



MARCH

2019

1 PETER - JUDE

# MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

**"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16**

Reach out...

How I will do it...

How it went...

Other requests...

Answered

How it was answered...

# MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable to your personal commitment.

## **Personal Devotions:**

How did I do with my commitment last month? \_\_\_\_\_

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought \_\_\_\_\_ day(s) each week this month.

## **Church Attendance:**

How did I do last month with my attendance? \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend Youth/Growth Group \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday AM service \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday PM service \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

## **Scripture Memory:**

How did I do with Scripture memory last month? \_\_\_\_\_

I will memorize \_\_\_\_\_ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

## **Outreach:**

How did I do last month with sharing Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

I will share Christ with \_\_\_\_\_ person/people this month.

I will serve my local church this month by \_\_\_\_\_

## **Other Activities:**

List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. \_\_\_\_\_

Why do trials come into the life of a believer? At times it almost seems as if the closer we move toward God, the more difficult the circumstances become in our lives. In today's reading, Peter reveals one reason why God allows trials to come into our lives. That reason should cause us to be encouraged and rejoice at the trials we face. In verse 7, we learn that sometimes trials come so we can see that our faith is genuine. Trials help us know for certain that we have eternal life and give us greater confidence that we have a personal relationship with God. It takes our faith from theory to reality. It makes our faith something alive in us that affects the way we live. And what happens when our faith becomes real? According to verse 7, it results in praise and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. God uses trials to show us the reality of our faith. What are the trials in your life revealing? Do you know for certain that you have eternal life and are on your way to heaven? It may be that the trials you are now facing have been placed there by God to give you the opportunity to make your faith real. Trials are the means to a deeper, more personal relationship with Christ. Do you view trials this way?

### SAY WHAT?

What trials are you facing right now?

### SO WHAT?

How can you use these verses to help you face those trials and gain more authenticity in your walk with God?

### NOW WHAT?

How can you use this passage to help someone you know who is going through a trial?

### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

1 PETER 1

## 1 PETER 1:13-21

## EMPTINESS

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Have you ever read a passage of Scripture in which you saw something that stuck with you for a while? You kept thinking about it and could not get it out of your mind for several days. We find one of those phrases in today's reading. Did you notice it in verse 18? Peter described life before trusting Christ as being "empty." How true that is! Life without Jesus Christ is empty, even though it may be filled with friends and activities. We may achieve fame, or we may gain wealth, but it will all be empty. We may even gain power and freedom, but it will still leave us empty. Life with Christ, however, is fulfilling even though we may not have much of what the world deems valuable. We may not have material wealth and may not be well known, but we will still have a very full life. We may not have power, but we are content. When we trust Christ and He becomes real to us, our lives are full and exciting. With a lack of real commitment to Christ, any life we choose will leave us empty. Christ came to redeem us from "the empty way of life." If you claim to know Christ and claim He is real to you, yet your life is empty, something is wrong! That is not what Christ gave you. Who can help you figure out why?

**EXTRA READING**

1 PETER 1

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

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## 1 PETER 2:4-12

## BUT NOW

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Did anything you read today in this passage make you think of yesterday's reading? Look at the words "but now" in verse 10. In today's reading, Peter talks more about our lives before we came to faith in Christ. Whom does he say we were before we trusted Christ? We were nobody. We had nothing and were nothing. But now, we are the people of God. We have gone from being nobodies to being children of the King. He also tells us that before Christ we were objects of God's wrath. We were sinners in need of forgiveness. But now, we have received mercy and our sins have been forgiven since we, by faith, trusted Christ. Therefore, according to verse 11, we should live as aliens in this world and abstain from sinful desires that war against us. We should live such good lives that even though the world accuses us of wrong doing, they still see our good deeds and glorify God. Our lives were empty because we were not the people of God and had not received mercy. But now our lives are full because we are the people of God and have found mercy through Jesus Christ. Circle the words "but now" to remind you of what Christ has done in your life. Live today as one who is forgiven

**EXTRA READING**

1 PETER 2

How do you feel when you suffer for having done the right thing? Not only did you do nothing wrong, you actually did the right thing, but got punished anyway. Today's reading gives us practical principles regarding this kind of situation when it comes into our lives. Peter tells us that it is commendable to be someone who suffers for doing good. In fact, it might sober us to know that we should expect to suffer for doing good. Peter says it is something that we are "called" to do. Jesus Himself went through the same thing. He did so because He wanted to give us an example to follow. Christ is the ultimate example of one who suffered even though He did nothing wrong. How closely are you following His example? There was no deceit found in His mouth when he suffered. Is there any in yours? He hurled no insults to those who were mistreating Him. Do you? He did not retaliate when he was abused, but instead entrusted Himself to God the Father. Does this sound like you? What a powerful testimony this kind of life would be in our world today! What have you encountered that demands you follow the example of Christ? What needs to change for you to begin doing just that?

### SAY WHAT?

In what situations are you finding it difficult to respond as Christ did?

### SO WHAT?

How have you responded? Be specific.

### NOW WHAT?

How can you use today's reading to help you respond like Christ when faced with unjust opposition?

### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

1 PETER 2

## 1 PETER 3:1-7

## SAME WAY

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

What is Peter referring to in his admonition to wives and husbands when he says, "in the same way?" When we stop to think about it, we realize that this passage teaches that husbands and wives are to respond to their spouses in the same way that Christ responded in yesterday's reading. When circumstances are difficult and seem unfair in marriage, husbands and wives are not to react with insults, deception or retaliation. When one spouse is not being godly, the other party should not make any threats. Instead, he is to entrust himself to God. He alone is in control, and He alone has the solution. God tells us that He judges justly, and He will respond in due time. There is not a need to threaten, insult, or to retaliate. Jesus Christ is the example, and we are to respond in the same way as He did. If God allows you to enter into a marriage relationship, or if you're already married, you must be prepared to respond as Christ did, no matter what may take place. His example does not allow us the option of acting on our feelings. One way to prepare yourself, is to act in the same way in the relationships you have now. How are you doing in those areas? Responding "in the same way?"

**EXTRA READING**

1 PETER 3

Today, Peter continues the topic of how to respond to suffering that is undeserved. That is, being punished for something we did not do. In this passage, we are challenged in our responses to those who are evil toward us or insult us. Peter instructs us to continue to respond with kindness and goodness toward those who are in opposition to us. We must understand that we have been called to face this kind of suffering. In fact, in verse 14, Peter tells us that if we face this kind of opposition, we are blessed. He also tells us that our godly responses to this kind of suffering will often result in opportunities to share Christ with those who observe us. Peter tells us that we need to be prepared to share with people the reason why we are able to respond with kindness to those who are evil toward us. He tells us to not only be ready with the right message, but also be ready to share it with the right attitude—with gentleness and respect. We need to be able to respond to unjust suffering in the way Peter has described. And then, we should be able to provide an answer for our hope. Finally, we must be prepared to share the message with the right attitude. Are you? Do you know what to say with your next opportunity?

**SAY WHAT?**

What can you do to prepare yourself for unjust suffering?

**SO WHAT?**

What can you do to prepare yourself to give an answer to those who ask about your response?

**NOW WHAT?**

What can you do to prepare yourself to give the answer with the right attitude?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

1 PETER 3

## 1 PETER 4:7-11

## MY ROLE

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

In what ways has God gifted you to serve and encourage the body of Christ? If you can't answer that question, you can't fulfill what today's passage teaches. In verse 10, we're told to use whatever gift we have received to serve others. In other words, we are to take the gifts God has given us and invest them in the body of Christ. Think about the importance of this admonition in light of what we have been reading the past few days in 1 Peter. We have been told that as Christians, we are called to face all kinds of unjust suffering. While we know our suffering produces positive results in our lives, it is nonetheless difficult. It would be important to be a part of the lives of our brothers and sisters by using our gifts to serve and encourage them. Using our gifts might take different forms, but we must all use what we have been given. You can't afford to just sit back and not take your place. God has a purpose for your gifts. What do your gifts indicate to you about the role God might want you to play in your church? How can you use your gifts to serve the body of Christ? If you don't know what your gifts are, who can help you discover what they are and how you might use them to serve the body?

**EXTRA READING**

1 PETER 4

Before Peter closes this great book on suffering, he gives us a few final reminders. Did one of them stand out to you? Peter reminds us again that there are positive results from the suffering we face. He reminds us that we are able to participate in what Christ faced and that suffering allows us to bear His name. Insults resulting from our witness demonstrate that God's glory is upon us. We then have an opportunity to not only impact this world and grow in our walks with God through suffering, but also to affect our first meeting with Christ. Suffering allows us to have that first meeting with Christ be one of great joy. His final instructions on suffering? They are found in verse 19. Underline them in your Bible. First of all, we are to commit our lives to Christ and trust Him. Do not resist and worry, but give everything to Him. Secondly, continue to do good. Don't give in, don't stop doing what is right even in the midst of suffering. Allow God to use it in your life and in the lives of those who are watching. Why not take some time today to memorize this verse to help you handle any suffering you experience. Use today's questions to help you apply what you have been learning.

**SAY WHAT?**

Name one principle on suffering that you will take away from reading this book.

**SO WHAT?**

How can you apply it to your life right now?

**NOW WHAT?**

How can you better prepare yourself to respond correctly when suffering comes?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

**EXTRA READING**

1 PETER 4

## PROVERBS 29

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

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What does it mean to be humble? How do we "clothe" ourselves with it in our relationships with each other? The word translated here humble or humility means lowliness of mind. It literally means the esteeming of ourselves as small. It means seeing ourselves as someone who is small and secondary to others. It is the opposite of pride, which is seeing ourselves as better than others. Being humble is not bragging or trying to put ourselves or our accomplishments forward. The word translated "clothe," in today's reading, means what you might imagine. To cling to something in the same way we put clothes on in the morning. Peter admonishes us to be humble people. We must view ourselves as small and not be prideful. We are then to get up each morning and "clothe" ourselves with this kind of an attitude throughout the day. We need to consciously remember what Christ has done for us and, not seek to exalt ourselves, but others. Clothing ourselves with humility means to intentionally think of ourselves as small and not the most important or the best person. Are you living successfully in this area? How can you improve being "clothed with humility?"

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

**EXTRA READING**

1 PETER 5

## 2 PETER 1:3-11

## EVERYTHING

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

What is the difference between life and godliness in verse 3? Why does Peter distinguish between the two? The word translated "life" in this verse means life in the physical sense. It refers to our conduct or manner of living. It includes everything we do in the course of a regular day. The word for "godliness" is the spiritual aspect of one's life. It is a life that is acceptable to God. It is not inward holiness, but the outward manifestation of a walk with God. Peter is communicating that we have been given everything we need for the physical and spiritual areas of life. When someone becomes a Christian, he receives everything he needs to be effective in every area of his life, in both the spiritual and physical aspects. Some might think that the Bible, and our walks with God, involve only spiritual matters. That is not true!! Through salvation and God's Word, we have been given what we need both in the physical, day to day areas, and the spiritual areas of our lives. We possess everything we need to be good husbands and wives, good students or employees and good children and siblings. Are you accessing the Bible and the power of God in every area of your life? Why not begin using it today!

**EXTRA READING**

2 PETER 1

How reliable is an eyewitness account? While it is most likely reliable, it is not 100% accurate. Why? Because even though we see something clearly, how we evaluate it or describe it can be influenced by many other factors. We may have been tired or upset. We each have our own opinions or biases that influence how we see something or interpret what we see. Knowing this makes the verses found in today's reading very important. Peter was an eyewitness to much of what is in Scripture, as were many of the authors. However, that is not why we can be sure that our Bibles are accurate. Peter tells us that the reason we can be sure that our Bibles are even more accurate than an eyewitness account is that they were not written according to the writers own interpretation. God is responsible for what was written in Scripture, and it is He who makes them accurate. Men recorded what they witnessed, but what they wrote was not their own opinions or interpretations of those events, but God's. You can have confidence that your Bible can be trusted and what you read is accurate. Additionally, beyond having confidence in it, according to verse 19, you will do well to pay attention to it!

### SAY WHAT?

What outside factors might have influenced their descriptions of what they saw?

### SO WHAT?

Why is this fact important to our understanding of Biblical inspiration?

### NOW WHAT?

How can you use this passage to defend your view of Scripture with skeptics?

### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

2 PETER 1

## 2 PETER 2:1-10

## HANG ON

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Have you ever been in the midst of a trial you thought would never end? Or, have you ever gotten to the point that you felt like giving up? Have you ever wondered if God was even aware of the circumstances that were going on in your life? If so, you will find encouragement in these verses. Peter reminds us that God knows how to rescue godly men from trials. Peter also lists for us a number of examples of how God responded to sinful people and held them accountable for the distress they inflicted on righteous people. He used the example of Lot. He lived in the midst of lawless circumstances and felt tormented for years. In time, God delivered him from it. Peter makes the point that God is able to deliver you as well. He stands to defend us against the sin of our world that seeks to inflict trials upon our lives. In the midst of incredible sin and hardship, God will deliver the godly while holding the unrighteous accountable. Are there circumstances in your life that require the hope this passage provides to keep you pressing forward? Is there someone who needs this hope? Why not share it with him? Never forget that God knows who you are, where you are, and He cares for you.

**EXTRA READING**

2 PETER 2

What can you learn about false teachers from this passage? One thing we can learn is that God has a very grim view of them. Another thing we see in these verses is the list of the characteristics for false teachers. Did you notice them? The first is that they take real Christian fellowship and distort it in order to practice their ungodliness. Opportunities that are meant to be good times of fellowship become times for false teachers to indulge their flesh. A second characteristic is that they use their positions and abilities to do spiritual work for personal gain. Their true motivation is to make money and not to help people. Although they had at one time displayed an appearance of godliness, the pattern of their lives illustrates that their true nature was far from God. We need to be careful in whom we place our trust and whose example we follow. In fact, we need to examine our teachers to make sure they are truly living according to God's standard. It is a blessing to have a teacher who is not like the men in this chapter. If your teacher is a godly man and not like the men in this passage, why not write and thank him. Let him know you are praying for him. It would be an encouragement to him.

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

**EXTRA READING**

2 PETER 2

## 2 PETER 3:1-10

COMING SOON

**SAY WHAT?**

How can you be prepared for Christ's return?

**SO WHAT?**

In what specific ways can you tell if you really believe He will come back soon?

**NOW WHAT?**

How are you working to help others be prepared for Christ's return?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Why hasn't Christ returned yet? When will He come again? To some, His delay indicates that He is not coming back at all. Peter closes this book by addressing the scoffers who claim that Christ is not coming back and lets us know why His return has been delayed. He first addresses the scoffers and speaks to some of their points. Some scoffers say that the evidence that Christ will not return is that things have gone on the same since the beginning of time. Peter reminds us that they have not taken into account that God had long ago judged the world by flooding the earth, which illustrates the absurdity of their point. Things have not continued the same since the beginning of time. Then, Peter explains that to God a day is like a thousand years. So to Him, it has only been about 2 days since He left the earth. Peter also explains that the return of Jesus Christ has been delayed to provide more people with the opportunity to be saved. His delay is not the neglect of His promise, but the fulfillment of it. When His patience has ended, He will come. The return of Christ has been delayed so that people you know will have an opportunity trust Christ. Will you be the one to tell them what Christ has done?

**EXTRA READING**

2 PETER 3

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

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## 2 PETER 3:11-18

## GETTING IT WRONG

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

Why do people have different interpretations of the Bible? One answer, though not a very comfortable one for us, is found in today's reading. Peter concludes this book with an admonition to live a godly life, and then encourages us in reading what Paul has written. Peter knows that some of what Paul wrote is not easy to understand. As a result, some people, who are ignorant and unstable, have distorted Paul's teachings and have led people astray with their wrong interpretations. We need to realize that sometimes people will share interpretations that are wrong, intentionally or unintentionally. They are wrong because those who make them are ignorant. They do not have the knowledge or skills they need to correctly handle the passage. It might also be wrong because they are unstable. They go back and forth between positions and beliefs. They are not firmly grounded in the Word. We need to be on our guard, lest we get carried away by false teaching. We need to make sure that our positions are based on solid interpretation principles and not just someone's ideas or opinions. It is too important to get it wrong!

**EXTRA READING**

2 PETER 3

Today you begin a journey through the book of 1 John. This book contains important information about our salvation. It provides for us the characteristics of someone who is truly saved and the characteristics of someone who is not saved. It is a book that can give you assurance or reveal that you are not really saved. With this in mind, why not read through 1 John with that theme in mind, and record your discoveries. Each day, read the passage given and write down your observations in the space provided. Then, at the end of this book, examine your life to see if the fruits of true salvation are present. One important thing to keep in mind is that the Christian life is a process. While you may still struggle in areas that reflect the life of an unbeliever, they should be diminishing with time. You need to ask yourself if you see growth in those areas. You may not be happy with how much you have grown, but the question is are you making progress? Begin each day with prayer and ask God to reveal where you really stand before Him. You might want to involve others who will not only help you evaluate yourself, but help you do something about what you see.

**SAY WHAT?**

What characteristics of a believer does John reveal?

**SO WHAT?**

What characteristics of an unbeliever does John reveal?

**NOW WHAT?**

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

**EXTRA READING**

1 JOHN 1

## 1 JOHN 2:1-11

## OBEDIENCE

**SAY WHAT?**

What characteristics of a believer does John reveal?

**SO WHAT?**

What characteristics of an unbeliever does John reveal?

**NOW WHAT?**

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

Continue the project we began yesterday. Read through today's passage and continue to write down the characteristics John lists for believers and unbelievers. Ask God daily to reveal the true condition of your heart through your discoveries from this book. Are you gaining assurance or becoming concerned with your findings?

**EXTRA READING**

1 JOHN 2

Today we continue the project we began a couple days ago. Read through today's passage and continue to write down the characteristics John lists for believers and unbelievers. Remember to ask God daily to reveal the true condition of your heart through your discoveries from this book. Are you gaining assurance or becoming concerned with your findings?

**SAY WHAT?**

What characteristics of a believer does John reveal?

**SO WHAT?**

What characteristics of an unbeliever does John reveal?

**NOW WHAT?**

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING

1 JOHN 2



## 1 JOHN 3:1-10

## CONTINUED SIN

**SAY WHAT?**

What characteristics of a believer does John reveal?

**SO WHAT?**

What characteristics of an unbeliever does John reveal?

**NOW WHAT?**

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

We are on day 4 of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics you see that John gives for believers and unbelievers. Remember to ask God to reveal to you what your discoveries are telling you about your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance or becoming more concerned?

**EXTRA READING**

1 JOHN 3

We are on day 5 of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics you see that John gives for believers and unbelievers. Remember to ask God to reveal to you what your discoveries are telling you about your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance or becoming more concerned? Are you becoming concerned about someone else?

**SAY WHAT?**

What characteristics of a believer does John reveal?

**SO WHAT?**

What characteristics of an unbeliever does John reveal?

**NOW WHAT?**

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

**EXTRA READING**

1 JOHN 3

## PROVERBS 31

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

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We are on day 6 of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics you see that John gives for believers and unbelievers. Remember to ask God to reveal to you what your discoveries are telling you about your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance or becoming more concerned?

**SAY WHAT?**

What characteristics of a believer does John reveal?

**SO WHAT?**

What characteristics of an unbeliever does John reveal?

**NOW WHAT?**

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING

1 JOHN 4

## 1 JOHN 5:1-12

## LOVE FOR GOD

**SAY WHAT?**

What characteristics of a believer does John reveal?

**SO WHAT?**

What characteristics of an unbeliever does John reveal?

**NOW WHAT?**

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

We are on day 7 of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics you see that John gives for believers and unbelievers. Ask God to reveal to you what your discoveries are telling you about your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance or becoming more concerned? Are you becoming concerned about someone else?

**EXTRA READING**

1 JOHN 5

This is the last day of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics you see that John gives for believers and unbelievers. Remember to ask God to reveal to you what your discoveries are telling you about your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance, or becoming more concerned?

**SAY WHAT?**

What characteristics of a believer does John reveal?

**SO WHAT?**

What characteristics of an unbeliever does John reveal?

**NOW WHAT?**

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING

1 JOHN 5



## 1 JOHN 5:13

## THAT YOU MAY KNOW

**SAY WHAT?**

What characteristics did you see in your life that provide evidence of genuine salvation?

**SO WHAT?**

What characteristics did you see in yourself that are evidence of someone who is not saved? Have you observed any growth in these areas?

**NOW WHAT?**

Summarize what these answers tell you about where you stand in your relationship to God.

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of the conclusions you have come to, what do you need to do now? How are you going to do it?

We have just completed reading through this great book and jotting down our observations of the characteristics of believers and unbelievers. John closed this book with the statement "I write these things to you... that you may know that you have eternal life." As you read through it, did you see evidence of your salvation? What conclusions have you come to about your own walk with God? Has your reading given you assurance? Has it revealed that you have eternal life, but you need some work in specific areas? Or, has it revealed that you do not truly have eternal life? Use today's questions to help summarize what you have learned. Be honest about what you have found. Then talk to someone who can help you understand what it means, as well as how to respond in a Biblical manner. Remember to be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer! Has it caused you to become concerned about the spiritual condition of someone else? What can you do to be helpful to them?

EXTRA READING  
MISSED PASSAGES

What does it mean to “walk in the truth?” Knowing people were “walking in truth” brought John great joy. How do we know if we are walking in the truth? Walking in the truth simply means that you have ordered your life according to the Word of God. It means you know what the Bible says, and you are obeying it in every area of your life. In fact, according to verse 6, our love for Christ is demonstrated by our obedience to His commands. To disobey what the Bible says is to show that we do not truly love Christ. Additionally, walking in the truth means that people who observe us see an individual who is honest. Walking in the truth means we do not gossip or make fun of others. Walking in the truth means that we are obedient to our parents and show them respect, even when they are not around to hear what we are saying. Walking in the truth means that our speech always reflects Christ. You see, walking in the truth means that our lives and conduct are consistent with what the Bible teaches. Could it be said of you that you “walk in the truth?” Are there areas of your life in which you do not? Does your walk bring joy to those who teach you? What needs to change?

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

2 JOHN

## 3 JOHN 9-15

## IMITATION

**SAY WHAT?**

In what ways are you like Diotrephes?

**SO WHAT?**

In what ways are you unlike Diotrephes?

**NOW WHAT?**

What characteristics do you need to change in order to be less like him and more like Christ?

**THEN WHAT?**

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Who do people say you remind them of? The answer to that question could reveal a lot to you about yourself. John shares in this short book that we are to imitate what is good. That is, we ought to remind people of good things and good people. We should not be imitating people or things that are wrong. John uses Diotrephes as an example of imitating what is wrong. He was someone who obviously imitated evil. John tells us that he was a man who loved to be first. He must have been very selfish for others to have observed this in him. Would people in your world describe you this way? John also wrote that he was someone who maliciously gossiped about others. What conclusions would we come to if we listened to what you talked about today? To make matters worse, Diotrephes refused to welcome other brothers. Do you? When a new person comes to your school or church, do you reach out to him and make him feel more comfortable? Diotrephes wouldn't have. Does any of this sound like you at all? What kind of reputation do you have? Do your friends and acquaintances think of you like John did of this man? What needs to change or improve in what or whom you imitate?

**EXTRA READING**

3 JOHN

What does it mean to pray in the Spirit? How does one do that? There is often confusion about what Jude is asking us to do in this passage, but the answer is really quite simple. To pray in the Spirit means to be guided and led by Him. It means that we are not led by our own selfishness when we pray. That would not be praying in the Spirit, but praying in the flesh. We also pray in the flesh when we pray using our own intellect. We request what seems to make sense to us and do not pray according to God's wisdom. Praying in the flesh also might include asking God to energize what we want instead of seeking His will and desires. Praying in the Spirit is not a mystical thing that only spiritual people can do. It is something we all can and should do. How do we accomplish this? By letting God control our wants, and seeking His will rather than our fleshly desires. Examine your prayer life. Are you praying in the flesh or in the Spirit? Is it God's will you are seeking or your own? Are you selfishly asking God to conform to what you want or are you asking Him to conform you to what He desires? What needs to change in order for you to pray in the Spirit?

### SAY WHAT?

How can you determine if you pray in the flesh?

### SO WHAT?

In what ways do you see evidence that you are praying in the Spirit?

### NOW WHAT?

What can you do to begin to eliminate your flesh from dominating your prayer life?

### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

## EXTRA READING

JUDE



 PILGRIMAGE



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enemy the devil  
prowls around like a  
roaring lion looking  
for someone to  
devour.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

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