

08/01/08

Proverbs 24:11,12 The world needs to hear from you!

The Great Commission (Mark 16:15-20) is for all believers to fulfill. That includes you! You have a message the world is waiting to hear. Everywhere you go, someone needs to know what you know about Jesus. Do you offer them the truth? Whether they accept it or reject it is on no concern to you. Its enough for you just to present the truth, and from there, its between them and God. You've done your job. Somewhere right now someone is praying for answers to life's problems. God intends to tell them through YOU! You are the answer to someone's prayers today. You're told to DELIVER those drawn towards death. How? Tell them the Good News! Don't be afraid to do this. God will empower you, equip you and anoint you. Be strong and do it!

Many Christians bury their heads in the sand when it comes to the Great Commission. They pretend the unsaved don't exist, and do nothing to challenge them concerning the condition of their souls. Don't let that be a description of you! Be involved. Get interested in the people around you. At work, school, in the neighborhood, on the airplane, at the supermarket. Wherever you go, God is looking to use you to spread hope to people who have none. What an honor you have! And what a responsibility! You can't hide from it, or pretend it doesn't exist, or hope it goes away. The calling is without repentance (Romans 11:29). Hold back those stumbling towards their slaughter. Proclaim the love of God, and let your words be the words of hope to those who need Jesus like you once did. Someone reached out to you; be that someone to somebody else, today!

08/02/08

Philippians 4:13

This was the secret to Paul's success in ministry, and it's the secret for our success in life today. Notice there are 4 steps that lead to success and fulfillment here.

1. No amount of persecution could pressure him to quit and turn from serving God. No matter how intense the persecutions, challenges and difficulties we face in this life, it must never move us away from our commitment to serve God 100%.
2. He did not count his life dear to himself. To enjoy this life at the expense of God's perfect will is nothing less than sin in His eyes. Remember that!
3. He wanted to finish the assignment God had given him. The most beautiful words we'll ever hear one day when we see Jesus in Heaven will be, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" That says it all!
4. His desire was to preach the full gospel, not a partial, watered down Gospel. People need to hear the truth, even if its not popular or well-received. Ministry is not a popularity contest."

08/03/08

Jeremiah 1:5

The Bible says that before you were born God knew you! He has sanctified you for His work even before you were conceived, so don't let the devil, the world or unbelieving Christians discourage you from finding and fulfilling your destiny in Christ! Be busy about the Father's business, do what you can do, and God will lead you step by step into His plan and purpose for your life!

Before your birth, God was thinking about you! You are special to God! You are a unique work of His creative power, and He has already mapped out a perfect plan for your life. Psalms 40:5 says that if we tried to count the times God thinks about you, we couldn't do it! Its too many times! And Jeremiah 29:11 says that when He thinks about you, His thoughts are GOOD, designed to give you hope for your future! Spend time in God's Word, and in His Presence through prayer. Let Him encourage you, and show you what His plans are for your future! Do what you can do in His Name, and trust Him to lead you each

day of your life. He will! He loves you, and has loved you not only since you were born, but from eternity past! Let Him have His way in your life, and you will find true joy, happiness and satisfaction.

08/04/08

Isaiah 6:8 Are You Available?

The Bible says that in Christ, we can do all things. The moment we say we can't do whatever God tells us to do, we're calling Him a liar! God has given us everything we will ever need to be triumphant over the devil, his world system, and our still-dead-to-sin flesh. We have the Name of Jesus. We have the living Word of God. We have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. We have angels available to help when needed. We have spiritual armor. We have 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit. And lastly, we've already been declared the "winner" before any fight of faith begins! Don't listen to the lies of the devil, or the lies of those who do his bidding. In Christ, you can tackle and overcome anything that tries to stand between you and the victory Jesus provided, and now promises for you daily!"

08/05/08

Isaiah 1:19 The Blessings of Availability

God is telling you that if you be willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land. To "eat the good of the land" means your needs will be met, and you will bear fruit for the glory of God. To be willing and obedient is to make yourself available to His plan, purpose and will, and that is the prerequisite for the blessings of God to manifest in your life as He has promised in His Word.

Notice that two things are required to eat the good of the land. First, you must be willing to make yourself available, and let God run your life, not you. Second, you must be obedient to say or do whatever He asks of you, when He wants it done, no questions asked. Many Christians are either one or the other, but not both. Some are willing but not obedient, others are obedient but not willing. Be both! Go to God in prayer today, and ask Him to show you whether or not you've been truly willing AND obedient to Him. And depending upon His answer to you, make the necessary adjustments with the Holy Spirit's help, so you can position yourself to reap the harvest of blessings in your life as God has promised. Proverbs 3:5,6 tells you that if you trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not to your own understanding and acknowledge His Lordship in your life, He will direct your steps! Be available today, and everyday. Willing and obedient. The good of the land awaits you!

08/06/08

Philippians 3:10 Do you really know your God?

Do you really want to know your Heavenly Father? You should! But it won't happen until you desire it to happen. God is always reaching out to you, ready to talk, impart, guide, counsel, strengthen, encourage. But you have to come to Him, and express the desire to be intimate. He's never too busy for you, but He won't barge into your life without an invitation! The more you know God, the more you love Him. The more you know God, the more you trust Him. The more you know God, the more you can do, and the farther you can go in this life for Him. The more you know God, the more fruitful your life becomes. The more you know God, the stronger you are. Get to know Him! Know Him better today than yesterday, but not as much as tomorrow.

Christians need to make knowing God top priority in their lives, and the number one desire to see fulfilled in their lives. If they did, what a difference it would make in this world! So many of the stupid things believers say and do wouldn't be done or said if they knew God the way they should. But they have not because they ask not (James 4:1-3). They don't know God because they don't WANT to know Him. Its not that important to them. Is it to you? It should be. Look at Paul, and what he accomplished in his

life? Also look at the intense persecution that came against him. He was victorious at every turn because he took time to know God intimately. If you want that same measure of success, know your God! They who know their God shall be strong, and do exploits (Daniel 32:11)!

08/07/08

Philippians 3:10 Do you know the power of the resurrection?

Evangelism can only be successful to the degree the power of God is in manifestation. Paul said the kingdom of God is not in word, but power (1 Corinthians 4:20). God wants to channel His power through YOU to bring the miraculous to those who need it, but it won't happen unless you WANT it to happen. Paul's second desire in life was to have that power flowing through him consistently. You should want that too. It should be a foundational desire in your life. You shouldn't be content until it flows out from you consistently. One miracle is worth ten thousand sermons! Christianity becomes exciting when we live it in the power of God. It takes beyond intellectualism and into a realm only the child of God can go, and where no devil can interfere!

Luke 11:5-13 records a prayer for power. Its commonly called the prayer of "Importunity," but few Christians understand it's purpose. It's a prayer you pray OVER AND OVER, because it's a prayer that asks for the power of God to "feed" the hungry souls that God sends into your life. How do you feed them? With God's power. You pray it over and over because yesterday's power manifested yesterday, today you need a fresh impartation of power to take care of today's needs, and today's witnessing opportunities. Like the manna in the Old Testament, you can't live on yesterday's miracles, you need fresh manifestations of God's power daily, but you have to want it, that's why you pray this prayer everyday, never ending intercession for the power to change men's lives, and protect your own! Begin today. Desire it. Pray for it. Experience it! Share it!

08/08/08

Philippians 3:10 Do you know the Lord's sufferings?

This desire separates the mature from the immature in the body of Christ. Yet only the mature understand why this must be the third foundational desire you want from God in your life. Its in the times of persecution you grow the most, do the most, experience the most, and get anointed the most from God. Jesus was the most anointed man ever, He was also heavily persecuted for it. But the more He was persecuted, the stronger and more focused He became. Same with Paul, and the same with you! To desire to know the Lord's sufferings is not some errant plea for sickness or disease, as some would have you believe. Instead, it's a plea to be put out on the front lines, to know what its like to be God's front-line fighter in the army of the Lord! That is where God can be found, and where you'll grow beyond your wildest dreams!

Don't shy away from persecution. Embrace it! Luke 6:22,23 says to LEAP FOR JOY when you encounter hatred, animosity, anger and persecution for your faith. Desire it! Of course that seems foreign to most believers because they're shallow, immature and selfish. Not you! Not today, not ever! Persecution is like spiritual weight-lifting. It toughens you up. Makes you stronger, less distracted and more focused upon the task at hand, evangelism of souls! 1 Peter 4:1 says if you suffer in the flesh, you'll cease from sin! What a truth to understand! If you want to grow stronger in God, desire the knowledge of our Lord's persecutions! When it comes, don't cry, rejoice! Acts 5:41 says the apostles REJOICED they were counted worth to SUFFER SHAME for the Name of Jesus. How about you? Are you desiring this? Most don't because they're weak and immature. Are you?

08/09/08

Philippians 3:10

Are you conformed to his death?

To be conformed to His death means to have your flesh in control and submission like Jesus did. No more carnality ruling in your life! Your spirit is in control, and the Holy Spirit has free reign to move and work in your life to bless others. Jesus said the prince of this world had nothing in Him (John 14:30). That means Satan had no avenue into His life, the flesh was not available to successfully entice our Lord to sin. Oh yes, Jesus was tempted in every way you are (Hebrews 4:15), but He was so focused in spirit He overcame every temptation, and the same ability lies within you! Don't let your flesh have its way against you. Subject it to God's Word, and make it obey! Like Jesus did. Paul said he died daily (1 Corinthians 15:31), and you must do the same!

What a joyful place to be in when you have your flesh in total submission to the Lord's will and Word. But this doesn't happen just because you love God. It happens because make this the fourth basic desire of your life. Know this, if you don't control your flesh, it WILL control you! If you are not conformed to our Lord's death, you're carnal, and therefore, disqualified for God's power, anointing, intimacy and abundant blessings. Don't let your flesh rob you any longer! It's an enemy and a thief, and if you give it place in your life, the devil will take full advantage of the opening. Desire total sanctification! Accept nothing less! Be satisfied with nothing but total conformity to our Lord's death. Its hard work, everyday you must put your flesh in it's place, but its so worth it!

08/10/08

2 Timothy 2:3,4

Don't be entangled!

Remember this truth: **THE TOP PRIORITY IS TO KEEP THE TOP PRIORITY TOP PRIORITY!** You are a soldier in the army of the Lord. You mustn't allow the affairs of this life to entangle you and take you away from God's plan, priority and purpose for your life. Most believers have allowed this to happen, that's why they're struggling in life the way they are. Are you struggling? Perhaps its because the top priority isn't top priority anymore in your life. Jesus told the Ephesians church they had left their first love (Revelation 2:4). Don't leave your first love! Its an easy thing to do. Hebrews 12:1-3 tells us that sin can easily ensare us. May it not be so with you! Do what it says in that passage! Look unto Jesus, everyday, all day! His plan should be your plan, and no other! The world wants to entangle you, don't allow it to!

Satan always looks for ways to distract you with the cares and allures of this world. But as a child of God, you must recognize his tactics, and resist him steadfast in faith. Your life's value isn't measured in what you acquire, possess or accumulate from this world. Success is measured by the length of the line of people in heaven - who are there because of you! When you stand before the Lord someday to be judged, the number of people you helped for Jesus will determine the value of your life, and the relative success of your life. Never forget that! Don't be entangled with the pursuit of creature comforts in this life, they all perish one way or the other. But souls saved through you represent eternal treasures accredited to your heavenly account, which no man can take and no devil can destroy. God's top priority is always on reaching souls. Is that your top priority?

08/11/08

Psalms 46:10

BE QUIET! God IS God!

With your lifestyle so full of distractions everyday, its always important to take time to stop, reflect and consider the God you love and serve. In 1 Peter 5:7, the Word of God encourages you to give ALL your cares to the Lord. Do you? Most believers don't. They choose to hold on to their problems through worry, fear, anxiety, impatience, bad attitude and more. But when facing the pressures of life, the daily grind of life, or the unexpected and seemingly impossible challenge that comes your way, do what

God says to do, stop, be quiet, and spend TIME waiting on the Lord. Don't ask for anything, just be quiet and consider the greatness of your God. The more you do that, the easier it is to stand in faith for whatever it is you need from Him.

How often should you get quiet and consider the Lord's greatness? Daily! As often as you can, everyday. The more you do this, the bigger God becomes to you. Problems, circumstances, obstacles, hurdles, setbacks, disappointments and all the rest will diminish in size and relative importance proportionate to the time you spend in God's presence, silently meditating on His Word and greatness. Too many believers spend what little time they have in prayer talking, instead of listening. God said to be STILL, and KNOW that He is God! It's one thing to say God is God in your life, but do you really KNOW He is? Be still, and KNOW! Find a quiet place today, and cultivate the habit of waiting on the Lord in silence, just meditating on His greatness. Remember Ephesians 3:20 says God can do exceedingly above all you can ask or imagine. BE QUIET AND THINK ABOUT THAT!

08/12/08

Psalms 50:5 THE COVENANT OF SACRIFICE

There is much in the Bible about the Covenant we have with God in Christ. However, there is one part of covenant study very few Christians know much about. When it comes to covenant, always remember that God never meets you at your point of convenience, but instead, at your point of SACRIFICE. Every victory in your life is a collective effort. God has a part to play, and you have a part to play. You know God is good for doing His part of the covenant agreement, but as for you, what kind of "giving" are you offering to God for your part of the effort? What are you willing to do, give up or let go of? How far are you willing to go for God? The answer to that question might help you determine the level of help you can be expecting from God!

God will always do what you can't do as long as you do what you can do! And many believers don't do much for God, then wonder why God fails to come through for them in the clutch. It's because they're attempting to serve God from convenience, rather from sacrifice. Convenient giving doesn't impress God. Sacrificial giving impresses God. If you're giving something to God that doesn't cause sacrifice on your part, God's not really interested in the gift. God is the God who is "MORE THAN ENOUGH". But for many Christians, they reach a point and then just say "THAT'S ENOUGH!" No more. I've reached my "limit". Is that you? Do you have a Covenant of Convenience, or a Covenant of Sacrifice?

08/13/08

Psalms 34:4 It's Time To Overcome Your Fears

Seek the Lord when you face the fears that come to grip you and paralyze you in life. In His presence, you're going to find the strength to acknowledge the fears, face them for what they are, find the courage to address them, and get the plan of action that will finally rid you of the bondage that came with those fears in your life. If you choose to go it alone, and try to tackle these fears without God, you're going to be very frustrated and unsuccessful. God wants to help you overcome whatever fears hold you in bondage, but you have to acknowledge Him, and open yourself to His guidance, counsel and power. When you do, no fear can ever rule and reign in your life again!

Everyone has fears to deal with, and that includes you! The fears that challenge you might be different than those which challenge me, but either way, God is well able to help all of us come to a place of continual victory. If you seek the Lord, He WILL deliver you from the fears that grip you. Whatever they may be, no fear is above the power of God. Fear opens the door to the devil, and gives him a place to operate in your life. Don't give him that place any longer. Face your fears! Confront them! Declare your

victory over them in Jesus' Name. When you're feeling weak and fearful, SAY that you're strong in the Lord (Joel 3:10). Give Him your words, your heart, your faith. All things are possible to you if you believe! (Mark 9:23)

08/14/08

Psalms 35:27 REJOICE! Prosperity is Scriptural

Relax! Prosperity is God's idea, not yours! He WANTS you to prosper financially. Why? To fund His righteous cause. What's that? Winning souls, and disciplining those already saved. Nothing else matters to God, and that's the purpose for why He wants you to prosper. Its not all about expensive cars, ridiculously large homes, lavish wardrobes and wasteful, opulent living. No! Prosperity is all about evangelism, period! As long as you remember that, and use your resources to further the Kingdom of God, you never have to apologize for prosperity in your life. When you prosper, God says to be glad, and shout for joy! Why? Because the more you have, the more you can partner with Him to fulfill the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-20).

All evangelism costs money. The more money you have the more you can do to work with God to win souls. Think about that! Those who say they're content with poverty or lack are really declaring their selfishness, and lack of concern for the world's lost. You should want to prosper as much as possible, because the more you have, the more you can give to the work of God. Along the way, God won't hesitate to bless you with nice things, but remember, He's not into wastefulness and greed! Keep your eyes focused on the world's lost, and you'll be able to resist the temptation to use your prosperity for worldly purposes and pursuits. If you favor God's righteous cause, then believe and work towards prosperity!

08/15/08

2 Timothy 1:14 Use It Or Lose It!

Paul told Timothy to KEEP the things God had given Him. How do we guard what we've been blessed with from God? By using it for Jesus! The more you use your gifts, talents, money and abilities for God, the better able you are to protect them from the thief. Also, the more you use your gifts and abilities from God, the fresher they will stay in your heart, mind and life. Every time you use your God-given gifts to help another person, you're reminded of your purpose in this life, and it becomes a refreshing balm to your heart and mind. It makes you feel good! How good are you feeling today? Where does your sense of satisfaction come from?

There are many scriptural principles to live in awareness of. One of them is the "Use it or lose it" principle. Whatever God has given to you, is to be given to others in the Name of Jesus. This is where you find your true sense of worth, value and satisfaction. Nowhere else. Nothing this world offers can compare to the beauty of outreach to others. Good works done in the name of humanity won't suffice either, because they're all done in the arm of the flesh. But when you work with Jesus to help others, using God's gifts and talents which He gave you, you move beyond the flesh into the refreshing of the spirit, where the Lord waits to commend you, bless you and encourage you to keep it up. You also strengthen yourself against the temptation to quit. You keep what you have by giving it away. That's God's way, is it your way today?

08/16/08

Psalms 27:1 Do You Know Where Your Strength Is?

You must be strong to overcome your enemies in this life. Where should you go to get the strength needed to stand strong in faith, everyday for the rest of your life? Its in Jesus. He IS your strength. He is where you turn when you need the strength to prevail against the attacks of the enemy. He was the

strongest man that ever lived, and the devil could never touch Him as a result. The devil tried many times, but always unsuccessfully. Jesus said the devil had tried to gain an inroad into His life, but had nothing in Him (John 14:30). That measure of strength is available to YOU TODAY, if only you spend time with the Lord, and let Him strengthen you with His power, presence and counsel. Make time for Him today, He's the strength you need right now!

In Luke 10:38-42, two sisters had the opportunity to draw strength from Jesus. One did, the other didn't. Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus, and listen to Him teach. Martha chose to be busy in ministry for the Lord. Most believers are like Martha. They are busy doing things for Jesus, without the strength needed to do what they do successfully. Why? Because they aren't spending time with the Lord. Be like Mary, not Martha. One thing is necessary, and Mary identified it, so be as smart as she was. He IS your strength, and the only way to tap into that strength is to hang with Him, period. The more you're with Him, the more of His strength becomes your strength. Do you want to be stronger than you are today for the work of ministry, the work of marriage or the work of family? Find Jesus, sit at His feet, and let His strength be imparted to you!

08/17/08

Colossians 4:2 Praying The Word

Prayer is one the greatest ways to exercise your authority on earth. There are many kinds of prayers, and to be strong and successful in life, you must be familiar with all of them. One of the best ways to CONTINUE IN PRAYER is to pray the Word. The Holy Spirit inspired certain prayers to be prayed by the saints, which were included in the Canon of Scripture. Praying these prayers consistently will ALWAYS produce positive and desired results because they're prayers given by the Holy Spirit, and He knows what God wants, and what God responds to (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Start researching the Word to find the prayers that are inspired, and begin praying them on a regular basis. Some are found in the Old Testament, others in the New Testament. Pray them everyday, and you will see results. These prayers work! I've prayed them for years, and I know they work. When you pray these prayers, make them personal. Use the pronoun "I" when you pray them. Expect God to do exactly what you are saying, and marvel at the results when they manifest! Because prayer is one of the greatest ways to exercise authority, these prayers are absolutely essential in your prayer times. Make a point to find them, and pray them everyday! CONTINUE IN PRAYER!

08/18/08

Ephesians 1:17-23 Are You Praying the Word in Ephesians 1?

When praying the Word, several inspired prayers can be found in Ephesians. Chapter 1:17-23 is one of those prayers. Read it carefully, meditate on what is prayed about, and then make it personal and pray it for yourself, for your spouse, your kids, your employees, whomever! Pray it this way: "I pray that you Father, the God of my Savior Jesus, and Father of all glory, give ME a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus. That the eyes of my understanding be enlightened, that I may know what is the hope of your calling, and what is the riches of the glory of your inheritance in the saints. I pray I know the exceeding greatness of your power, which you worked in Christ, when you raised him from the dead, and set him at your own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, power, might, dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the one to come. For you O' God, have put all things under his feet, and given him to be head over all things to the church, his body, of which I am a part, which is the fullness of him who fills all in all."

You're praying for spiritual wisdom and understanding. You're asking God to make real to you the magnitude of Christ's victory over Satan through the resurrection, and that now, as a member of our

Lords' body, all enemies are put far beneath your feet in Jesus! If they're far below Him, and you're part of His body, then they're far below YOU! Pray that out until the truth of that begins to register in your spirit, and in your mind. Keep praying it! Grow in wisdom, knowledge and spiritual understanding!

08/19/08

Ephesians 3:14-21 Are You Praying The Word in Ephesians 3?

A second inspired prayer found in Ephesians in chapter 3:14-21. It's a prayer for the spiritual strength needed to walk in love and faith consistently, fully aware of the fact that when our faith is working through love, God can do whatever we need for Him to do, there are no limits on His ability in our lives. Personalize it. Pray it this way: "I bow my knees to you God, the God and Father of my Lord Jesus, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth are named. I pray that you would grant me, according to the riches of your glory, to be strengthened with might by your Spirit in my inner man, and that I, rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, the length, breadth, height and depth, and to know the love of God, which passes all understanding, that I might be filled with all your fullness everyday. And now to you O' God, who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all I could ask or imagine for, according to the power working within me, be glory in the church through Christ Jesus, unto all ages, world without end, Amen."

God can do over and above all you ask for, or even think to ask for! Think about that! But its according to his power working in you. What power? The power of faith working through love! Pray this prayer until the truth of that sinks in, and begins to dominate your thinking, talking and living.

08/20/08

Philippians 1:9-12 Are you praying the word in Philippians 1?

A THIRD inspired prayer is found in Philippians 1:9-12. It's a prayer that you can pray to develop the love walk in your life. You're asking for God to reveal Himself to you more and more, and as He does that, you become more and more in touch with His love within you. As that happens, you're praying that you become more fruitful day by day, letting His love dominate your life in everyway. Personalize it. Pray it this way: "I ask Father, that your love, which is shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Spirit's presence, will abound more and more as you reveal yourself to me more and more each day. I pray that I may approve the things that are excellent in your sight, and that I may be sincere and without blame until the day Jesus returns, being filled with all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, to your praise and glory. Amen!"

God's love is already inside you. When you were born-again, the Holy Spirit took up residence within your spirit. When He did that, God's love was shed abroad in your heart (Romans 5:5). That means you can love like God! Its not impossible, it only requires diligence to pray for it consistently, and practice to develop it day by day! This is a great prayer to pray! Pray it as often as you can!

08/21/08

Colossians 1:9-12 Are you praying the word in Colossians 1?

A FOURTH inspired prayer is found in Colossians 1:9-12. It's a prayer that you can pray to be filled with knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding – to walk worthy of your calling as a child of God everyday, pleasing Him in everything you say and do. You're praying to become fruitful, to grow in knowledge of God, to be strengthened in your spirit, with patience, power and joy being the hallmarks of your life. Lastly, you're praying to maintain an attitude of thankfulness. Personalize it. Pray it this way: "Father, I pray to be filled with the knowledge of your will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. That I might walk worthy of you Lord, pleasing you in everyway everyday,

being fruitful for your glory, and increasing in my knowledge of you. I pray you strengthen me with all might, unto all patience and longsuffering with joy, always giving thanks to you Father, for you have made me a partaker of the saints in light, and have translated me out of the kingdom of darkness, and translated me into the kingdom of your dear son, in whom I have redemption, the forgiveness of my sins. Amen!"

This is a prayer you should pray everyday! Its so full of power, and the things you're praying for are so NECESSARY everyday in your life! Pray it faithfully, and watch God do exactly what you pray and ask Him to do.

08/22/08

First Thessalonians 3:10-13

Are you praying the word in First Thessalonians 3?

A FIFTH inspired prayer is found in First Thessalonians 3: 10-13. Once again, this is a pray you can pray to have God's love within you developed to it's fullest extent. You're praying for God to help you increase and abound in love in 3 areas; 1) Love towards believers, 2) love towards sinners, 3) and love towards God Himself. When that begins to happen, you enter into true holiness, with a heart that is established and unshakeable! Personalize it. Pray it this way: "Father, I pray that your love, shed abroad in me, will increase and abound more and more towards Christians, unbelievers, and most especially, towards you! As I do this, I thank you my heart will become truly holy, established and unshakeable, everyday - until my Lord's return. Amen"

True holiness is simply letting the love of God have it's way in you and through you. Holiness is not about the external, but all about the internal. God is love – and God is holy. He said you're to be holy as He is (1 Peter 1:15,16). So, you're to walk in love as He is love (1 John 4:17), and the more you do, the holier you become in His sight! Religion doesn't know the first thing about true "holiness". Don't be religious – be real! Its all about letting God's love dominate, and that makes you the holy person God wants you to be. Pray this everyday, and let that love dominate towards Christians, unbelievers, and most importantly, towards God Himself!

08/23/08

Psalms 100:4

Do you know how to approach God?

The Bible tells you exactly how to approach God, yet most believers don't do it correctly. When you come to God in prayer, come before Him with THANKSGIVING! Let a thankful heart be the foundation for every episode in your prayer closet. Instead of starting your conversation with a long list of things you want from God, start by recounting all the good things He's ALREADY provided you in your lifetime. Just doing that would occupy your time for quite some time! The Bible has a lot to say about developing, and protecting, a thankful heart. Its what I call an "Attitude of Gratitude". How about you? Do you tell God daily about how thankful you are for all those good and perfect gifts He's given you? If not, why not?

At this time of year, Americans celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. For Christians, this should have special meaning. Really, EVERYDAY should be a Thanksgiving holiday for us because of what we enjoy in Christ. Stop and think about all you have because of Jesus, and make that the focal point of your prayer time. Salvation. Health. Healing if you get sick. Prosperity. Mercy. Forgiveness. Patience. Love. EVERY perfect gift has come to you from God (James 1:17). Thank Him for these things. Not just once in awhile, but everyday, many times during the day. The more you thank God for what you have, the more you appreciate what you have.

08/24/08

2 Chronicles 32:24-26 Do you have Hezekiah's problem?

When Hezekiah was in trouble, he reached out to the Lord for help, and got the help he needed. Have you ever reached out for the Lord's help in a time of trouble? And when He delivered you, did you thank Him for it? Do you still thank Him for it? Are you grateful for what Jesus did to get you out of the mess you got yourself into? Hezekiah wasn't. And many Christians are like him today. Ungrateful and unthankful. They act like God owes them an answer to their prayers. Notice Hezekiah "did not repay according to the favor done to him (vs.25), for his heart was LIFTED UP. That means he was prideful. An unthankful heart is a prideful heart. Don't let that be you! Count your blessings right now, and spend time thanking God for them. Pride is the root of so many evils, and an unthankful heart is one of the prime ways that pride will manifest in your life.

As you prepare to enjoy your Thanksgiving Holiday this year, make sure you spend time meditating on all that God has given you. Never mind all the hours cooking food – instead focus some quality time in prayer, thanking God for the many blessings you enjoy today. Too many Christians spend their time in prayer talking to God about all they don't have, when they should be thanking God for what they do have. A roof over your head? Food on the table and in the cupboard? Clothing to wear? A healthy body to live in? Air to breathe? A decent job? A loving, caring spouse? Children who love you and the Lord? On and on you can go – so start today! Be THANKFUL! Be GRATEFUL! God has been good to you! Let Him know you appreciate His goodness in your life!

08/25/08

Luke 17:12-19 God expects your thanks!

When miraculously healed from leprosy, one man out of ten came back to thank Jesus for his healing. One in ten! What did Jesus say about that? "Where are the other nine?" (vs.17) In other words, Jesus EXPECTS your thanks, even if He doesn't specifically ask for it. It's implied and understood that when God does something good to you or for you, you're to say "thank you"! Do you do this? Many believers do not. They just take God's goodness for granted, never stopping to say "thanks" for what they've been given. And many times, sinners are more thankful than believers! In our story today, the healed man who came back was a "foreigner" (vs.18) That means he didn't even have a covenant with God, like the Jews. Yet he had enough presence of mind to come back and thank the Lord for his healing. How about you? Too busy to say "thank you" to God? Change if you need to!

For every one who comes back to say "thanks" to God, there are nine who don't. Just like in today's story, most people have an attitude of ingratitude. Yet the man who came back was a Samaritan, an outcast from the Jewish nation. Nine Jews got healed, one Samaritan. Who came back to say thanks? The Samaritan. Are you like the Jews who didn't bother to say "thank you", or the Samaritan who took the time to return and offer thanks for his healing? What has God done for you lately? Have you spent time on your knees saying "thank you"? I hope so, because an unthankful heart is one of the signs of the times (2 Timothy 3:2)! Don't let that be you! Be thankful everyday, because everyday is a gift! Many living today will never see the light of tomorrow, they'll be dead before the sun comes up. Today is God's gift to you, cherish it and thank Him for it.

08/26/08

2 Timothy 3:2 Are you a sign of the end times?

Paul wrote to Timothy and told him what signs to look for that would indicate the soon return of our Lord Jesus. One of the signs is many people exhibiting an unthankful and ungrateful attitude. Would you be classified that way today? Think about it. Do you spend more time with God talking about the things you don't have, rather than praising and thanking Him for the things you already have? Many

people do exactly that when they pray. Yet in Psalms 100:4, we're all told to come into the presence of the Lord with THANKSGIVING first! Thanking Him for all He's already provided creates the right atmosphere for fellowship with your Heavenly Father, and reminds you that even if you never received another blessing from God, you already have enough right now to shout the victory for the rest of your life!

As the return of our Lord draws closer, we're going to see this attitude of ingratitude increase. More and more, people are going to have the ungrateful "you owe it to me" attitude, and while we can expect that from unbelievers, it should NEVER be the attitude displayed by Christians. Of all people, believers should be the first to walk in a daily awareness of all they have in Christ right now, salvation, healing (if needed), health, promised prosperity, dominion, authority over the devil, you name it and God has given it, already! So don't be like the many around you who always grumble about what they don't have. Be thankful! Be grateful! Be appreciative of all you've been given by God's grace. The more you do this, the more insulated you'll become from the unthankful, and the better your times of fellowship will become with God!

08/27/08

John 4:34

What kind of meat do you like?

Jesus told His disciples His "meat" was to do the will of God. That means He found His strength, sustenance, power and direction from finding and fulfilling God's will. The same is true for you. Your source of strength, life and health, from a spiritual perspective, is to do God's will. Amazingly though, many Christians live life in a state of total ignorance of God's will, and then wonder why their life lacks purpose, direction, excitement and fulfillment. God knows what's best for you, He knows what you need more than you know what you need. Give Him the chance to prove that truth by making the decision to find and fulfill God's perfect will for you life, nothing less and nothing else.

Hebrews 10:7 says Jesus came for one purpose, to do God's will. That is your purpose too. Do God's will. Ecclesiastes 12:13 tells you your whole duty as a human being is to fear God and keep His commandments. In other words, find and do God's will. That is your purpose for existence, and nothing else. Do you know what God's will is? Most believers don't know. They have a vague concept of what God's will might be, but they've not taken time to study the Scriptures to really find out. God's will is all that matters, so take the time to find it and fulfill it! Nothing else should matter to you. If you really love Him, prove it by keeping His commandments. John 14:15 says that if you really love Jesus, you prove it by keeping His commandments. Do you love Jesus? Then do His will, and keep His commandments. Period. This is the meat that provides you with life force, nothing else.

08/28/08

1 Thessalonians 5:18

How do you fulfill God's will?

When Jesus said His meat was to do God's will in John 4:34, He was saying He was a very thankful man. Why? Because First Thessalonians chapter 5 says to be thankful in all things because THIS is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Thankful in all things! That is God's will for you. Be thankful, not just in some things, but in all things! Don't be thankful FOR all things, that's not what God is saying. Be thankful IN all things, which means that no matter what you're going through in life, be thankful that God's word has a promise that covers your situation, and guarantees your victory if you stand in faith. So if you want to please God, be a thankful person like Jesus was. Not just in good times, but in ALL TIMES!

God has never said we should be thankful FOR all things. Don't thank God for cancer, car crashes, catastrophes, heart attacks, child rebellion, etc. Don't thank God for the work of the devil or the flesh. But

IN everything, thank God for the guarantee of victory! As an example, if you're battling sickness, don't thank God for being sick, but instead, thank Him for 1 Peter 2:24, that declares that by the stripes of Jesus you WERE healed! Thank God in everything. No matter how difficult your life may get at times, stay thankful, and stay grateful. It provides you with the power to keep everything in perspective, and that is an important part of your step by step journey to victory!

08/29/08

Romans 1:21 You will lose what you are not thankful for!

Thanklessness begins a progressive walk away from God. The more ungrateful you become, the more distance there is between you and God. If you don't reverse the trend, you'll wake up someday and wonder how you drifted so far away from the Lord! So take the time to stop, pause and reflect on ALL the benefits God loads you with daily (Psalms 68:19)! The more you do, the more thankful you'll become!

Reflect on these statistics. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, be thankful! You're more blessed than the million who won't survive the week. If you've never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, be thankful! You're ahead of 20 million people around the world. If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, be thankful! You're more blessed than almost 3 billion people in the world. We'll keep going with this list tomorrow! Stay thankful! Be grateful! Appreciate everything God has given you!

08/30/08

Psalms 119:62

One of the reasons David was so blessed by God was his thankful heart. Over and over as you read through the Psalms, you read how thankful and grateful he was towards God. I believe its one of the prime reasons he's called a man after God's own heart. He never got tired of saying "thank you" to God! Yes, he made mistakes, and committed sins. Just like us today. But in spite of all his failures and shortcomings, he remained grateful, and never took God's love, forgiveness, mercy or grace for granted. Do the same in your life today, and everyday! In the middle of the night, David would rise, not for a midnight snack, but just to thank God for His righteous judgments! Think about that! How many do you know who do such things? Do you?

Reflect on these statistics. If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, be thankful! You're richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in your pocket, be thankful! You are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If your parents are still married and alive, be thankful! You're indeed rare, especially in the United States! Set your alarm for midnight! Get up and say "thank you" to God! You have so much to be thankful for!

08/31/08

Psalms 112:4 HOW COMPASSIONATE ARE YOU?

One of the signs of the end-times is that people will become more and more hard-hearted. More uncaring, selfish and callous. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 talks about this. And since these are the last days, that is a list of common attitudes and actions we can expect from people all around us. Matthew 24:12 says that the love of many will grow cold in the end-times. Well, what is our response as Christians? Exactly what our verse today tells us. We're to offset that cold, selfish and unloving mindset with the compassion of Christ. Our verse today tells us that we're to be FULL of compassion, which means its literally oozing out of us we've got so much of it! Is that a description of you today? Or are you more like those who don't know

the times in which they live? One of the things people so admired about Jesus was His compassion. He cared about people, and did things to help them. He didn't just have pity, He had compassion. Pity and compassion are not the same. Pity feels sorry for somebody, but doesn't get involved to help. Compassion not just feels sorry for someone's plight, but looks for ways to actively get involved to help improve things on their behalf. People who follow after God are supposed to be full of compassion like Jesus. Not only do we feel sorry for people as they struggle along, but because we're in Christ and have authority on earth in His Name, we have the power, and the mandate, to go do something to help those struggling around us. Are you involved in anyone's life because your compassion has compelled you to get involved? That's a good question to ask on a regular basis. How badly do you care about the problems others may be have? If you have access into their lives, are you moved with compassion to offer help? Jesus would. How about you?