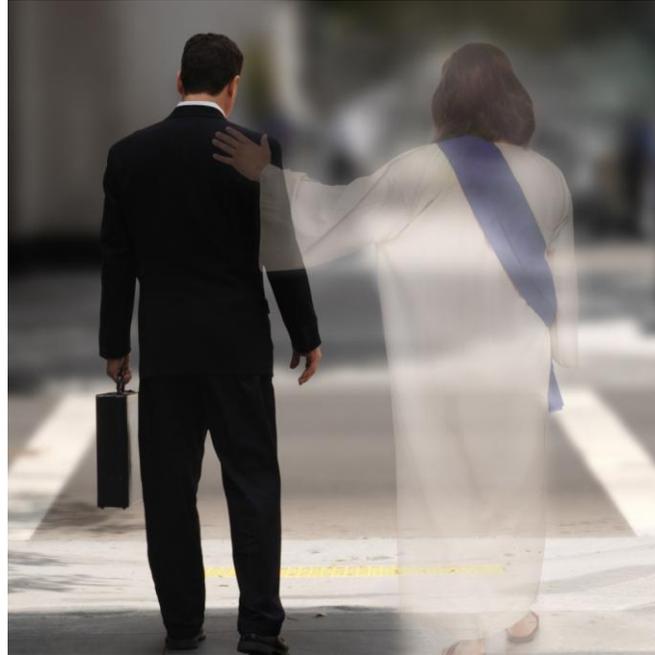


LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW

Daily Devotions

April 13 to July 7

Spend about 15 minutes each day with God doing that day's study. Focus on the questions that are most important to you. Don't worry if you don't answer all the questions. The important thing is that you meet with the Lord and that He helps you grow in your relationship with Him.

As you read each day's Bible passage:



READ. Pray before you read, asking God to speak to you. Read slowly through the passage.



REFLECT. What is God saying to you? Is God asking you to:

- Trust His promise?
- Receive His encouragement?
- Obey His command?
- Stop a bad habit?
- Serve another person?

In a few sentences write what you think God is saying to you.



RESPOND

Write a short prayer to God thanking Him for ministering to you through this passage and expressing what you will do in response.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Easter Makes Possible The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Monday April 15

Matthew 4:17; 10:7; 5:3, 9-10; 7:21

The phrase “kingdom of heaven” is repeated 31 times in Matthew. In Mark and Luke it is referred to as the Kingdom of God. In John it is referred to as the Kingdom of God, eternal life or life.

1. Read Matthew 4:17 and 10:7.

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matthew 4:17)

Jesus said to His disciples: “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ (Matthew 10:7)

What is the message of Jesus (Matthew 4:17) and His disciples (Matthew 10:7)? What are they saying about the kingdom of heaven? How can a person enter the kingdom of heaven?

2. Read Matthew 5:3, 9-10; 7:21

Jesus said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven ... Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3, 9-10)

Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)

How does God want people to live in the Kingdom of heaven? Why is it important to live this way?

3. Jesus is the promised Messiah. That means that He is God who came to establish His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. In order to live in the kingdom of heaven today, how do we need to relate to Jesus Christ?
4. Thank King Jesus in prayer for inviting you to live in His Kingdom of heaven forever, starting now. Talk with Him about how you will respond to His invitation.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Easter Makes Possible The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Tuesday April 16

Matthew 21:1-11

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to Me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

1. How do the crowds treat Jesus?
2. Why do they treat Jesus this way?
3. What kind of King and kingdom were the crowds expecting?
4. How do the crowd’s wishes compare to the reality of Jesus as King? How might that discrepancy explain why they changed their chant from “crown Him” to “crucify Him” within one week?
5. Talk with King Jesus about how you treated Jesus as your King this past week. In what ways did you follow Jesus’ rule? In what ways did you take over the rule of your life?

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Easter Makes Possible The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Wednesday April 17

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶ Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then He said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.”

⁴⁰ Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with Me for one hour?” He asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done.”

⁴³ When He came back, He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So He left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then He returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes My betrayer!”

1. How is Jesus feeling in the garden of Gethsemane? Why?
2. What does Jesus ask His disciples? How do they respond? Why?
3. What does Jesus ask the Father in verses 39 and 42? What is He feeling emotionally?
4. Talk with King Jesus about what His prayer in Gethsemane means for you personally? Thank Him for the price He was willing to pay so you could have the heavenly eternal life.
5. Ask God to show you ways that you can be like Christ’s disciples and be sleeping rather than living the heavenly eternal life today.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Easter Makes Possible The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Thursday April 18

Mark 14:53-65

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put Him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against Him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against Him: ⁵⁸ “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked Him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶² “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶³ The high priest tore His clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” He asked. ⁶⁴ “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned Him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at Him; they blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took Him and beat Him.

1. What did Jesus claim about Himself before the High Priest? What is the significance of His claim at this stage in His life?
2. Since the religious leaders were waiting for the Messiah, why would they consider it blasphemy when the actual Messiah, who is right in front of them, identifies Himself?
3. What could be some reasons that the religious leaders did not accept Jesus as their King?
4. What makes it difficult for you to accept and follow Jesus as your King? Ask the Lord to help you to follow Jesus better in these areas of your life.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Easter Makes Possible The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Friday April 19

Isaiah 53:1-12

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² *He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.*

³ *He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem.*

⁴ *Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.*

⁶ *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

⁷ *He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.*

⁸ *By oppression and judgment He was taken away. Yet who of His generation protested? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was punished.*

⁹ *He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.*

¹⁰ *Yet it was the LORD's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the LORD makes His life an offering for sin, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in His hand.*

¹¹ *After He has suffered, He will see the light of life and be satisfied; by His knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities.*

¹² *Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

1. The New Testament freely applies Isaiah's prophecy to Jesus when He died on Good Friday (Matthew 27:38, 57-60; Acts 8:32-34). How does Isaiah's prophecy help us understand what Jesus experienced on Good Friday (verses 1-7)?
2. How do you account for the paradox between Jesus' death (verse 9) and His seeing the light of life (verse 11)?
3. How does Jesus' death on Good Friday provide you the heavenly eternal life (verses 5-12)? Praise Jesus for that.
4. Tell Jesus how His death on Good Friday motivates you to live the heavenly eternal life today.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Easter Makes Possible The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Saturday April 20

Matthew 27:45-56

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”).

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Now leave Him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save Him.”

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with Him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely He was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵ Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for His needs. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

1. Look at verses 45-46? What is the significance of this for Jesus in His relationship with the Father? How does this benefit us in our eternal relationship with the Father?
2. What is the significance of the supernatural events in verses 51-53? How do they indicate how the Lord is providing eternal life for people?
3. What do you suppose that the women in verses 55-56 experienced? Why? How does that affect what you feel about Jesus’ death for you?
4. Thank Jesus for the infinite price He paid in being separated from the Father on the cross to suffer hell for you. Praise Jesus for providing you heavenly eternal life now and forever.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Easter Makes Possible The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Sunday April 21

John 20:24-31

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later Jesus’ disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

1. How does Jesus deal with Thomas’ doubt (verses 24-28)?
2. What is significant about the way that Thomas responds (verse 28)?
3. Consider what Jesus is offering us in verses 30-31. What do you think “life in His name” means? When do we receive it?
4. What do we need to do in order to live this life today (verses 27-31)?
5. Talk with Jesus about how His message to you in this passage affects the way that you want to live.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Start Living Eternal Life With Christ Now

Tuesday April 23

1 John 1:1-10

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.

1. How has God shown the heavenly eternal life to us (verses 1-4)?
2. What does it mean to live the heavenly eternal life today (verses 3-10)?
3. Talk with God about how well you have been living this heavenly eternal life.
4. Talk with God about how you will improve at living this heavenly eternal life this week.
5. Take time to put verses 8-10 into practice now.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Start Living Eternal Life With Christ Now

Wednesday April 24

1 John 2:1-14

2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

³ We know that we have come to know Him if we keep His commands. ⁴ Whoever says, “I know Him,” but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ But if anyone obeys His word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in Him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did.

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

¹² I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of His name.

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁴ I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1. We learned from Jesus in John 17:3 that to live the heavenly eternal life means to know Jesus Christ personally. What do we learn from the Lord in today’s passage about what it means to know Jesus Christ personally?
2. Ask God to help you see how you are doing in each of the areas that you mentioned in question # 1 above. Praise God for your progress to date.
3. When the Lord says through John that eternal life is knowing God, He is talking about stepping into a belief. We can **believe** that a chair can support our bodies. We can only **know** that this is true when we trust the chair with our weight. Living the heavenly eternal life now means trusting our lives to the Lord who is real, present, and right here. Knowledge moves belief to real life experience.

If knowing God through **living with** God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the key to living the heavenly eternal life today, then what are some practical ways that you can **live more moments of your life “with” God?**

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Start Living Eternal Life With Christ Now

Thursday April 25

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1. The “world” here refers to a world system of desires, thoughts, values, and emotions that is ruled by the devil. This world system is the kingdom of Satan and darkness (2 Corinthians 4:4; Luke 4:1-13). The world system is corrupt, evil, and opposed to God. Every person is tempted to live under the devil’s rule when we give into three powerful desires that come from the devil (1 John 2:16). What do these three powerful desires mean in terms of everyday life?
2. Ask God to help you see how you are vulnerable to these three powerful desires? Why are you tempted to give into them?
3. How do we live the heavenly eternal life now according to verse 17?
4. Talk with the Lord about how you will respond to what He is saying to your heart through this passage.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Start Living Eternal Life With Christ Now

Friday April 26

1 John 2:18-29

¹⁸ Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.

²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

²⁴ As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what He promised us—eternal life.

²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him.

²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.

²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him.

The heavenly eternal life is both a quantity (forever) and quality of life. It is made possible by the Holy One anointing us with His Holy Spirit (verse 20) when we repent of our sins, thank Jesus for dying to forgive us, and invite Jesus to live inside us by His Holy Spirit.

1. Jesus warns us through John that it is possible for some people in the church to wander away from Christ and actually be anti (against) Christ (verses 18-23). According to these verses, how can this happen? Ask God to show you how you could be vulnerable to this.
2. What do we learn from verses 24-29 about how we can live the heavenly eternal life today?
3. Pray to the Lord expressing your desire to be taught and led by His Holy Spirit on how to live the heavenly eternal life today.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Start Living Eternal Life With Christ Now

Saturday April 27

1 John 2:18-29

¹⁸ Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.

²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

²⁴ As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what He promised us—eternal life.

²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him.

²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.

²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him.

1. John Ortberg's "Eternity Is In Session Now" study guide suggests the following questions to help us recognize God's voice. Which ones do you find helpful. Talk with God about how you will apply them.

(a) Does it sound like something God would say?

(b) Does it sound like something Jesus would say, as you see Him in the Gospels?

(c) Does it help you be conformed to the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18)?

(d) Is it consistent with a previous experience you have had that you now know was from God?

(e) Is it consistent with the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)?

(f) Do my closest Christian friends and spiritual mentors believe it was from God?

(g) Is it consistent with the overarching themes of Scripture?

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Start Living Eternal Life With Christ Now

Monday April 29

1 John 3:1-10

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.

⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him.

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸ The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

1. How can we tell the children of God from the children of the devil (verses 8-10)?
2. How do we actually live out the heavenly eternal life now (verses 3, 6, 7, 9, 10)?
3. Talk with the Lord in prayer about how you would feel if Jesus returned right now in light of what He said to you through this passage.
4. Express to God your desire to live as His child today in order to prepare to live as His child forever.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Start Living Eternal Life With Christ Now

Tuesday April 30

1 John 3:11-24

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from Him anything we ask, because we keep His commands and do what pleases Him. ²³ And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.

1. In verse 14 John talks about “passing from death to life”. What is John saying here about passing from spiritual death to spiritual life?
2. In verse 15 John talks about how to “have eternal life residing in us.” What is John saying here about living the eternal life today in regards to evil, righteousness, and love for people (verses 11-15)?
3. To what extent are you letting Christ’s eternal life reside in you (verses 11-15)? Talk with the Lord about your progress to date and how you want to grow at this with God’s help.
4. What does living the heavenly eternal life have to do with “the love of God being in a person” (verses 16-18)? How can your friends know that the love of God actually is in you?

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Thursday May 2

1 John 4:1-6

4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

1. What spirits does John warn us to watch out for? Why is it important to watch out for them?
2. How can we recognize these spirits?
3. How has God personally pointed out these spirits to you? Thank God for warning you.
4. How have you been vulnerable to believing these spirits?
5. Ask God to protect you from the influence of these evil spirits.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Friday May 3

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Eternal life is both a quantity of life and a quality of life. It is the quality of life that Jesus lived on this earth. It is the quality of God's life that He wants us to experience as we live through God's Son. It is the quality of God's life that He wants us to enjoy as God lives through us.

Meditate on today's passage slowly as you think about the questions.

1. What does it mean to live through God's Son (verses 9-10)?
2. What does it mean to live in God (verses 13-15)?
3. What does it mean for God to live in us (verses 13-15)?
4. Thank God that He wants to help you to enjoy His high quality of eternal life by living through you. Thank the Lord for ways that He has already enabled you to experience this high quality of life.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Saturday May 4

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1. What is the connection between living eternal life now and experiencing God's love?
2. According to this passage, what are some of the ways that God wants you to experience His love?
3. Thank the Lord for the ways that you have enjoyed God's love.
4. Talk with the Lord about what you will do this week to experience more of His love that He has described in this passage. You could write your prayer here.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Sunday May 5

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1. What is the connection between living eternal life now and loving other people with God's love (verses 7-8, 19-21)?

2. What is the Lord saying to you in this passage about how He wants you to love other people?

3. Talk with the Lord about how you will respond to what He is saying to you about loving other people. You could write your prayer here.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Wednesday May 8 John 1:1-18

Help your spiritual children know who God is. John describes how the God who created everything became a human being in Jesus Christ.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. ¹¹ He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning Him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of His fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.

In verse 4, "life" refers to God's life that is eternal in quantity and full of joy, love, and peace in quality. In verses 4 and 5, "light" refers to God's holy character which is in contrast to the darkness of evil and sin. Most people live in the dark about who God is and His constant presence with them. As a result they are tempted by selfish desires to follow the prince of darkness, the devil.

In verse 18, the word "glory" when used to describe God in other parts of the Bible can refer to His beauty and perfection of character; His holiness; His active presence with His oppressed people; good reputation; high praise; honour; and heavenly state of eternal bliss.

1. Who is the Word?

verse 1

verse 14

verse 17

verse 18

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2. Why do you think Jesus Christ is described as the Word?
 - In the Old Testament, what did God do by His spoken and written Word?

 - In John 1:1-18, what does the Living Word, Jesus Christ, do for us?

3. Thank Jesus Christ for what He is offering to do for you in this passage and what that means to you personally.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Thursday May 9 John 1:1-18

Help your spiritual children know who God is. John describes how the God who created everything became a human being in Jesus Christ.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. ¹¹ He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning Him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of His fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.

In verse 4, "life" refers to God's life that is eternal in quantity and full of joy, love, and peace in quality. In verses 4 and 5, "light" refers to God's holy character which is in contrast to the darkness of evil and sin. Most people live in the dark about who God is and His constant presence with them. As a result they are tempted by selfish desires to follow the prince of darkness, the devil.

In verse 18, the word "glory" when used to describe God in other parts of the Bible can refer to His beauty and perfection of character; His holiness; His active presence with His oppressed people; good reputation; high praise; honour; and heavenly state of eternal bliss.

1. According to verses 11-13, how does a person enter God's family? What does it mean to receive Christ?

2. How did you receive Christ? If you haven't received Him yet, you could receive Him now in prayer.

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3. Write down in your own words who Jesus Christ is and how you know that. Why is it important that your spiritual children know that? How could you explain to your spiritual children who Jesus is and the relationship that He wants with us, taking into account their understanding level based upon their age. Pray that the Lord will help you communicate this clearly to your spiritual children.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Friday May 10

Romans 3:21-26

Help your spiritual children to know how to have a relationship with God.

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—²⁶ He did it to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

1. What is the problem all people have before God (verse 23)? How serious is it? What is at the heart of the problem?
2. What did Jesus Christ do to solve our problem that we have before God (verses 24-26)?
3. What do we need to do in order to be saved from the problem we have before God (verses 21, 25-26)?
4. Use the insights from today's study to write down here your presentation of the good news of salvation that you can share with family and friends who don't know Christ.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Saturday May 11 Ephesians 2:1-10

Share with your family or friends how they can have a relationship with God.

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1. In Ephesians 2:1-10, what is the human problem?

2. What is God’s solution?

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3. For a couple of your children, family members, or friends, fill out the following chart. Put a plus sign (+) by each of the following areas that you think is a strength for your family member or friend and a minus sign (-) for each area that is a need. Prayerfully ask the Lord to help you feel for these people as He does.

Need	Child or family member or friend	Child or family member or friend	Child or family member or friend
Understands who God is			
Understands who Jesus Christ is			
Is receptive to spiritual truths			
Understands what sin is and its seriousness			
Sees their own sin and need for forgiveness			
Understands why Christ died on the cross			
Understands how to become a Christian			
Has made a faith commitment to Christ			
Is following Christ as a devoted disciple			

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Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Sunday May 12 Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

1. What is Jesus calling us to do?

2. How is Jesus offering to help us?

3. Share this good news of Christ's salvation with one of your children, family members, or a friend who need to hear it. Pray before you do that the Lord would show them their need for Christ and lead them to trust in Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

4. One of the ways that you can help your family member or friend to know what it means to come to faith in Christ is to tell them about your own life. Share with them:
 - What your life was like before you accepted Christ.

 - How you accepted Christ.

 - How your life improved afterwards.

5. If they accept Christ, then praise God and help them to grow as Christ's disciple. If they don't accept Christ, pray that the Lord would help them to see their need and answer their objections.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Monday May 13

1 John 5:1-12

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves His Child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out His commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep His commands. And His commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶ This is the One who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ⁹ We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which He has given about his Son. ¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made Him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about His Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

The world refers to Satan's rule over the human race by tempting people to follow self-centred desires. The devil tempts us to glorify and serve self rather than God. In this way people become enslaved to the devil and opposed to God. People become like the devil (angry, selfish, proud, and greedy) rather than like God (loving, holy).

1. According to 1 John 5:1-5, in order to overcome the world, what does God do for us? Thank the Lord for that.
2. According to 1 John 5:1-5, in order to overcome the world, what do we need to do?
3. Commit in prayer to work at what you need with God's help to do in order to overcome the world.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Tuesday May 14

1 John 5:1-12

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves His Child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out His commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep His commands. And His commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶ This is the One who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ⁹ We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which He has given about his Son. ¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made Him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about His Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1. Look at verses 6-10. Jesus came by water and the blood and the Spirit testifies with them concerning the person of Jesus. There are 2 possible interpretations:
 - The water and the blood refers to the historical facts of Jesus' baptism and death. John refutes the heretics who said the "Spirit of Christ" descended upon Jesus at His baptism and left just before His death. By asserting Jesus came by water and blood (verse. 6), John was saying Jesus remained the God-man even in His death and thus had a true incarnation.
 - The blood and water refer to the wound in Jesus' side that confirmed the reality of His death and resurrection (John 19:34; 20:25). Since the Spirit testifies with this wound, believers must confess the death of a truly incarnate Savior.

Both interpretations affirm Christ's incarnation and refute the heresy that embraced the "spirit of Christ" without the incarnation. Today, those who claim to be Christian but deny Jesus is truly God and truly man likewise deny the Saviour.

The Son of God became the human Jesus to give us eternal life by dying to pay the penalty for our sins and by rising to assure us that we too can rise from the dead if we accept Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. The Son of God also became a human to show us how we can live the eternal life after we invite Him into our life by the Holy Spirit by following His example. Take time to thank the Lord for what this means to you personally.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Thursday May 16

1 John 5:13-21

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.

¹⁶ If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

¹⁸ We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. ¹⁹ We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰ We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him who is true by being in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

²¹ Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

1. What gives a person assurance that they have eternal life (verses 13, 19-20)? Do you have assurance of eternal life? Have you honestly committed your life to Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord? If so, you know by faith that you are a child of God and have eternal life. Thank God for that assurance.
2. What is the connection between living the heavenly eternal life now and prayer (verses 14-15)?
3. What is the key to answered prayer in verses 14-15?
4. Ask God to help you to pray this way.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Friday May 17

1 John 5:13-21

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.

¹⁶ If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

¹⁸ We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. ¹⁹ We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰ We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him who is true by being in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

²¹ Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

1. What does God warn us about in verses 16-21? Why does He give these warnings?
2. What does God do to help us deal with these dangers (verses 16-21)?
3. What do we need to do with God's help to deal with these dangers?
4. Talk with the Lord about what you will do with God's help to address God's warnings to you in these verses.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Saturday May 18

Philippians 3:4-14

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

1. According to Paul, what is the secret to success? Why is that the secret to success?
2. Paul desired to know Christ better. On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how does your desire in this area rank? Why?
3. Talk with Christ about how you will work to know Him better and have closer fellowship with Him.
4. In John Ortberg's "Eternity Is In Session Now" study guide, he shares some of Frank Laubach's ideas to be more aware of God's presence as you go through your day. This week try these:
 - Wake up and greet God with a warm "Good morning" and listen for His response.
 - Read favourite portions of Scripture as faded love letters – listening for the voice of the Author as you read.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Walking With Jesus Christ

Sunday May 19 2 Timothy 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

1. What is the connection between living the heavenly eternal life now and living a holy life (verses 9-10)?
2. What has God done for us to help us live this eternal holy life (verses 1, 6-7, 10, 12, 14)? Praise the Lord for what this means to you personally.
3. How do we live this eternal holy life now (verses 6-8, 12,-14).
4. In your day planner set a time to meet with God in the next few days. Close the door. Offer Him an empty chair. Talk with the Lord about how you will discipline yourself to live this holy life with the help of God's Holy Spirit in you. Be quiet for a while. Respond to God regarding the changes He is asking you to make.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Monday May 20

John 4:1-26

Pray for some unchurched friends to attend ALPHA with you in the fall to meet Christ.

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that He was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but His disciples. ³ So He left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

4 Now He had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to His son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as He was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to Him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can You ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, He will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am He."

1. What is the Lord saying to you through this passage about how He wants you to look at people? How will you do that today?

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



2. For what was this woman really thirsting in life?

3. How is Jesus offering to satisfy her real thirst?

4. Think about a couple of your unchurched friends. Write down their names. For what are they thirsting in life?
Friend: _____ is thirsting for _____

Friend: _____ is thirsting for _____

5. Pray that the Lord would help your friends to see their thirst. Ask God to help them to see that Jesus is satisfying your thirst and wants to meet their thirst with His Friendship. Pray that they would accept your invitation to attend ALPHA at Cheyne in the fall. You could record your prayer here.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Tuesday May 21 Acts 2:42-47

Pray for some unchurched friends to attend ALPHA with you in the fall to meet Christ.

⁴² The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1. Why do you suppose that “the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (verse 47)?
What was God’s role in this? What was the peoples’ role in this?

2. What is the Lord moving you to do this week for your two unchurched friends that you listed yesterday?
Commit to do those things with the Lord’s help.

Friend # 1: _____

Friend # 2: _____

3. Continue to pray that the Lord would move your two friends to attend ALPHA with you this fall. You could record your prayer here.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Wednesday May 22

Mark 1:29-39

Pray for some unchurched friends to attend ALPHA with you in the fall to meet Christ.

²⁹ As soon as Jesus and His disciples left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So He went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but He would not let the demons speak because they knew who He was.

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for Him, ³⁷ and when they found Him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for You!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

1. What role do you think that Jesus' time in prayer played in His daily ministry?
2. Why do you think that the Son of God spent so much time praying? What did His prayer time show about His love for God the Father and His love for people?
3. Why do you think that the people came to see Jesus (verses 33, 38)?
4. Talk with God about the role that He would like prayer to have in your ministry to other people.
5. Take some time to pray for the two unchurched friends you listed. Ask God to fill you with His burden for their eternal destiny. Pray that they would see their need for God. Ask the Lord to give your friends a strong desire to attend ALPHA with you this fall to learn about how God can improve their lives. You could record your prayer here.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Thursday May 23 Acts 4:23-31

Pray for some unchurched friends to attend ALPHA with you in the fall to meet Christ.

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

“Sovereign Lord,” they said, “You made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of Your servant, our father David: “‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against His anointed One.

²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed. ²⁸ They did what Your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

1. What motivated the disciples' prayer?
2. What does the Lord want you to do about your motivation to pray for your unchurched friends?
3. In this passage, for what do the disciples pray? Why is it important to pray for these things?
4. Learning from the disciples' motivation and prayer requests, take time to pray for your two friends who aren't Christian yet. You could record your prayer here.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Saturday May 25 Luke 18:35-43.

Care for your friends and listen to understand their needs.

⁵ As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ When He heard the crowd going by, He asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told Him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”

³⁸ He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

³⁹ Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁰ Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to Him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ “What do you want Me to do for you?”

“Lord, I want to see,” he replied.

⁴² Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.” ⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

1. What do you learn from the way that Jesus listened to people?

2. Who is a person who listens well to you? Why would you say they listen well?

3. For your two unchurched friends, write down what you think are their worries, dreams, and needs.
Friend # 1: Name _____
Friend # 1: Worries, dreams, and needs _____

Friend # 2: Name _____
Friend # 2: Worries, dreams, and needs _____

4. Ask the Lord to help you to understand your friends’ needs and to be able to communicate your concern for their needs. Pray that the Lord would lead them to ALPHA this fall to discover how He can bless their lives.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



3. Think about one of your two non-Christian friends on your list. Which of David's struggles or hurts have they experienced? What other struggles do they have?

Friend # 1: Name _____

Friend # 1: Struggles or hurts _____

Friend # 2: Name _____

Friend # 2: Struggles or hurts _____

4. Pray to God asking Him to minister to your friend's struggles and hurts. Ask the Lord to show you how you can empathize with your friend and serve them. Ask the Lord to help you to share the hope and healing that the Lord has given you. Pray that God grants them a curiosity to learn about the Lord. You could record your prayer here.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Wednesday May 29

Luke 19:1-10

Eat with your friends so that Christ can touch them through your friendship.

9 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

1. How do you suppose Zacchaeus felt when Jesus came to his home for dinner?
2. Why do you suppose that Zacchaeus says what he does in verse 8?
3. How could your act of eating a meal with an unbelieving friend help that friend to see themselves as God does? How could it help them to see their need for God?
4. Plan to eat with one of the people on your list. Pray that the Lord would use your friendship and the meal to help your friend to see Christ in you and their need for Christ.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Thursday May 30

John 13:1-17

Serve your friends so that they experience Christ's love through you.

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

1. Why do you think that Jesus acted out this teaching rather than just simply preach it?
2. What is Jesus saying to you personally through this passage?
3. Ask the Lord to show you how He wants you to serve your two unchurched friends. Pray that the Lord touches your friends with His love through your sacrificial service. Pray that the Lord uses your service to encourage your friends to accept your invitation to ALPHA to learn about this God who led you to serve them.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Friday May 31 Read Acts 26:4-29

Share with your friend how you became friends with Jesus and how it changed your life.

⁴ Paul said to King Agrippa, “The Jewish people all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. ⁵ They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee. ⁶ And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. ⁷ This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me. ⁸ Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

⁹ “I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

¹⁰ And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.

¹² “On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. ¹⁴ We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

¹⁵ “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. ¹⁶ ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. ¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

¹⁹ “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. ²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. ²¹ That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. ²² But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— ²³ that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

²⁴ At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. “You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.”

²⁵ “I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable. ²⁶ The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”

²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

²⁹ Paul replied, “Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Saturday June 1 John 1:35 - 42

Invite you friends to meet Jesus at ALPHA.

³⁵ *The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”*

³⁷ *When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”*

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are You staying?”

³⁹ *“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”*

So they went and saw where He was staying, and they spent that day with Him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ *Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.*

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

1. What did John the Baptist say to his disciples about Jesus? How did they respond? Why?
2. What did Andrew do after he spent the day with Jesus? Why?
3. What were the results of John the Baptist introducing his disciples to Christ?
4. What has been the results in your life from you being introduced to Christ by another person? How many people were impacted for Christ by that?
5. Pray that the Lord would bless your friend when you invite them to ALPHA. Pray that they would want to learn about Jesus and that they would meet Him and that would change their life forever.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Invite Friends To Receive Eternal Life In Christ

Sunday June 2 John 1:43-51

Invite you friends to meet Jesus at ALPHA.

⁴³ *The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, He said to him, “Follow Me.”*

⁴⁴ *Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the One Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”*

⁴⁶ *“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.*

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷ *When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”*

⁴⁸ *“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.*

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ *Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the king of Israel.”*

⁵⁰ *Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”*

1. What happens in the Bible when Jesus invites people to follow Him? Why?
2. Pray that Jesus would invite your unchurched friends to follow Him.
3. What did Philip do after He met Jesus? Why?
4. How did Nathanael respond to Philip’s invitation? Why?
5. Pray that the Lord will fill you with great faith that when you pray for, love, serve, and invite your friends to ALPHA. Pray that the Lord will move them to attend. Pray that the Lord will use ALPHA to lead them to follow Christ.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Live Aware Of Christ's Presence

Monday June 3 2 Peter 1:1-11

To L-I-V-E Eternal Life:

- L** **Live aware of Christ's presence**
- I** **Improve at obeying God**
- V** **View life from God's perspective.**
- E** **Enjoy union with Christ**

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. 4 Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1. What is the connection between living the heavenly eternal life now and living a godly life that participates in the divine nature (verses 1-4)?

2. What has the Lord done to help us live a godly eternal life (verses 1-4)?

3. Praise the Lord for what He has done to help you live a godly eternal life and how that personally benefits you.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Live Aware Of Christ's Presence

Wednesday June 5

Acts 4:1-21

4 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!

²⁰ As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

²¹ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

In Acts 3 when Peter was confronted by a crippled beggar, he said, "In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk (Acts 3:6)." The Lord healed the crippled man. Many people believed in Jesus because of this miracle. This upset the Jewish religious leaders so they tried to force the disciples to stop teaching in the name of Jesus.

1. In Acts 4:1-21 what signs do you see of Peter and John living the heavenly eternal life on earth (verses 2, 4, 7-10, 13, 19-21)? What were the results of them living this way?

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



2. How do the following things help us to understand what is at the heart of living the heavenly eternal life now?
 - (a) Being filled with the Holy Spirit (verse 8)
 - (b) Praying and teaching in the name of Jesus (verse 10)
 - (c) Being with Jesus (verse 13)
 - (d) Obeying God (verse 19)
 - (e) Not being able to stop speaking about what they have seen and heard about Jesus (verse 20)?
3. Pray that the Lord would help you to passionately desire in your life the five things in question 3 above.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Live Aware Of Christ's Presence

Thursday June 6 Genesis 28:10-22

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

1. Some of the things that God offered Jacob (verses 13-15), God is also offering to you.

- God wants to give you a great eternal inheritance (verse 13)
- God wants to bless you and your family (verse 14)
- God wants to be with you and watch over you wherever you go (verse 15).

Thank God for these things that the Lord wants to do for you and what they mean to you personally.

2. How have you become aware of God being with you and blessing you (verses 16-17)? Praise the Lord for making you aware of His blessings.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



3. In his study guide “Eternity Is Now In Session” John Ortberg writes:

“Dallas Willard said that life is mostly made up of experiences. That is why we treasure them so much. Intimacy is shared experience. Every time we invite God into our lives, we are sharing experiences and increasing intimacy. To love someone means that you are interested in her or his experience. It takes two things to experience intimacy with God: time and honesty”

Talk with God about how you will work at being more aware of God’s presence in your life by how you spend time with God. Tell God your plans to have honest conversations with God.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Live Aware Of Christ's Presence

Saturday June 8 Matthew 17:1-8

17 After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. ⁴ Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, I will put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

⁵ While He was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." ⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Jesus' three closest disciples went with Him up the mountain to see who Jesus and His Father truly are. God gave them a glimpse of heaven on earth as they saw Jesus in His glory and two saints who had gone to be with God in heaven. This mountain top experience in God's presence helped them to be aware that they lived life in God's presence at all times. God invites you to enjoy a mountaintop experience with God each day. This week spend some time trying these pathways to being aware of God's presence:

1. Put 15 minutes into your schedule each day for sitting with God.
2. Listen to a song that causes you to feel God's presence while spending this time with God.
3. Memorize a few verses of Scripture that speak of God's desire to be with you.
4. Read Bible verses that record the things Jesus said and did.
5. Be real and transparent with the Lord. Don't hide. Come before God exactly as you are.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Live Aware Of Christ's Presence

Sunday June 9 John 15:9-17

⁹ “As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commands and remain in His love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in My name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is My command: Love each other.

1. What does this passage say about God’s love for you personally (verses 9, 11, 13, 15, 16)?
2. How have you experienced these dimensions of God’s love for you personally? Thank the Lord for how His love for you has enriched your life.
3. How is God asking you to respond to His love for you (verses 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17)?
4. Talk with the Lord about how you plan to love Him in the ways that please Him.
5. Consider these ways that can help you to live more moments each day with God. Which ones would you find helpful. Try acting on them this week.
 - Before getting out of bed, invite God to go through the day with you.
 - Imagine Jesus standing beside you when you talk with people.
 - Invite Jesus to sit beside you as you work.
 - Invite God into your problems and ask for ideas.
 - Have a conversation with God about your day as the last thing you do before going to sleep.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Tuesday June 11 Psalm 78:1-8

¹ *My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.*

² *I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—*

³ *things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.*

⁴ *We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.*

⁵ *He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,*

⁶ *so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.*

⁷ *Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.*

⁸ *They would not be like their ancestors—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.*

1. Spiritual parents are called to “teach” their children (verse 5) “so that they would put their trust in God” and “keep His commandments” (verse 7). How would you teach your spiritual child to trust God and obey God’s commands if he or she often:

- Lied?
- Was greedy?
- Lost his or her temper?
- Gossiped or put people down?

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Wednesday June 12

Psalm 78:1-8

¹ My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

² I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

³ things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

⁴ We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,

⁶ so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

⁷ Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

⁸ They would not be like their ancestors—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

1. Consider the following list of statements that describe spiritual growth. In the column for you and in the column for your spiritual child, put a plus sign (+) for each step taken by that person and a minus sign (-) for each step that has not been taken yet by that person.

Steps of spiritual growth	Me	My spiritual child
Made a personal faith commitment to Christ		
Read the Bible regularly		
Apply Biblical teaching to everyday life		
Pray regularly		
Have a deep love and reverence for God		
Demonstrate Christlike character of love, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, self control		
Build up people rather than criticize		
Love and help people		
Is committed to do what is right before God and avoid sin		
Participate in church		
Grow in faith in a small group fellowship with other Christians		
Serve God and others		
Share the good news of Christ with others		

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2. As you review your answers in the chart above, talk with the Lord about what steps you will take with God's help to grow spiritually personally.

3. As you review your answers in the chart above, talk with the Lord about what steps you will take with God's help to assist your spiritual child to grow spiritually.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Thursday June 13 Philippians 2:1-11.

Your relationships with people play a big role in influencing how your spiritual children relate with other people.

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage;

⁷ rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

*⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

⁹ Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. How does God minister to us (verses 1-8)?

2. Thank the Lord for ways that you have experienced God's ministry to you and how it benefitted you.

3. In what practical ways can you:
 - Encourage your spiritual children (verse 1)?

 - Comfort your spiritual children (verse 1)?

 - Show tenderness and compassion to your spiritual children (verse 1)?

 - In humility consider your spiritual children better than yourself (verse 3)?

 - Look out not only to your own interests, but to the interests of your spiritual children as well (verse 4)?

Work on a couple of the above ideas this week with God's help.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Friday June 14 Colossians 1:9-14

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1. Pray Colossians 1:9-14 for your spiritual children, adapting Paul's prayer for them personally. Meditate on each verse until you passionately desire it for your children.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Spiritual Parents Help People Live The Heavenly Eternal Life Now

Saturday June 15 1 Thessalonians 2:1-9

To influence your spiritual children to follow Christ, you need to build a close relationship where you are actively loving, modeling, and teaching.

2 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. 2 We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. 3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. 6 We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you

1. What are Paul's motives for parenting spiritual children (verses 1-6)?

2. How does your commitment as a spiritual parent compare to Paul's commitment? Pray that the Lord fills you with His commitment to spiritually parent your children or friends that you are influencing for Christ.

3. Consider how Paul spiritually parented like a mother (verses 6-9).
 - List the qualities of a faithful spiritual parent from verses 6-9

 - Which ones do you possess? Thank God for helping you develop them.

 - Which ones do you want to develop? Ask God to enable you to grow in them.

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2. A good indication of the closeness of your relationship with your spiritual children is how much you know about them. Answer these questions for each of your spiritual children. If you are able, discuss your answers with your spouse.
 - Who is your spiritual child's best friend?
 - What is your spiritual child's favourite song or music group?
 - What is your spiritual child's favourite book or movie?
 - What are some of your spiritual child's dreams for their life?
 - What are some of your spiritual child's challenges in life?
 - Where is your spiritual child in their relationship with God?
 - What are your spiritual child's greatest needs?
 - How close do you feel that you are with your spiritual child?

3. From the insights God gave you from the last question # 2 above, pray to God about your relationships with each of your spiritual children.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Improve At Obeying God

Monday June 17 Isaiah 6:1-10

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

⁹ He said, “Go and tell this people: “Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.”

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

1. What vision of heaven does God give Isaiah (verses 1-5)?
2. What do we learn about God?
3. What does Isaiah learn about himself (verses 5, 9-10)? What does God want you to learn about yourself?
4. What is Isaiah’s response (verses 5-10)?
5. Consider that you live every moment in the presence of this holy God, how do you want to live your life this week? Ask God to help you live this heavenly eternal life this week.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Improve At Obeying God

Tuesday June 18 Luke 5:1-11

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around Him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When He had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

1. Why do you think Peter said what he did in verse 5 after working hard all night and not catching anything, especially since night was the best time to fish?
2. Why did Peter reply as he did in verse 8?
3. How does Jesus respond to Peter (verse 10)? Why?
4. What does Peter end up doing in verse 11? Why?
5. What is Jesus saying to you in this passage about who He is? Praise Him for that.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Improve At Obeying God

Wednesday June 19

Luke 5:1-11

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around Him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When He had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

1. What are some barriers that you face to becoming a habitual "because You say so, Lord" type of Christ follower (verse 5)?
2. Have you ever had an experience with another person where you expected condemnation but instead received unexpected love (verse 10)? What was your reaction?
3. What do the words repentance and confession mean (verse 8)? What do you think of when you hear these words? Why are they important to our own spiritual healing?
4. John Ortberg asked a great question in "Eternity Is Now In Session" study guide:

"If you were to call 1-800-JUNK, what is some of the spiritual junk that you might ask to be hauled out of your life? How would this affect your intimacy with God?"
5. Ask the Lord to haul that spiritual junk out of your life. Listen to what God says that He wants you to do in order to co-operate with His cleaning up process. Act on that.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Improve At Obeying God

Saturday June 22 Psalm 51

- ¹ *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*
- ² *Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*
- ³ *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.*
- ⁴ *Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight; so You are right in your verdict and justified when You judge.*
- ⁵ *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*
- ⁶ *Yet You desired faithfulness even in the womb; You taught me wisdom in that secret place.*
- ⁷ *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*
- ⁸ *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice.*
- ⁹ *Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.*
- ¹⁰ *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*
- ¹¹ *Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.*
- ¹² *Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*
- ¹³ *Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, so that sinners will turn back to You.*
- ¹⁴ *Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, You who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.*
- ¹⁵ *Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare Your praise.*
- ¹⁶ *You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*
- ¹⁷ *My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart You, God, will not despise.*
- ¹⁸ *May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.*
- ¹⁹ *Then You will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.*

1. John Ortberg, in his book “Eternity Is Now In Session” presents a great way to examine your life before God each day. Try this spiritual examination at the end of today:

- (a) *Gratitude:* Recall events from today that made you grateful. Enjoy the memory and thank God.
- (b) *Review:* Recall events from the day where you felt most aware of God’s presence and the desire to move toward Him.
- (c) *Sorrow:* Recall times during the day when you felt distracted from God’s presence and intimacy and when you were running your life on you own.
- (d) *Forgiveness:* Humbly ask God to forgive your times of distraction from His presence, especially if during those times you hurt another person or yourself.
- (e) *Grace:* Ask God for the grace you need to live more moments tomorrow with the ability to feel the reality of God’s presence and love more dearly.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Improve At Obeying God

Sunday June 23 John 14:15-27

¹⁵ Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love them and show Myself to them.”

²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show Yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

1. How does the Holy Spirit bring heaven into our hearts (verses 15-22, 25-27)? Thank the Lord for doing this and how you have experienced it enriching your life.
2. How does Jesus call us to live the heavenly eternal life now (verses 21, 23-24)?
3. Write out your schedule for a typical week day. What activities are you most likely to be engaged in?
4. Now, go back over the events of a typical day and label each with either “toward” (they help you move “toward” God) or “away” (they cause you to move “away” from God).
5. Use this schedule and talk with God about how you can better redeem your time so that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit can be more at home in your life.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



View Life From God's Perspective

Monday June 24 Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then He ordered His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah.

1. What is significant about Peter's confession in verse 16?
2. In what ways is Jesus blessing Peter in verses 17-20?
3. How would you describe, in practical, day-to-day terms, what it is like to be "blessed" by being in a living relationship with "Christ, the Son of God who is alive"?
4. How does God want you to use His blessings to you of insight about Christ (verse 17), power from Christ (verse 18), and authority of Christ (verse 19) so that you can help other people live the heavenly eternal life today?
5. Pray that the Lord would help you use His blessings of insight about Christ, power from Christ, and authority of Christ to help people live the heavenly eternal life today?

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



View Life From God's Perspective

Tuesday June 25 Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. "Never, Lord!" He said. "This shall never happen to You!"

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with his angels, and then He will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸ "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

1. What activities and attitudes are at the heart of Christian discipleship (verses 24-27)?
2. What does it mean to forfeit your soul? How could a person forfeit their soul (verse 26)?
3. Ask God to help you see what might tempt you to forfeit your soul. Ask God to help you to resist this.
4. The word "Christian" only appears a few times in the Bible. The word "disciple" appears 249 times. Jesus didn't say, "Believe the right things about Me and you can be My disciple." Jesus said, "*Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me*" (verse 24).
Ask Christ to show you ways that you are living well as His disciple. Praise Him for that progress.
5. Ask Christ to show you where you need to improve at living as His disciple. Pray that the Lord would help you grow as His disciple in these areas.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



View Life From God’s Perspective

Wednesday June 26

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “Never, Lord!” He said. “This shall never happen to You!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with his angels, and then He will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸ “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

1. We live in God’s kingdom today when we make Jesus Christ our King. We can forfeit our soul when we make other people or things our King or god by serving them and trusting them.

To what extent (From 1 = “not compete with Christ” to 10 = “absolutely a major idol”) does each of the following compete with Christ as a substitute for your identity, happiness, and fulfillment?

	<u>Not compete with Christ</u>					<u>Absolutely a Major Idol</u>				
(a) Money	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(b) Material things	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(c) Career	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(d) Lifestyle	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(e) Image	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(f) Popularity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(g) Relationship	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(h) Other _____	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2. Talk with the Lord in prayer about what you want to do about this with His help.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



View Life From God's Perspective

Thursday June 27

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1. What does God want us to know about our earthly human nature (verses 1-3)?
 - What is our spiritual status (verse 1)?
 - Who can rule our lives and how (verses 2-3)?
 - What is our ultimate outcome if we continue living like this (verse 3)?
2. How does God save us from His wrath against our sin so that we can live the heavenly eternal life?
 - How does God's salvation help people who are "dead in transgressions and sins" (verse 1) to become "alive with Christ" (verses 4-5)?
 - How does God's salvation help people who "followed the ruler of the kingdom of the air" (verse 2) to be "raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" (verse 6)?
3. What does a person need to do in order to receive the heavenly eternal life (verses 8-9)? Have you done this? If not, why not do it now? If you have done this, then thank God for the heavenly eternal life.
4. What does it mean to live the heavenly eternal life today (verse 10)? Ask the Lord to help you to live the heavenly eternal life this way today.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



View Life From God's Perspective

Friday June 28 Ephesians 4:17-23

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. ²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

1. What is God teaching us here about a self-centred life (verses 17-19, 22, 25-31)?

2. What are the dangers of living like this?

3. What does the Lord want us to do in order to leave a self-centred life and live a God-centred heavenly life (verses 20-24)?
 - What is God's role in this?

 - What practical steps does the Lord want us to take?

4. Where would God say you are on the following scale: Self-centred 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 God-centred
Why?

5. Talk with God about what you want to put into practice from today's study to move more towards God-centred heavenly living this week.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



View Life From God's Perspective

Saturday June 29 Ephesians 4:25-32

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin." Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1. How does the Lord want us to deal with difficult people (verses 25-32)?
2. Talk with the Lord about a difficult person in your life. How might you have grieved the Holy Spirit by letting the devil tempt you to resent this person? How has that affected you?
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to comfort you, heal your hurt, and love you.
4. Have you hurt anyone in the past? Thank Christ for forgiving your sin of hurting them. Live the heavenly eternal life by forgiving the difficult person in your life now as Christ forgave you.
5. Pray that the difficult person would experience the Lord's healing and salvation.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



View Life From God's Perspective

Sunday June 30 Ephesians 5:1-20

5¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

8⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. 11¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14¹⁴ This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

15¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Living the heavenly eternal life now means living as God's holy children of light (verses 1, 3, 8). God gives us new birth as His holy children when we repent of our sins, trust that Jesus died to forgive us, and invite God's Son to live in us by His Holy Spirit.

1. God warns us not to revert back to a life of darkness where we live in the dark regarding God's constant presence and we disobey God (verses 3-8, 11-12).
 - What are the dangers of reverting back to this life of darkness and disobedience?

 - In what ways are you tempted to live like this? Why?

2. What is the solution to avoiding darkness and disobedience in our lives (verses 1, 8-20)?

3. Ask the Lord to help you to act upon His solution that you listed in question # 2 above.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Enjoy Union With God

Monday July 1 Ephesians 5:1-20

5¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

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1. Based upon God's teaching in this passage, ask God to show you how full of the Holy Spirit you usually are in your daily living? Why do you live like that?

2. Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. What is the Lord asking you to do so that He can fill you with His Holy Spirit? Follow His leading here.

3. Meditate upon what it means to live as "child of light."
 - *Thoughts:* Think often about God, His greatness and His love for you.
 - *Feelings:* Thank God for His love for you and His desire to love others through you.
 - *Will:* Be devoted to doing what is right, good, and pleasing to God.
 - *Relationships:* Love other people as Christ loved you.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Enjoy Union With God

Tuesday July 2 John 15:1-10

15 Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

1. What is the “fruit that will last” (verse 16)?
2. What is involved in producing fruit? What is God’s role? What is our role?
3. What does it mean in practical everyday life to remain in Christ?
4. What are your primary obstacles to abiding in God through the day as a branch that is connected to a vine? Why are they such obstacles?
5. Talk with the Lord in prayer about what you will do with His help to better remain in Christ to bear the fruit of the Spirit – the character of Christ in your life. You could record your prayer here.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Enjoy Union With God

Wednesday July 3 Colossians 3:1-17

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1. What do you learn from verses 1-4 about what it means to live the heavenly eternal life today?
2. What does it mean to put to death the earthly selfish nature in practical terms (verses 5-9)? Why is it so important to put it to death?
3. Ask God to show you how well you are putting the earthly selfish nature to death. Ask God to show you what He wants you do in His power to deal with this.
4. What does it mean to live out the new self that is renewed in knowledge in the image of the Creator (verses 10-17)?
5. Pray that the Lord Jesus Christ would empower you by His Holy Spirit to live out verses 12 to 17 as you meditate upon them.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Enjoy Union With God

Thursday July 4 Galatians 5:16-26

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

1. What two things are in conflict in our lives (verse 17)?
2. In what ways do you give into the sinful nature described in verses 19-21?
3. What are the dangers of living according to the sinful nature (verses 19-21)?
4. How much of the heavenly eternal life described in verses 22-23 are you currently enjoying? Why?
5. Talk with the Lord about how you want to work with His Holy Spirit to live more of the heavenly eternal life today (verses 18, 24-26). Thank God for His commitment to doing His part. Commit to do your part with His help. You could record your prayer here.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Enjoy Union With God

Friday July 5

Psalm 27

¹ *The LORD is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

² *When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.*

³ *Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.*

⁴ *One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.*

⁵ *For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.*

⁶ *Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at His sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.*

⁷ *Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.*

⁸ *My heart says of You, “Seek His face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek.*

⁹ *Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my Helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.*

¹⁰ *Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.*

¹¹ *Teach me Your way, LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.*

¹² *Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.*

¹³ *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*

¹⁴ *Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.*

Lectio divina is a slow contemplative way of praying the Scriptures that enables the Word of God to become a means of union with God. It allows the Word and presence of Christ to penetrate to the centre of our being and begin a process of transforming us from the inside out. We can grow closer to God today by utilizing *lectio divina* with Psalm 27.

1. Place yourself in a comfortable position and become silent before God.
2. *Read / Listen:* Read the text slowly. Savour each verse. Listen reverentially for God's still, small voice.
3. *Meditate:* Slowly repeat the verse to yourself, allowing it to interact with your inner world of concerns, memories, and ideas.
4. *Converse:* Speak to God as you would with one who loves and accepts you. Give to God what you have discovered in yourself during your experience.
5. *Rest:* Simply rest in God's embrace. And when He invites you to return to your pondering of His Word or to your inner dialogue with Him, do so. Rejoice that God is with you in both words and silence.

LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Enjoy Union With God

Saturday July 6 Psalm 23

¹ *The LORD is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.*

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters,*

³ *He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

⁶ *Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

We can grow closer to God today by utilizing *lectio divina* with Psalm 27.

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LIVE THE HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE NOW



Enjoy Union With God

Sunday July 7 Matthew 6:9-15

⁹ *Jesus said, "This, then, is how you should pray:*

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ *your kingdom come,*

your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ *Give us today our daily bread.*

¹² *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

¹³ *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁴ *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

¹⁵ *But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

We can grow closer to God today by utilizing *lectio divina* with the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-15.

1. Place yourself in a comfortable position and become silent before God.
2. *Read / Listen:* Read the text slowly. Savour each verse. Listen reverentially for God's still, small voice.
3. *Meditate:* Slowly repeat the verse to yourself, allowing it to interact with your inner world of concerns, memories, and ideas.
4. *Converse:* Speak to God as you would with one who loves and accepts you. Give to God what you have discovered in yourself during your experience.
5. *Rest:* Simply rest in God's embrace. And when He invites you to return to your pondering of His Word or to your inner dialogue with Him, do so. Rejoice that God is with you in both words and silence