize and respond to the love of God.

People often opt out of service because they feel they are either “not good enough” or “too good” for serving others. Scripture warns against both attitudes. Remember that even Jesus, after His resurrection, cooked breakfast for His disciples (John 21)! Nobody is excused from serving others.

Don't think too little or too highly of yourself. Instead, think of God's goodness and of others. “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:23-24).



11. THE JOY IS IN SERVING

As we go “all in” on the process of discipleship, we become stronger. And that strength is not just for our own gain.

As *The Message* puts it in Romans 15:1-3, “Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. **Strength is for service, not status.** Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, ‘How can I help?’ That’s exactly what Jesus did. He didn’t make it easy for himself by avoiding people’s troubles, but waded right in and helped out.”

As a disciple of Jesus, you should have a servant’s heart. Be ready to ask, “What do you need? Where do you need me? How can I help?” Then, be eager to “wade right in”—serving even in menial ways, no matter how gifted or experienced you think you may be.

You must honor the Lord and truly serve Him with all your heart. Remember the wonderful things He did for you!

1 SAMUEL 12:24 (NCV)

With Joy & Gladness

In the well-known parable of the talents, good and faithful servants are told to “enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:21b and 23b). Serving leads to joy—and the joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

This fortifying kind of joy cannot be found elsewhere—not even in your job, your hobby, travel or other things you may derive pride and delight from. When you serve others, the resulting joy is like a reward or a deposit from God into your soul.

If you find yourself with low levels of joy or strength, make sure you are serving. In service, the focus shifts toward God and toward others. When you’re less preoccupied with yourself and you are helping others, your joy and peace are elevated.

As you serve, you should be glad to help—and this should be apparent! Serving is not just about *what* you do, but also *how* you do it. Consider the manner, disposition, energy and quality you bring to serving others and serving God. **Infuse your service with gladness.**

Serving Brings Freedom

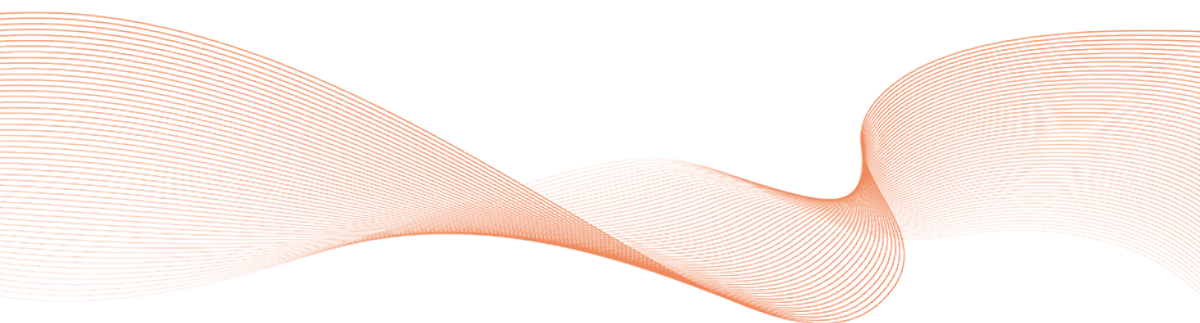
In Matthew 5:41, Jesus introduces the idea of “going the second mile,” or doing more than is expected.

This idea is common today, but its original context is the Roman occupation of Jesus’ time. In this harsh regime, soldiers sometimes compelled or forced people to help them carry their load. People would be asked to help without warning and at great inconvenience, but if they resisted or refused, they risked abuse at the hands of the soldiers.

It’s surprising, then, when Jesus suggests that someone who is asked to “go one mile”—that is, to carry a soldier’s gear for about 1,000 paces—should “go with him two.” Why? Jesus knows that willingly and sacrificially entering that extra mile loosens the grip of anger, bitterness and resentment. What once was “compelled” or demanded is now freely given.

When you freely give, you free yourself—and you keep your joy and gladness.

You have been saved to serve. So, serve God. Serve Jesus. And serve people.



RESOURCES FOR STUDYING THE BIBLE

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PASTOR TIM

I've often observed that when people become bored with or lost in the Bible, it's not because they don't want to be students of the Word—it's because they don't have the right tools to help them.

There are many credible translations of the Bible put together by teams of scholars who have done in-depth research to bring Scripture into today's vernacular. Here are a few **translations** I recommend and lean on in my own study and teaching, along with examples of how each handles a popular verse, Psalm 23:1:

New King James Version (NKJV): A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

English Standard Version (ESV): The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

New International Version (NIV): A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

New Living Translation, Second Edition (NLT-SE): The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

New American Standard Bible (NASB): A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I will not be in need.

The Amplified Bible (AMP): A Psalm of David. The LORD is my Shepherd [to feed, to guide and to shield me], I shall not want.

Today's English Version (TEV): The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.

I also recommend *The Message*, a popular **paraphrase** of the Bible. Paraphrases technically aren't scholarly translations, and they are often authored by individuals instead of teams. They should be a secondary source as you read the Bible, but they can still be a valuable tool.

The Message (MSG): GOD, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.

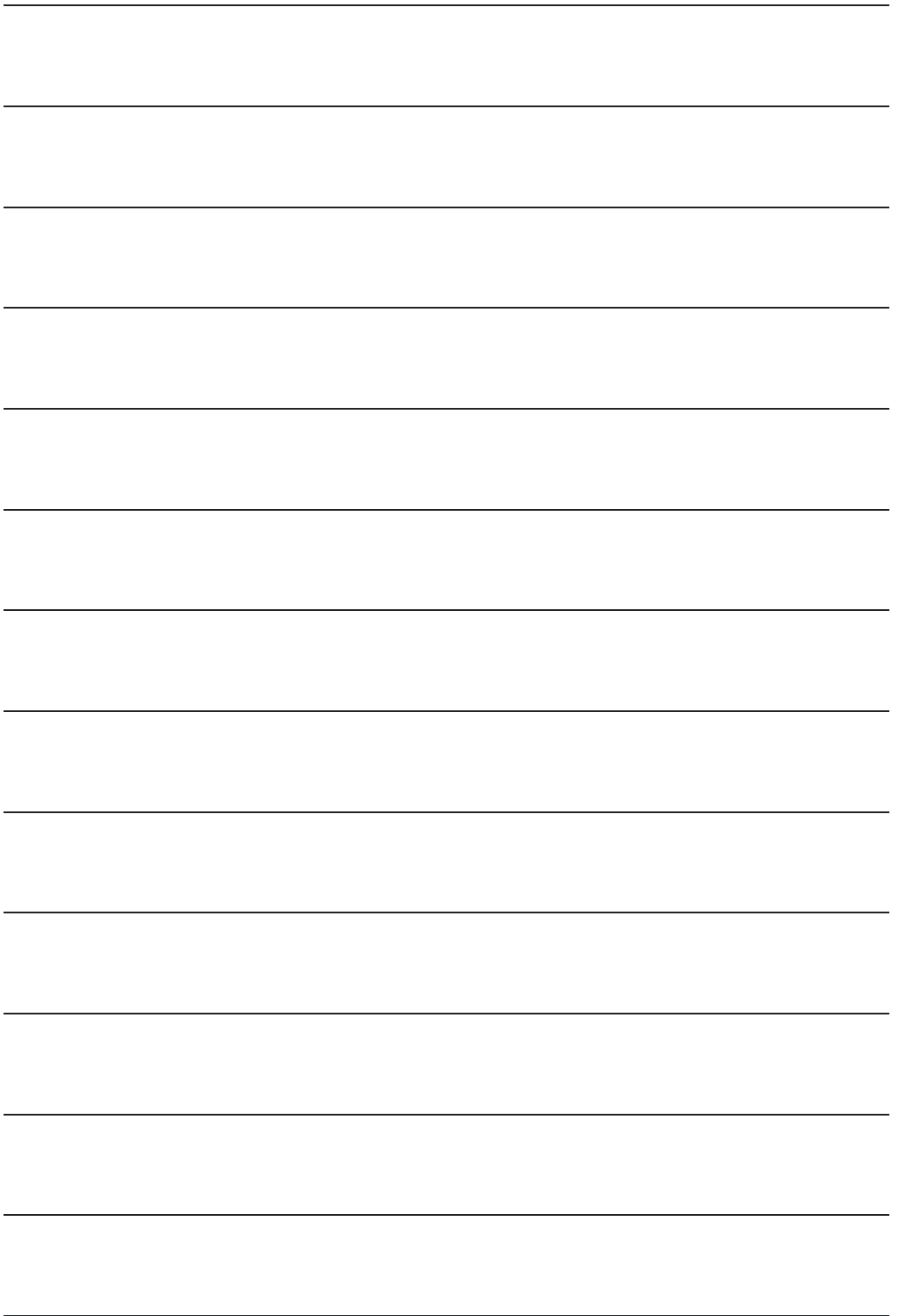
Of course, in this age, there are many **free online tools** as well. These are easily accessible and typically offer commentaries, parallel translations, word studies, cross-references, search and much more. Some popular ones are:

- **Blue Letter**
 - **Bible Gateway**
 - **Bible Hub**
 - **StudyLight**
 - **e-Sword**
-

If you're willing to spend some money, these are some **paid software tools** that may also expand your study of the Bible:

- **Logos**
- **Accordance**
- **Olive Tree** (I think this one is an especially good mobile app for Bible study on the go!)
- **SwordSearcher**
- **Biblesoft**

We are fortunate to live in a time with many Bible resources in many mediums. Still, my top recommendation is that you simply find a good study Bible, in a translation that works for you!





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