

05/01/09

Philippians 4:8

### THINK ON THINGS THAT ARE TRUE

When God tells us to renew our minds to His Word (Ephesians 4:23), he also tells us exactly what to think on. By telling us what we should be thinking on, He is also telling us what we should not be thinking on! And when examining this list in Philippians 4:8, we see the first item on the list are TRUE THOUGHTS. God wants us to think on things that are TRUE. What does that mean for us in the New Testament? It means we're to think on the fact that when we got born-again, we were placed in Christ, FAR ABOVE the enemy, or any situation he could ever bring against us. When the devil tells you you're defeated, that's not true. When he says he's got you over a barrel and there's no way out, that's not true. When the doctor says you have no choice but to die, or no choice but to live with sickness the rest of your life, that's not true.

What is true, based upon the truth of God's Word? Using health and healing as the example, while it may be true that you have some kind of incurable sickness, the HIGHER truth of God's word says that by the stripes of Jesus you WERE healed (1 Peter 2:24). Therefore, while it may be true you're sick, its also true that in Christ, you have the ability to use your faith to receive your healing. So instead of meditating on what the doctor says, meditate instead on what God says about you, your faith and your free will – all the things that can put you over no matter how things may look otherwise. Think on things that are true! Its true that you're under attack, but its also true that you can do all things through Christ who is your strength (Philippians 4:13). Greater is the Holy Spirit in you than the devil in the world (1 John 4:4). That's true, so think on that thought – nothing else! Find the truth in God's word, then think only the thoughts that agree with what God says about you. Think on things that are true! You're seated right now in heavenly places in Christ, (Ephesians 1:20-23). That's the truth, and so those are the true thoughts you need to meditate on. Today, and every day in Jesus!

05/02/09

Philippians 4:8

### THINK ON THINGS THAT ARE NOBLE

First we're told to think on things that are true, and the second thing to think on are things that are noble. What does that mean? The word "noble" comes from a Greek word which means "honorable". What God is telling us here is to think on honorable things, or things worthy of honor. We're supposed to be thinking thoughts that honor God, honor Jesus, and honor our fellow believers. If our thoughts dishonor God, we've got no business thinking those thoughts! How do you dishonor God? By going your own way, and doing your own thing. Believers who never take time to fellowship with God are not honoring Him as God. When your thoughts are all about you – and what you're doing, and how you're doing it, etc – those thoughts are not honoring God.

Our thoughts should always be centered on God, because it honors Him when we put Him first place in our lives – and especially in our thought lives. Meditating on God's goodness, greatness, glory, power – those are the thoughts that are "noble". When I think this way, I like to meditate on 1 Chronicles 29:11-13. That's a great passage to use when you want to think thoughts that honor God. Thoughts that take God out of our daily affairs are thoughts that dishonor Him, and so we're told not to allow that to happen. Jesus said that He is the vine, and we're the branches (John 15:5). The vine is where the life source is. Without the vine, the branches will wither and die. Think thoughts that magnify that truth! Acts 17:28 says that in Him we live, move and have our being. In other words, we're NOTHING without Jesus, so think that way and you'll keep your thoughts protected every day. You'll be honoring God with your thoughts, and that's exactly what we're told to do!

05/03/09

Philippians 4:8

### THINK ON THINGS THAT ARE JUST

The third thing we're told to think on are things that are just. The word "just" could also be translated "righteous", because that's what the word means. "Just" is a shortened form of the word "justified", and "justified" simply means "one who has been made righteous". So we're supposed to think righteous thoughts, or thoughts that are just. What does that mean? It means we're to meditate on the fact that because we're saved and in Christ, we're now the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). That means we stand before God as clean, blood-washed and blood-bought people – with no trace of sin upon us whatsoever! That's why in Hebrews 4:16, God tells us to come to Him **BOLDLY** when we need help in times of need. Because of who we are in Christ, there should never be any shame or guilt associated with our times of fellowship with God. He doesn't see us as old sinners anymore. Instead, He sees us through the blood of Jesus, and therefore, sees us as righteous beings – new creatures who are just as righteous as Jesus is (2 Corinthians 5:17)!

Did you know you can't work on being righteous? You either are, or you aren't. Christians are, unbelievers aren't. There is no process here. It's not like sanctification, which is an on-going, life-long process of growth and maturing in Christ. Righteousness is a state of being – it happens the moment you accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, and it's a completed work – you're never in various stages of righteousness. To be a child of God means you're made totally just and righteous – standing before God totally clean and sin-free! That's how you're to think of yourself – all the time – especially when you've just sinned, disappointed God, or broken a vow you've made to the Lord. Especially in times of failure, you're to meditate on your righteous standing with God. Why? So that you won't hesitate in coming to Him to find grace, mercy, forgiveness – and everything else you'll need from Him to get back on track and restore communion and fellowship with Him on a daily basis. So the next time the devil comes along with thoughts about your unworthiness to even talk to God because of the sin you just committed, you think on this! You remind yourself (and the devil too for that matter) that you're righteous, and that even in the midst of failure or sin, your righteous standing with God is still in force. Why is it still in force? Because your righteousness is from God – not from yourself (Isaiah 54:17). You didn't make yourself righteous – God did! And He's not about to revoke it just because you've sinned or failed in some way. That's why He's merciful, and quick to forgive! 1 John 1:9 says if we confess our sins, He's faithful and just (righteous) to forgive us and cleanse us from all **UNRIGHTEOUSNESS!** Righteous is what you are – whether you feel like it or not. So think of that – every day. It will help you assume your proper place of dominion and Divine Fellowship, no matter what is going on in your life.

05/04/09

Philippians 4:8

### THINK ON THINGS THAT ARE PURE

The fourth thing to think on are thoughts of purity. In this day and age, what an important admonition for all of us! Purity has, in many circles, almost become a curse word these days! Everywhere you look, you see manifestations of impurity in the culture and society in which we live. And because our eyes are windows to our soul, it becomes imperative for us to discipline our thought life, and not allow any impure thoughts to be entertained. If your thoughts aren't pure, you must get rid of them immediately, because if you don't, they'll take root and begin to create a stronghold in your mind. And once an impure stronghold has been created mentally, it takes much more effort to get rid of it. It's like what happens when you thaw a piece of meat on your kitchen counter. If you put a slab of ground beef on our kitchen counter to thaw, what do you have several hours later when you pick up the meat? You have the pool of red juice that has come out from the meat. Now if you take a dish rag and wipe it up right away, it's an easy thing to clean up after. But if you leave that red pool of juice sitting on the kitchen counter for several days, you're going to have to scrub much harder to get it cleaned up.

That's the way it is with impure thoughts. The longer you tolerate them or entertain them, the harder they are to get rid of. So don't give them any place in your mind. Think on things that are pure – and protect your mind from the attacks that come at us every day from many different angles. Purity is not an old-fashioned idea, no matter what our culture or society may say about it. There is power in purity because God is not only holy, but pure as well. If you want to be like God, you're going to have to discipline your thoughts. Make sure only thoughts that are pure are allowed - none other. That's not going to be an easy thing – that's why you have to work at this with God's help and strength. But to protect your mind from becoming Satan's stronghold of impurity against you, you have to monitor your thoughts constantly, and be very selective about what you allow inside your mind. When thinking about the opposite sex for example, be very careful about the types of thoughts you're thinking. It's a very small step from harboring a few stray thoughts of impurity – to being totally overwhelmed with the stronghold of impurity in your mind. I've seen many sad examples of that in the 20+ years of my ministry. Don't let it happen to you, and if you've got issues in this area, you owe it to God and to yourself to pull down those impure strongholds in your mind. Take the broom of God's word, and clean out your mind! If you don't do it, it won't get done.

05/05/09

Philippians 4:8

#### THINK ON THINGS THAT ARE LOVELY

The fifth thing to think on are thoughts that are lovely. What does that mean? It means to meditate on pleasant thoughts that edify, encourage, uplift, exhort, soothe, comfort – or do whatever is necessary to bring you to a place of peace and Divine serenity in Christ. And in this stressed out day and age, we all need to do this more often! If you find yourself thinking on thoughts that increase the level of stress in your life, you need to replace those thoughts with thoughts that remind you of God's goodness and greatness. Those are lovely thoughts indeed! In the Greek, the word translated "lovely" means "pleasing and agreeable". Thoughts about God that are pleasing and agreeable with your spirit are the thoughts you should be thinking. From Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, "lovely" is defined as having those qualities that inspire love, affection or admiration – a) beautiful exquisite, b) morally or spiritually attractive or gracious, and 3) highly enjoyable. Spiritually enjoyable, pleasing, soothing, affectionate thoughts that inspire your love for God – that's what you're to be thinking on.

God is altogether lovely! He is pleasing to think on, and very agreeable with our spirit's inherent desire to enjoy life the way God intended. To think this way is very therapeutic – it ministers health to you from the inside out – and that's important if you're to maintain a correct spiritual perspective when living in a world that is governed by sin and run by the devil himself (2 Corinthians 4:4). All around you, you find people, things, situations and circumstances which promote and generate thoughts of anger, frustration, anxiety, fear, aggression, revenge – and so much more that's evil and deadly. Replace those thoughts with thoughts that glorify God, and bring a measure of His soothing peace to your mind. Lovely thoughts! God is GOOD – that's a lovely thought! God is IN CONTROL – that's a lovely thought! God is IN LOVE WITH YOU – that's a lovely thought! God CARES FOR YOU – that's a lovely thought. Every good and perfect gift comes down from Heaven – that's a lovely thought! Every blessing you have has come from God – that's a lovely thought! God's not against you – He's on your side – that's a lovely thought! Are you getting the picture? Think lovely thoughts – and none other! Don't let the sinful, evil, selfish, self-centered world cram your mind with thoughts that are unlovely. Think lovely thoughts – and allow those thoughts to salve your heart and bring soothing, healing balm to your mind!

05/06/09

Philippians 4:8

#### THINK ON THINGS THAT ARE OF GOOD REPORT

The sixth thing we're told to think on are things of good report. That means if its bad news – for you or for somebody else – we're not supposed to be thinking about it. In relation to the work of ministry, we're to take this command and discipline our thoughts so that instead of dwelling on the negative side of a situation or story, we concentrate on the positive side – the faith side. Faith is the evidence of things not yet seen (Hebrews 11:1), so when we're told to think on things of good report, we're to focus our thoughts on the desired end result according to the Word of God – regardless of how things may look otherwise.

This is the opposite to how many Christians think however. Most believers, because their minds aren't renewed and disciplined in this area, naturally gravitate towards the bad news – and not only meditate on it, but actively spread the gossip as far and as fast as possible. No matter how bad the story gets, we're told to find the good – using our faith – and think those kinds of thoughts instead. In other words, we're to stay positive in our thinking at all times – believing and imagining the best scenario that agrees with God's plan, purpose and perfect will. That's how we think on things that are of good report. If 99% of what we hear about somebody or some situation is bad or negative, and only 1% is positive, we're instructed to think ONLY on the 1% that's positive. Never mind dwelling on all the bad reports – let's concentrate on the good which can be found in ANY situation – if only we'll train ourselves to do this consistently according to the Word of God. So instead of always focusing on the negative in your mind, discipline yourself to reverse that trend, and focus on the good for a change!

05/07/09

Philippians 4:8

#### THINK ON THINGS THAT ARE VIRTUOUS

The seventh thing to think about are things which are called virtuous. That word “virtuous” in the Greek is specifically talking about things of MORAL EXCELLENCE. In other words, we're to concentrate our thinking on things that are excellent examples of scriptural morality. If its not moral according to God's standard of right and wrong - don't think on it! That's what we're told to do here. No matter how muddled our social values become, always remember that as far as God is concerned, right is still right, and wrong is still wrong, and there is no grey area in between. So don't allow your mind to become filled with thoughts that promote immorality in any form or expression. Keep your mind moral.

The standards for morality are found in the Bible, and nowhere else. If you want to protect your thinking, and keep your thought life moral, you're going to have to have an understanding of God's laws, because those are the laws that define and establish the moral code we live by. The moral problems we see today in the world are the direct result of people attempting to define morality with definitions outside of the Word of God – that's why there's so much confusion! Let me say it again – right is right, and wrong is wrong, and God's definition of both hasn't changed to accommodate our promiscuous, lascivious and selfish culture. Therefore, if God's standards remain unchanged and constant, be sure your mind stays shored up and protected from ANY thoughts that promote or exalt immorality in anyway. Deep down in the heart, all men know what's right and what isn't. God's standard of morality has been encoded and stamped within each of us in such a way that if we take the time to check down on the inside of our spirits, we're always going to know what is and isn't moral. This is how we then can identify and isolate thoughts that aren't of moral excellence. If your thoughts are setting off the “Moral Alarm” down on the inside of you – that's a clear indication to get rid of those thoughts! Think only on things that are virtuous!

05/08/09

Philippians 4:8

#### THINK ON THINGS THAT ARE PRAISE WORTHY

The eighth and final thing we're told to think on are things worthy of praise. Whatever thought you have that glorifies and praises God, that's a good thought. Whatever thought you have that glorifies

men (including you) and draws praise away from God, that's a bad thought. Train your mind to meditate only on thoughts about God's character, nature, activities, promises, power, protection, provision – or whatever else we find about Him in the Bible. Those are thought worthy of praise. By doing that, you automatically position yourself for an active and productive faith life, because your faith will never rise above the level of your thinking! The more you meditate on things worthy of praise to God, the stronger your faith is going to become.

Using health and healing as an example; always think thoughts that demonstrate victory, never defeat. Thoughts worthy of praise here would be mental images of sick people being healed, recovering to full health, never getting sick in the first place, or any other thoughts that agree with the truth about Divine Healing. God's will is ALWAYS to heal the sick – Jesus proved that in His earthly ministry. So your thoughts should ALWAYS be thoughts of people getting the healing they need, or staying as healthy as possible. Any other thoughts are thoughts that need to be eliminated. The doctor may say you're going to die, but God's Word says that if you believe, you can be healed. So – put only the thoughts in your mind that reinforce that truth. See yourself well. See yourself healed. Think like that, and talk like that. And don't think or talk any other way – no matter how you feel or how you look. This discipline covers anything in life – find the thoughts that glorify and praise God, and stay with those, and those alone.

05/09/09

1 John 3:22

### 3 WAYS TO POSITION YOURSELF FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

Success and answered prayer is not some great mystery. God, in very easy-to-understand language, tells us EXACTLY how to come to a place where our prayers get answered, and where we live life with success, satisfaction and fulfillment. God gives us the 3 steps to take to achieve this in our verse today from 1 John 3. In verse 22, God says that WHATSOEVER we pray for we'll receive IF we do the following: keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. Then in verse 23, God reveals to us what it means to keep His commandments. He says the keeping of His commandments has 2 parts: 1) Believe on the Name of Jesus His Son, and 2) Love one another. So we can identify 3 distinct steps to bring us to the place of consistent, speedy, answered prayers and good success. 1) Believe on the Name of Jesus His Son. 2) Love one another. 3) Do those things that are pleasing in His sight. Have you been doing these things in your life consistently?

Once again, realize that in this passage, God is giving all of us the guaranteed way to answered prayer and good success in life. This isn't some marketing program, or some slick "get-rich-now" scheme cooked up by some motivational speaker some where. You don't have to go off to "Success Seminars" to find this stuff out. And you don't need to spend thousands of dollars flying off to exotic places to participate in the latest "Increase" convention. Its all right here, in those 2 verses. You know, certain buzz words always make the rounds in Christian circles. Right now, one of those hot, popular buzz words is the word INCREASE. Everything is about increase. We have books about increase. Seminars about increase. Messages about increase. That's all fine and good – but if people will just DO what God says to do here, the increase will take care of itself. You start getting consistent answerer to prayer, you're going to enjoy increase – God's Word guarantees it! So take a good look at your life today, and ask yourself to what degree these 3 things play a part in your daily affairs. If you need to regroup and reprioritize, then do it! Your success, and your increase, depend upon it!

05/10/09

1 John 3:23

### DO YOU BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF JESUS?

In yesterday's verse-a-day, we saw that according to 1 John 3:22,23, God gives us 3 basic steps to take to come to a place of success and consistently answered prayer. The first of those 3 is to believe in

the Name of Jesus the Son of God. Do you do that? Have you been doing that? Sad to say, most believers don't. Oh yes, they have a certain, small measure of faith in Jesus – which they used to get saved in the beginning. But they've never cultivated a vibrant, living faith in the power of His Name. Notice carefully how God phrases this statement. He didn't say to believe in Jesus Himself – but rather – to believe ON THE NAME of Jesus the Son of God. Why is that important to distinguish? Because when Jesus went back to Heaven after being resurrected from the dead, He was coroneted and proclaimed the “winner” by God. It was then like the “Winner's Circle” at the end of a car race today, where the winning driver is proclaimed and the celebration begins. In front of all of Heaven, Hell and Earth, God declared Jesus the victor, and re-established Him at the right hand of God, with all His power and privilege of Deity restored (see Hebrews 1). But God also did something else: He proclaimed the Name of Jesus to be the most powerful name in the Universe – that at the Name of Jesus, EVERY KNEE WOULD BOW. Where? Where every knee is located – either in Heaven, Earth, or under the Earth (see Philippians 2:8-11). That's what we're to have faith in – the power of His Name!

We could talk about the Name of Jesus for hours and hours – because it is THE Name above every name. And when we use His Name in faith, demons have to flee, sicknesses have to go, and poverty has to yield. Have you noticed that in public arenas of conversation, people – even sinners – are not at all ashamed or hesitant to talk about God, or even to talk about Christ. But they won't say the Name of Jesus! There's something special about that Name that even sinners recognize. They'll talk about God. They'll talk about Christ. They'll talk about Heaven – but seldom do they use the Name of Jesus – except when they're cursing of course! Why is that? Because the devil doesn't care if we talk about Christ all day long – that's not the Name above every name. Jesus is special because that's the Name of our Lord's humanity, and in His humanity, He whooped and defeated the devil, took back the keys of hell and the grave, and re-established man's rightful place of authority on earth – the way it was in Adam before the fall. So use the Name of Jesus! Use it in faith, and use it every day. Sometimes I like to lay in bed, and as I'm falling off to sleep, I'll just whisper His Name out loud, softly to myself. I love it! As the old gospel song goes: There's something about that Name! So true, so true!

05/11/09

1 John 3:23                    ARE YOU LOVING OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU?

God gives us 3 basic steps to take to come to a place of success and consistently answered prayer. In yesterday's verse-a-day, we took a look at the first of the 3, which is to have faith in the Name of Jesus. Today we examine the second step, which is loving others with the God-kind of love. Do you? Most of us in the body of Christ do not. Oh, we read books about love, hear sermons about love, go to conferences with themes on love – and never come to the place where we're actually loving our neighbors the way God wants us to. Its very sad, and it must change if we're to get our prayers answered in these last days. I'm firmly convinced this is the #1 reason why prayers go unanswered – right here. People aren't walking in love. 1 John 4:20,21 says it all for a Christian. Don't say you love God – whom you've never even seen – and then fail to love fellow believers – whom you see every day. If you do that, the Bible calls you a LIAR! Are you a liar today?

This takes dedication, and hard work. It isn't easy to love people – especially when they're not loving you in return. Jesus said as much in Matthew 5:46. If you only love those who love you, there's no challenge in that is there? Anyone can do that. But when you love as God loves – you take your love walk to a whole new level! But getting to that level of Divine love dominates will take discipline, effort and constant practice. And frankly, most believers don't see the value in doing such things to become better at loving one another. That's tragic, because even if you have all faith to move mountains, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 says you are NOTHING without love. Galatians 5:6 says faith WORKS BY love. No

love, no faith! Its that simple, and without faith you can't please God (Hebrews 11:6), so you see how important it is to get a handle on loving one another. And God plainly says that if you want your prayers answered, you're going to have to do this, whether you like it or not. Volumes could be written on this, but for our devotional today, let me just encourage you to make this TOP PRIORITY in your life. It has to be – its that important. Never mind about developing your faith – if you don't work on this, your faith will never effectively accomplish anything.

05/12/09

1 John 3:22                    ARE YOU PLEASING TO GOD TODAY?

The third of the 3 steps to take to get our prayers answered is found here in this verse. God says we're to keep His commandments, and DO THOSE THINGS PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT. Whoa! That's a mouthful, isn't it? If you're not doing things that please God, you're cutting Him off from your life, and your prayers won't get answered. Its that simple. Its like what Paul told the Colossian Christians. He told them to walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him (Colossians 1:10). Are you doing that? Take an honest look at your life today – the choices you're making – the things you're doing. Is everything pleasing to God? If not, make your adjustments today, while you have the time to do so. Don't put this off for another day. If you know things are out of order before God, you MUST address these things in your life NOW. Otherwise, God will continue to be cut off from you, and you'll continue to give the devil a place in your life.

I love what God said about Jesus when He was on the mountain top with Peter, James and John. God said: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am WELL PLEASED (Matthew 17:5). Jesus pleased God with everything He said and did. No wonder His anointing was so "off the charts!" No wonder He could walk with such a measure of Holy Spirit power. No wonder! Well, although we're not THE Son of God, we're A Son or Daughter of God, and we've got the ability to live lives that are just as pleasing to God as the life that Jesus lived. Its all up to us, and just a matter of choice and priority. Paul said it this way: Whether we're with Him in Heaven, or absent from Him here on earth, we always want to be WELL PLEASING TO JESUS (2 Corinthians 5:9). That's our goal. That's our daily objective. That's the ticket to continuous, answered prayer. Live your life for God's approval and pleasure, and any prayer you pray will be answered, and you'll enjoy a measure of success so great, you'll have to pinch yourself to see if its really you being blessed so much!

05/13/09

1 John 2:14                    OVERCOMING THE ENEMY JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN!

I love this verse! I love it because its not just talking about physically young men, but rather, men who think and act young at heart. Why? Because John is talking about spiritual strength, which is a kind of strength that comes from our spirits, not from our physical bodies. Physically, young men are stronger than older men simply because they're younger. In the spirit however, that's not true. In fact, many times it's the opposite. Why? Because in spiritual matters, the level of strength you walk with is determined by how much of the Word of God is in you, and how much of that Word you allow to dominate in your life. It has nothing to do with how big your biceps are! Instead, it has everything to do with your ability to use the Word of God as the Sword of the Spirit its described to be in Ephesians 6. Why did John say these "young men" were strong? Because the Word of God was ABIDING in them. To have the Word abide within you means you've taken the time to meditate on scripture to such a degree that your spirit is literally overflowing with God's Word. It means you don't just retreat to God's word when you've tried everything else and this is the last resort. No! It means you're so full of the Word that no matter what you're facing, God's Word just comes rolling out of your heart and mouth!

Jesus said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth WILL speak (Matthew 12:34). The more of God's Word you put in our heart, the more abundantly you'll have that Word on call for any emergency or situation you may face. We're programmed in such a way by God that WHATEVER we have in our hearts the most is what will be coming up out of our mouths in times of crisis. The mouth really doesn't have a choice! That's why when it comes to the issue of spiritual strength, realize that if God's Word abides in you the way it should (read Joshua 1:8), you'll come to a place of such strength that no devil will be able to stand against you. That's why John ends this verse by saying the strong ones HAVE (past tense) overcome the wicked one. "Have" means its already a done deal. Finished. If you haven't yet put the devil on the run in your life, perhaps its because the Word of God isn't yet abiding within you as it should. If so, there's an easy solution. Prioritize your time and make the feeding upon God's Word first place, top priority every day. That's all there is to it! So now it becomes a matter of your priorities, so choose wisely!

05/14/09

Proverbs 22:3                    **MANAGE YOUR WEAKNESSES!**

Every person has inherent areas of strength, and inherent areas of weakness. Satan knows this, so he tries to find each person's specific areas of weakness – and that's where he will concentrate his attacks against you. And because we're all different and unique, what areas you're weak in are probably very different from areas that I'm weak in. As an example, one person might have a real struggle with tobacco, but for me, that's not a temptation at all. But whatever and whomever, each of us is responsible for honestly identifying our areas where we're weak – where we've chronically fallen into sin in times past, or disappointed God in, and ATTACK those areas with prayer, Bible Study, counseling, accountability to others – or anything else that needs to be done to secure – and maintain – victory in that particular area of weakness. Our verse today also admonishes us to stay away from areas of temptation, where it would be much harder to resist the enemy's efforts to get us back into the old, sinful habits.

This was the difference in the Old Testament between Kings who were called good, and the one King who was called great. If you read 1 and 2 Kings, you'll find there were many kings at that time, and most of them were evil. However, there were a few good kings. Jehoshaphat, Asa, Jehoshaphat and Solomon – all were described as good kings. But the reason they didn't become great is because they permitted the high places to remain. For us today, the "high places" are those areas of chronic weakness and failure that the devil has successfully used against us in times past. Josiah is the only king in that period to be called great by God. Why? Read 2 Kings 23, and note how many times it says he attacked to high places to destroy them. None of the other good kings did this – that's why there were good but never great! My friend, you can't just ignore your weaknesses and hope they just magically go away. You have to identify them and then launch an all-out campaign to see them overcome in your life. Of course God will provide us with the spiritual strength to get the job done, but you have to WANT the victory badly enough to do WHATEVER it takes to secure victory. And one of those things we can do is to do what the prudent man does – he avoids the "evil places". Those are the places that stir up the flesh to sin the same old sins. Do what you have to do to stay as far away from areas of potential compromise as possible. God will help, but you have to do it! You owe it to God, and to yourself, and to the world – to overcome the high places in your life!

05/15/09

Colossians 1:29                    **HOW TO LET GOD WORK IN YOU MIGHTILY**

This verse reveals one of the "secrets" to our success in life and ministry. Like Paul, we must come to the place where the work we do is done according (or in agreement with) to the power of God,

which works in us MIGHTILY! I've meditated on this verse for years, trying to plum the depths of this simple truth. I'm convinced that herein lies the key to our success as Christians, and as ministers of the Gospel. We have to get to the place (and stay there) where God is flowing through us, and His anointing and power is able to express itself to confirm the things we say about Jesus. When that happens, we get into a "Divine Flow" that carries us to where God wants us to be. There is no struggle. We move beyond trying to work for God, and instead, let God do His work in us. There is a big difference between the two. Are you there yet?

As I've meditated on this truth, God has shown me certain ways whereby I can let the Holy Spirit work in me and through me mightily. Notice the word "mightily" here. God's not just talking about a few answers in prayer to minor issues in our lives. He's talking about a mighty and convincing flow of power that continues to manifest itself through us for ministry. We're talking about miracles, signs, wonders and mighty deeds. We're talking about the signs of the believer, as recorded in Mark 16:15-18. This is what Paul talked about when he told the Corinthians that God's kingdom does not come in word, but in POWER! We must win this world to Jesus, and to do that, we must have His power in constant manifestation to confirm the things we say about the Lord. Without that power, our message has no life, and no ability to draw anyone to Jesus. So in the next few days, we'll look at different ways to let God work in us MIGHTILY. You need to pay special attention to these teachings, because you'll never realize your fullest potential until you learn how to let God's working work mightily in you!

05/16/09

1 Thessalonians 3:12

#### LET GOD'S LOVE FLOW THROUGH YOU

The key word in today's devotional title is the word "Let". God's love is the foundation for everything we are, and will ever become in Christ. 1 Corinthians 13:1-4 tells us that without love in manifestation, our lives are nothing more than hot air, wasted time and effort. The good news is that God's love is already in you by virtue of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. When you accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit came to take up permanent residence within you. When that happened, you received the love of God, shed abroad in your heart by the Spirit of God (Romans 5:5). However, just having that love within you doesn't automatically make you a great lover! No! Love must be practiced in order to develop, just like you have to exercise physical muscles before they grow and become stronger. Are you letting God's love flow through you? Most believers are not, and that is what is preventing them from coming to the place in life where the power of God dominates in them and through them.

When God says that "Love never fails" in 1 Corinthians 13:8, He means exactly what He says. If you let the love of God have its way in you and through you, you'll come to the place where the power of God flows through you unimpeded. It takes hard work and constant discipline to get to the place where the love of God dominates your life, but it can and must be done! Love will ALWAYS win out, if only we'll use it, walk in it, and exercise it on a consistent basis. Like when you're lifting weights in the gym. If you want to become stronger and look more muscular, you have to lift weights. The more you lift, and the heavier your weight routines become, the stronger you get. That's the same way we let God's love grow; by using it, practicing it and letting it develop within us. That's why the Bible says to rejoice when you get persecuted for your faith (Luke 6:27-31). Why rejoice? Because you know your love is being exercised as you choose to love the unlovely. The more unlovely people are, and the more you show love to them in return, the faster your love walk will develop. And when that happens, you are coming to the place whereby God's love becomes the dominate spiritual force in your life. Our verse today talks about loving in 3 ways. First, love God. Second, love other believers. Third, love the unlovely, the unsaved! When you do that, verse 13 says you will become established in holiness before God, and basically at that

point, no man can harm you, no devil can touch you. Jesus proved it can be done, and He told us we could do the same as He did. Are you committed to seeing this love within you develop? If so, don't whine and complain when difficult people come into your life. Rejoice, and leap for joy! You're letting God work in you, and His work is MIGHTY!

05/17/09

1 Timothy 6:12

### FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

Paul told Timothy to fight the good fight of faith. Living by faith is one of the ways we let God be God in our lives. The decision to trust God is a daily discipline we must develop if we're to let God be God in our lives. In many places with many verses, God commands us to live and walk by faith. Why? Because He is a Faith Being Himself, and because we're made in His image and likeness, He EXPECTS us to learn how to function like He does. According to Hebrews 11:1, faith is the evidence of things not seen. Taking that one step further, faith is believing that God will do what He's promised in His word, no matter how things may look otherwise. In life, there is a God-side and a human-side to every victory we enjoy against the devil. God expects us to do what we can do, and we are to believe that He will do what we can't do. What can we do? Choose to believe! That's the essence of faith!

When we choose to believe God, like Abraham did in the book of Genesis, we're calling things that be not as though they were. God does it, and He wants us to do it too. Read Romans 4:17-21 carefully. Abraham is called the father of our faith because he chose to believe God's word instead of what he saw in the natural that contradicted the promises of God. He knew he and his wife were too old to have children, but since God promised it, he chose to believe it anyway! That's faith. And by doing that, the world of the IMPOSSIBLE opened up to Abraham, and what was not possible became reality in his life. God wants to do the same for you, He's no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). In Mark 9:23, Jesus said that ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE to him who believes. What you need to know is that not every Christian is a true believer! Using faith for salvation is the first step, but what about after that? We should be using faith every day for the rest of our lives, choosing to take God at His word even when our circumstances or feelings don't agree with what God has said. It's your choice, but if you want to let God work in you MIGHTILY, you're going to have to choose His word over any other word. The doctor may say you're sick and dying, but God says you're healed now (1 Peter 2:24/Matthew 8:17). The checkbook may say you're broke, but God says that He will supply all your needs by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). The devil may say you're defeated, but God says you're more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37). In every area of life - you choose! God's word, or everyone else's word. That's what the good fight of faith is all about!

05/18/09

Ephesians 6:18

### PRAY ALL THE PRAYERS YOU NEED TO PRAY

We're learning how to let God work through us MIGHTILY, according to Colossians 1:29. We've looked at walking in love, and living by faith so far. Another way to do this is through prayer. Not just some religious exercise disguised as prayer, but real New Testament praying, where we take our proper place of authority on earth, and join forces with God to get the job done in Jesus' name. The verse today tells us that part of our spiritual armor to wear everyday is praying with ALL MANNER of prayer. That means there are different kinds of prayers, depending on what the situation may call for. Christians must learn the different types of prayers to know which prayer is the right prayer to pray at any given time. That's why many of us have experienced frustration in prayer because we haven't prayed the right prayer at the right time.

There is the prayer of faith. Then there's intercessory prayer. Then there's the prayer of praise and worship. Then there's the prayer of binding and loosing. Then there's the prayer of agreement. Then there's prayer in tongues. Then there's the prayer of consecration. Then there's the prayer of consecration. Then there's the prayer of importunity. Different types of prayers for different situations, but all designed to produce VICTORY in Jesus' Name. Do you know which prayer to pray each time you decide to pray? Most Christians do not. But if you're to come to a place in life where God works in you and through you mightily, you must become proficient in prayer. There is no substitute for this, because prayer is the greatest exercise of authority on earth! Remember friend, WE have the dominion on this earth, not God! God gave it to man in the garden at the beginning back in Genesis 1:26,27. Through Jesus, we have had that dominion restored to us, so that now, when we pray in the name of Jesus, things MUST respond to our prayers for the glory of God. So get busy and study about prayer. The more you know, and the more you do it, the more you'll come to a place of victory in Jesus' Name.

05/19/09

2 Timothy 3:16

### STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED

Colossians 1:29 tells us to work according to God's working, which is supposed to be working in us mightily! Walking in love does this. Living by faith does this. Praying effectively does this. Another way to do this is to STUDY God's word! When Paul came to Berea to preach in Acts 17, those who listened to him didn't just accept or reject his message. It says they SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES to see if what Paul was saying was accurate. This is what we must do too, since everything God does is always in line with what His word has already said. You owe it to God, to yourself and to the world to STUDY! And guess what? Study takes time and effort. You don't just sit down casually and read a few verses and then expect to become mighty in the Scriptures! No! If you want to be approved by God, you're going to have to devote much time to reading and studying your Bible. Do you do this?

If you study the New Testament, you'll find that there are plenty of false teachers and false cults out there. For every legitimate ministry gift or church, Satan has a counterfeit. God has Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. Satan has false impersonations of all of them. God has anointed churches teaching the uncompromised word of God. Satan has false churches and denominations built on lies and deception. How can you tell the true from the false? KNOW THE WORD OF GOD! Don't believe anyone, and don't believe signs, wonders or miracles unless they can be proven and supported by the word of God. Most of the time, people are led astray not because they don't love God, but because they were ignorant of the scriptures, and didn't recognize the deception they were being exposed to until it was too late. Over the years, I've seen good preachers become deceived with false doctrine, and firmly believe they're totally right in what they believe! This is the power of deception. They that are deceived don't think they are, that's why you have to study and know the scriptures so the devil can't deceive you, either directly or by using false teachers. God can't work through you mightily until you get a firm foundation of Bible knowledge under your belt! Period!

05/20/09

1 Thessalonians 5:18

### BE THANKFUL ALWAYS

Colossians 1:29 tells us to work according to God's working, which is supposed to be working in us mightily! Walking in love does this. Living by faith does this. Praying effectively does this. Diligent study of God's word does this. Another way to let God's power work through you mightily is by consistently being THANKFUL! If you look at 2 Timothy 3:2, you'll see that one of the signs of the end-times are people having an unthankful, ungrateful attitude. You see it everywhere, and this shouldn't be a surprise, since we ARE living in the end-times! However, for a believer who desires to let God do His

work mightily through him or her, having and protecting a thankful heart is a great way to stay in the flow of the Holy Spirit. Being thankful all the time with God has a way of helping us keep everything in perspective, and allows the Holy Spirit to use us more effectively in the work of ministry. Why? Because even when we fail God, He is much less prone to judge us harshly if we've maintained a thankful, grateful heart. I know this by experience!

We're all people with faults, struggles and issues to deal with in life. I'm no exception to this, but one thing I've worked hard to maintain is a grateful heart over the years, and I believe it has kept me in God's flow more often than not. For the most part, there isn't a day that goes by where I forget to thank God for all the blessings He's given me in life. James 1 says that every good gift comes from God. Remember that, and thank him for that everyday. Are you healthy? Thank God for it today! Are you able to pay your bills? Thank God for it today! Are you blessed with a job? Thank God for it! Are you living in the USA, the greatest country on earth? Thank God for it! Do you appreciate God's clear, blue sky, His mountains, lakes, rivers, and all the natural beauty on this planet? Thank God for it! Are you blessed with a wonderful spouse and kids? Thank God for it! Whatever you have in life that's good, it came from God, so be thankful and appreciative for what He's given you. Don't spend so much time thinking about all you don't have. Rather, spend your time thanking Him for all you do have. That list is much longer! Here's a spiritual principle you should never forget. **YOU'LL LOSE WHAT YOU'RE NOT THANKFUL FOR!** Start taking things for granted, and before you know it, you've lost it! Don't let that happen to you! Get into a flow of mighty power in your life by being thankful!

05/21/09

Psalms 5:2,3

### **DON'T SKIP BREAKFAST!**

Most nutritionists will tell you that if you want to have a healthy lifestyle, it will include starting each day with a healthy breakfast. That same truth applies to our spirit man. Starting each day with prayer is the best way to prioritize your time, and keep your spirit fed and healthy. You know, our bodies are just like our spirits, they both need sustenance to grow and maintain good health. If Christians fed their spirit breakfast like they feed their bodies breakfast, they'd be spiritual giants in no time! How about you? The first thing you should do after opening your eyes is to start your day with prayer, praise and worship. That's what David was talking about here in this Psalm. **IN THE MORNING** you'll hear my voice O' God! Does God hear your voice in the morning? He should!

Most believers head straight for the coffee maker when they first get up. Wrong choice! Never mind the caffeine fix, spend your first 30 minutes or so just meditating on the goodness, greatness and faithfulness of God! Then go have your cup of Joe if you need it! Starting your day with an acknowledgment of God is the right way to get your day off on the right foot. Anything less and you'll end up playing "catch up" with God for the rest of the day, and you know how that usually goes. There's a reason why the scriptures encourage us to give God first place when we first wake up. If we don't, the business of the day will more than likely crowd out our intended time with God, and by the time we get done with everything else, it's late and we're exhausted and we don't have the energy to devote to time spent with the Lord. So don't let that be you anymore! Dedicate the first 30 minutes of each day to God, not to the refrigerator, or to the shower, or to putting on your make-up (He knows what you really look like anyway!) or to the donut shop, or to anything else! Spend at least that much time **MEDITATING** on God, reading your Bible, lifting your hands to worship Him, and just making yourself available for conversation and prayer. You'll be amazed at the positive impact it has on your life! "

05/22/09

Micah 7:8

### **GET UP AND MOVE ON!**

What a great verse to meditate on, especially after you've just sinned or disappointed God. You know the feeling right after sin, don't you? You feel guilty, sad, angry at yourself, ashamed and embarrassed. You feel so unworthy of God's time or attention. And on top of that, the devil comes along to try and harass you and make you feel condemned over your sins or mistakes. But in those moments, no matter how you feel, do what our verse today tells you to do! **GET UP OFF THE CANVASS, AND MOVE ON!** When the devil sits on your shoulder, and tells you your such a worm, and so unworthy to be called a Christian, you just laugh at him and tell him what Micah told his enemies. "Don't gloat or laugh over me my enemies! Even though I'm down, I'm not out! I'm getting up! This fight is not over!" That's the correct attitude to protect so that Satan can't condemn you and convince you that God is through using you!

I know by experience , you have to do this by faith. There have been times in my life where I've felt so **BAD** because I've failed my Lord. Yet, in those times I've had to rise above my feelings of shame and remorse, and receive my forgiveness by faith, not feelings. 1 John 1:9 tells us to come to God when we sin, and He will forgive us because He's righteous and just! Thank God for that! But after we receive our forgiveness, we're to have Micah's attitude towards the enemy. Yeah, we fell. Yeah, we sinned. Yeah, we failed God. However, we're not down for the count! Praise God, the fight isn't over! We will keep on fighting until we win! That's the attitude God wants out of each of us, and that's the attitude that will ultimately prevail and put you over in life. If anyone had reason to be ashamed of his past, it would be Paul. Yet, even though he persecuted, tormented, arrested and even assisted in the murdering of Christians (Acts 7:58), he could say in 1 Corinthians 7:2: "Receive us, **WE HAVE WRONGED NO MAN!**" And in Philippians 3:13,14: "One thing I do, **FORGETTING THE THINGS BEHIND, AND REACHING FORWARD TO THINGS AHEAD OF ME**". So next time the devil tries to condemn you over sins and mistakes you've made, you just laugh at him and tell him to buzz off! Your sins are none of his business anyway. Its between you and your Lord. You go to God, and you receive your forgiveness by faith. Then, get yourself up off the canvass, and move on with your life, and don't look back!

05/23/09

Deuteronomy 28:47

### **SERVE THE LORD JOYFULLY**

In this chapter, God will list the blessings of obedience, and the curses of disobedience. The list of curses is much longer than the list of blessings! And, as we look through the list of curses, we see this verse here, where God tells us that He expects us to maintain a thankful, grateful heart **FOR THE ABUNDANCE OF EVERYTHING!** Don't be like the majority of people, even Christians, who spend their time mumbling about all they don't have. Instead, serve the Lord with **JOY and GLADNESS OF HEART** because of the abundance of everything you've already been given! Listen, if you're living in the USA, your life is, on your worst day, better than 99% of the rest of the world on their best day. If you don't believe that, you need to go on a missions trip with us to the Philippines, and see that truth for yourself. Americans have been so blessed by God in so many ways. We should never be complaining about anything! And even if we don't have all we'd like to have in this life, we've got Jesus! So if we've got Him we've got everything! Thank God for Jesus! Thank God for the fact you're saved! I mean right there, you've got enough to be thankful for for the rest of your life!

If you need to be reminded of what you were saved from, go into your kitchen, light one of your stove burners, and put your finger over the flame for a few seconds , as long as you can stand the pain. Now try to imagine someone lost for all eternity on a lake of fire, burning but never dying! That's what we were all saved from! For years, whenever I'm around fire , a campfire, or a gas burner on a stove, or holding a match , I'm always reminded of what hell is like, and what I was saved from. Thank God I'm not going to hell! Thank God Jesus went there in my place. Thank God for the abundance of everything;

starting with your own salvation. Thank God you were born into a country that is free, where you have liberty to choose Jesus if you want to. Millions around the world were born into countries where religious lies and deception keep them in bondage to sin and suffering, and where its actually against the law to evangelize for Jesus. These are things that God expects us to be thankful for. Are you? If you haven't spent time saying "thank you" to God for all the blessings you have right now, don't waste another minute. Lift your hands and begin the daily habit of saying "thank you" to God!

05/24/09

Isaiah 54:17                    **THE DEVIL CAN'T HURT YOU**

What a great truth to remember! If the devil could kill you, he would! If he could make you suffer for the rest of your life, he would've started the minute you were born. If he could just come along and do whatever he wanted against you to steal, kill or destroy, he would've done that long ago! But he can't. **HE CAN ONLY DO WHAT YOU ALLOW HIM TO DO!** That's the power of our authority in Christ Jesus. No weapon formed against you can prosper unless you somehow open the door, and give the devil place in your life. Notice I didn't say he couldn't attack , he can! But the key word is the word **PROSPER**. No weapon formed against you can **PROSPER**. That means, even if the devil does attack you, that attack can't succeed just because he wants it to! You have to cooperate with him for that to happen. How? Through disobedience to God. Committing sin is a form of disobedience. So is making promises and then not keeping them. Not walking in love is sin, and that can open the door to the devil. Not walking in faith is sin, and that can give the devil an opening. There are many ways we can choose to let the devil come in, but if we ever get serious about serving God and being doers of His word, no weapon formed against you can **EVER** prosper.

This is why the devil couldn't touch Jesus! In John 14:30, Jesus said the ruler of this world was coming against Him, but had **NOTHING IN HIM**. That means that Jesus was totally obedient to God, and therefore, gave the devil no openings in His life or ministry. As a result, the devil couldn't touch Jesus until Jesus voluntarily took our place as our sin substitute. You need to know this. If you get your act together, and start serving God with all your heart, and do your best to stay obedient to Him, you'll be amazed at how easily you can repel any attack of the enemy , no matter how severe it may seem to be. And as you go about the business of obeying God to the best of your ability, get used to declaring the truth of this verse out loud, with your mouth! **DECLARE IT! SAY IT! ANNOUNCE IT!** Over and over again. No weapon formed against you can prosper , ever! The more you hear yourself say it, the more convinced you'll be that its true! Then when you do come under attack, you can just laugh at the devil, and by using your authority in Jesus, drive him away the same way Jesus did when He was tempted. He just spoke the word of God, and the devil's attacks were repelled. You can do the same, so do it today!

05/25/09

Ephesians 1:3                    **YOU'VE ALREADY GOT IT ALL!**

The Bible consistently admonishes us to stay thankful and grateful to God for all the things He's given us. One way to do that is to meditate upon the fact that in Christ, we have already been blessed with **EVERY SPIRITUALBLESSING**. That's what this verse is telling us. We're to bless God, and thank Him for the fact that in Christ, seated in Heavenly places as we are, we've already received every spiritual blessing we'll ever need. So what does that mean while we live here on earth? Plenty! It means that when we use our faith, we can do a spiritual transfer, and bring into manifestation blessings in this world that we've already got in God's world! Always remember, faith is like a bridge that connects the blessings of Heaven with the needs of earth. Let's use health and healing as an example. There's no sickness in heaven is there? No, of course not! So when you stand in faith for healing, your faith makes the

connection with the Divine power needed to change your physical condition down here. Why? Because in Christ, you've already got all those blessings in Heavenly places in Him! Think this way in terms of provision, power, protection and purpose, and it will be much easier for you to appropriate and transfer the heavenly blessings you already have, to change your earthly situations and make them come into line with God's word.

Since I got saved on September 21, 1978, I've quoted this verse thousands of times to God in prayer, thanking Him and blessing Him for all the wonderful spiritual blessings I've been given in Christ. Meditate on the word "every" in this verse. EVERY spiritual blessing is already yours in Christ. Not most of them, or only a few of them, but every single one of them! From God's viewpoint, you have everything you're ever going to need to live powerful, anointed and victorious lives here on earth. That's how Jesus did it - He just knew Who He was in God, and what He could do because of His union with God. Therefore, He just went out and beat the devil up one side and down the other! Was he tempted? Yes, in all points like we are (Hebrews 4:15), but He overcame all those temptations successfully, and fulfilled God's plan of salvation. He took all the spiritual blessings that come with having spiritual union with God, and with His faith, transferred them to earth, where he used them to fulfill His earthly ministry. You and I can do the same! So lift your hands and bless God right now! Thank Him for every spiritual blessing in Christ. Then go out and enforce that truth in your world today!

05/26/09

Psalms 37:5

#### COMMIT YOUR CARES TO GOD - THEN RELAX!

David implores us to commit our ways to God, and trust Him for the favorable outcome. Are you doing that today in your life? How do you know one way or the other? Just look at what you worry about, or do not worry about, and you will know! You see, many Christians say they trust God, but their worry betrays their true lack of faith. Once you truly commit your ways to God, relax, and spend the rest of your time praising Him for bringing the desired end-result to pass. That's the way we live by faith. When we yield to the temptation to worry, or to become "stressed out", or to outright fear, we are making a declaration before God. We're saying that we don't think He's big enough, or powerful enough, to take care of us when we commit our ways to Him, so therefore, we're going to worry about things! Of course, we do not actually say that, but to God, that IS exactly what we're really saying!

Are you at peace with things in your life today? If not, why not? What have you NOT committed to Him today? Your job? Your future? Your job security? Your financial status? Your retirement? Your children's cost of education? Your ministry? Your health? **WHATEVER YOU'RE WORRING ABOUT IS WHERE YOU HAVEN'T COMMITTED THINGS TO GOD.** So step back from yourself, take an honest look at what worries you, and if you need to - repent and purpose in your heart to never again let doubt, fear or worry rob you of God's blessings and provision. Come to a place of peace, like how it's described in Psalms 23. What does it say there? Our Lord is our Shepherd, we shall NOT WANT. He makes us to LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES; He leads us besides STILL WATERS! Are you living in that kind of peace today? Green pastures? Still waters? Not a care or worry in the world! Well, if you're not there yet, get there today! By faith! Decide to commit your ways unto the Lord, and then relax and enjoy the ride!

05/27/09

1 Peter 2:24

#### GOD SAYS YOU'RE HEALTHY AND WHOLE!

Everything Jesus did for us on the cross was a completed work. Nothing was left undone, or partially finished. The work of salvation was a total expression of victory, so you must see it as finished work in your life today. Take healing for example. Our verse today tells us that by our Lord's stripes

(wounds from the scourging) we WERE healed. Not present tense, or future tense. PAST TENSE! It's a finished work. You may be suffering with some sickness or disease today, but as far as God is concerned, you are healed now because you were healed back then! That's how you need to see the issue of sickness and disease. You need to see your situation the way God does. He has already provided healing for you through the death and resurrection of Jesus. So if you're coming to Him in prayer, asking Him to heal you, your not going to get the answer you're looking for. Instead, you need to come in faith, thanking Him for your healing because of the fact that in Christ, you were already healed 2,000 years ago on the cross. If you really believe that, you must talk like you believe it! Put your declarations in the present tense because your healing was purchased in the past tense!

This is one of the rules that govern the Language of Faith. When it comes to receiving promises from God, our declarations must be in the present tense because of what God has already done in the past. If God says that by our Lord's stripes you WERE healed, then that means you're healed NOW! If you were, then you are! So, talk that way, and make your faith statements in the present tense. You have your healing NOW by faith in God and His word. You may still look sick, feel sick and every doctor in town may still say you're sick and getting sicker. Let them say what they want. Their word is not the final authority in your case - God's word is! Only God's word has the power within it to change your body from sick to well - if you know how to tap into that power by faith. It's just like tapping into the electricity all around you. If you want to turn on the hair dryer, what do you need to do? Plug it in so you can tap into the power that's already available. Standing there holding the dryer in your hand won't make it work. You have to plug it in! If you don't that, your dryer will never work for you the way it was designed to. Faith power is the same. You have to make the faith connection with God before the power in His word will work for you. How do you plug in, spiritually speaking? By receiving your health by faith, and in the present tense, calling those things that be not as though they were (Romans 4:17-21). If God says you're healed, then you say it too!

05/28/09

Peter 3:10

### WATCH YOUR TONGUE TO LOVE YOUR LIFE!

According to our verse today, if you want to love life and see good days, you must refrain your tongue from evil and guile. This is not an option, it's a requirement! This is why so many believers struggle in life and don't know why. They are constantly shooting themselves in the foot with their undisciplined tongue. Are you one of them? Most believers are! If you study the Bible from front to back, you will find it is a book of words about words. Everything in this world is created, manipulated and governed by spoken words. In your own life, you need to know that your world today is the product of what you've said in the past. For good or for bad, it doesn't matter. Words contain spiritual power, and have the inherent ability to create or destroy. Read the book of Proverbs, and underline every verse that talks about words, and see what I'm talking about. Proverbs is a constant comparison between the wise man and the fool. In Proverbs, God shows us that a wise man is simply someone who manages his or her mouth correctly. The fool, on the other hand, is the one who doesn't know when to shut up. Would you classify yourself as wise or foolish according to God's definition?

In my opinion, this is the one major battle that affects every other battle we'll ever face in this life. Because the business of communication is so vital to who we are and what we do, I believe this one issue is more important than any other. If you want to have a blessed life, you HAVE to get control of your tongue! And of course, I'm sure you know by now that this is not an easy process. If it was easy, everybody would be doing it, but it requires intense amounts of discipline, study, commitment and effort. Mastering the tongue is really the difference between you becoming great in Christ, or just being an average, mediocre believer. Try to really LISTEN to yourself talk. If you do this, you'll probably be

amazed at how negative your conversation is. Why? Because we're surrounded by a world that's flowing in a negative direction. Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), and therefore, he's constantly working to program people so they talk in a way which empowers him in their lives. If you could analyze your words for one day, and then compare them to the Bible, you might be able to see why things haven't been going so well for you! Everything revolves around the words you speak, so make sure you're speaking words that agree with God's word!"

05/29/09

Ecclesiastes 12:13                    **THE CONCLUSION OF EVERYTHING!**

I like to find verses like this one. They contain simple, profound and foundational truths that can't be misunderstood. They're to the point, and ""in your face"". After writing Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, and after Having been blessed with more wisdom than anyone except Jesus, Solomon comes to this conclusion. After all is said and done, here is what's really important in life: **FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS! THIS IS MAN'S TOTAL MEASURE OF DUTY!** That's it! Honor, respect, serve and stand in awe of God, and, obey His commandments. On judgment day, that's how God will judge each one of us. That's how God will judge YOU!

Are you doing your best today to obey this verse? Most Christians don't even know its in their Bibles, let alone do what God is telling us here. But if you want to find your sense of purpose and destiny, this is how you're going to get there. And if you want to experience a true sense of satisfaction over the life you're living, this is where that satisfaction will be found. How do you fear God? By honoring Him, and recognizing Him as the God of the universe, Creator of all things, sustainer of all life and most importantly, Savior of the Human Race. God is to be #1 on your list of Who's Important - every day for eternity. He should get the lion's share of your time. He should get the first opportunity to tell you how to run your life, spend your money, and make your choices. He should be God to you -not some ""God-of-the-last-resort"" kind of God. Is He? Do you make it your aim to please Him daily by keeping His commandments? Do you even know what the commandments are to keep? These are questions you must ask yourself consistently. Why? Because **THIS IS THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER OF LIFE ON EARTH.** Fear God, and keep His commandments. Can you say you really fear God, and keep His commandments consistently? If not, make the adjustments today, and make this the #1 priority of your life forever.

05/30/09

Matthew 16:14                    **YOU WILL BE MISUNDERSTOOD! GET USED TO IT!**

When you make yourself available for ministry in the Name of Jesus, understand that there will be times when your intentions and actions are misunderstood by others. Don't be surprised when this happens, because it **WILL** happen! The ministry of Jesus is a classic example of this. When He asked His disciples about what people were saying about Him, all of the opinions that were being expressed were wrong and inaccurate! Our Lord was constantly laboring in an atmosphere of suspicion and misunderstanding about His motives and ministry intent. This started from the first day of His ministry, when He went into the synagogue in His own home town and read from the Prophet Isaiah to announce His purpose and ministry (see Luke 4:16-30). If it happened to Him, it will happen to you, so don't let it discourage you from continuing in ministry when it does.

The responsibility you have as a minister (and ALL Christians are ministers- 2 Corinthians 5:18) is to do your best to walk in God's wisdom and word, then do your best to help people find God's perfect will and live in it. When you do this, there will be those who thank you for what you do, and others who will curse you for what you do! You can't avoid this , it happens to all of us in ministry. You can't please

everybody, so don't even try! Remember the movie Mission Impossible? Well, in ministry, its definitely "Mission Impossible" to try and please all people everywhere under all circumstances. Jesus didn't please everybody, so don't think you can! Just do your best to keep your heart right, your motives right, and your actions scriptural and sincere. After that, leave the rest to God, and trust Him to honor you for your efforts to reach out and minister the love of God to people. If they appreciate your efforts, and thank you for them, then give God the glory. If they make false accusations against you for your efforts to help, then commit your work to the Lord, and forgive those who are attacking you. This is the way of ministry, so if you're involved in the work of ministry (and you should be), understand that these things will be taking place. Don't run from it. Don't get discouraged by it. Stay steadfast in the knowledge that God knows your heart, and even if people misunderstand you in this life, they'll understand completely in the next - and that life is the one that really counts - its eternal!

05/31/09

Luke 6:22,23

### A GOOD REASON TO LEAP FOR JOY!

This passage is one of those many of us would just hope goes away! Yet, its really one of the most powerful truths revealed in all the Bible. In this passage, Jesus gives us some tremendous keys to victorious living. He tells us what our responsibilities are as Christians, then shows us what kind of reactions we can expect, and finally, tells us how we should respond to the reactions we get when we fulfill our responsibilities to fulfill the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-18). Do you do what He says to do when persecution comes your way for being an active Christian witness? First of all, are you really an active Christian witness? If you're experiencing no significant measure of persecution in your life today, chances are that you are NOT much of a true witness for Christ. Why? Because persecution is always connected to our level of outreach for Jesus. Its proportionate. The more you try to reach out and minister the good news of the Gospel to others, the more you're going to be persecuted. That explains why so many believers never experience any true measure of persecution. They're not involved. They're not interested in helping others - unless they can do it while remaining within the confines of their own self-appointed comfort zones. How about you? Where do you fit in all of this?

Are you experiencing any levels of significant persecution for your Christian faith? At work? At school? At the coffee shop? In the mall? If not, why not? I'll tell you why not. Its because you're not doing anything that honestly confronts people with the lost condition of their souls. And if that's you today, you need to change that and get with the program! Christianity is not a comfortable lifestyle of abundance, excess and popularity. How that lie got planted in our minds is another masterpiece of deception from the devil. The scriptural reasons for why we jump for joy in life aren't all found in having all your ""needs"" met, and living in large homes, driving new and expensive cars, and hoarding more and more money for our ""future security and retirement"". Jesus said to jump for joy when (not if) you are maligned for your faith. When men speak evil Of you. When people gossip about you behind your back, and lie about you. When they harass your kids at school because they're Christian. If you're doing any ""joy-jumping"" these days, would these be the reasons why? Probably not, because the sad fact is that most believers are selfish, and more concerned about their own little world than they are about the lost world around them everyday. I hope this isn't a description of you today! If it is, you need to wake up and get your head out of the sand. Get involved, and take a risk or two in the Name of Jesus. Yes, It is true that many will get angry at you for trying to help them find Jesus, but what better job could a person have in this life? And remember the last part of this passage. Do this as unto the Lord, AND GREAT WILL BE YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN. So yes, you should be leaping for joy - God wants you to. But WHY you leap for joy is another matter altogether, so make sure you're leaping for joy for the right reasons, not just for selfish ones!