

The Gospel of God/the Cross 2

If you have been following these Devotionals, then you may have encountered the phrase, “Drop Zone,” which is a military term. In Vietnam, combat units were frequently supplied by helicopter; yet this operation required that the troops under fire create, maintain, and defend an area large enough for the copter to land. When this failed, lives were often lost because they were dependent upon ammunition, medicines, food, and morale boosting mail from home. Your morning times with God are designed to be His “Drop Zone” so that He can supply you for the battles you are facing. He truly is your lifeline. Jesus said it best: “Without Me you can do nothing.” Hmmm, sounds realistic. I’ve tried doing things without Him; and I did not like the results.

The purpose of this Devotional is to give you a practical plan for successfully meeting with your Savior. It’s surely His desire to meet with you, so this is going to work out well. You are going to be blessed by all the love which He is going to pour into you during this first month of summer, 2002!

It’s the strangest thing: Christians so often think that they “get saved” by the Gospel and then go on to work out their salvation by some other means. It’s as if the Gospel is for beginners, whereas they feel a necessity to move beyond the basic Gospel in order to grow and mature. Indeed, one could misunderstand Hebrews 5:12 – 6:2, and read the wrong message into it by taking it out of the larger context of the entire book. This might explain the frequently held, unbiblical notion that somehow one is to go on beyond the Gospel even though the book of Hebrews fairly shouts the opposite message: “Hello out there, for you all have forgotten the very basics of the Gospel of the Cross; and as a result, you are in danger of being destroyed!”

The reason you have sometimes followed Philippians 4:4-6 in prayer, expecting “the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension to guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,” only to discover that you did not have the peace is: you forgot the Gospel of the Cross. You can’t “go there” without the Cross.

Perhaps you have read Romans 6:14 where God promises, “Sin shall not rule over you...” and so you stared at this incredible word like some puzzled alien. “Wow, what’s wrong with this picture? What’s wrong with me? Maybe I’m an exception!” Analysis: you have forgotten the Gospel of the Cross. The reality of sin not being able to rule over you is true only when you “...consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus,” and this is the Gospel of the Cross. When you use your faith to “believe,” “consider,” “reckon,” and “count” yourself dead with Christ at the point of your need, you are living in the Gospel of the Cross.

The Gospel of the Cross is the power of God. (Romans 1:16-17)

Lesson 1

Lets begin the glorious month of June with a clear reminder of a frequently asked question, “What exactly is the Gospel of the Cross? Tell me again, as I’m fuzzy on this.” The Gospel of the Cross is the good news of the Cross, for it explains why and how God does for the sinner what the sinner should do for himself but is powerless to do. And what is that? He is powerless to be a righteous person. He is powerless to be righteous now or to make up for his failures (sins) of the past. In fact, he is in debt beyond all remedy; and so Christ dies in His place! The deepest part of this mystery is that He joined Himself to you before you were created, and thus He can honestly say that He died as your personal representative! Galatians 2:20 is probably the most exquisite and succinct statement of this Gospel found in Scripture.

Scripture Memory: Review Galatians 2:20. Every time you work on memorizing, you are feeding on the words of God Almighty and you are strengthening your inner spirit man, so this is time well spent. And every time you refresh this in your mind, you will find that the Holy Spirit will quicken some aspect of this amazing truth, leaving you with the sense that you have been fed. Unfortunately, many Christians do not allow the Spirit to feed them in this way, and thus they do not know the joy that comes from this practice. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: Galatians 2:20 *(10 minutes)*

How can you say that you have been and therefore are “crucified with Christ”?

What does it mean to you that you have been crucified with Christ?

God says that you no longer live. What does this mean to you?

Does Christ live in you?

What does it mean that Christ lives in you?

Are you aware of the reality of Christ living in you?

When you forget that Christ lives in you, what happens?

What does it mean in this verse to live by faith?

So what happens when you tolerate your unbelief?

When you allow yourself to try to make life work in your own strength, what are you saying about Christ?

How do you think your unbelief affects (1) you, and (2) God?

Prayer Time: *(15-30 minutes)*

Begin by coming to the Cross and confessing your sin of unbelief.

Use your faith to receive Jesus’ faith as His supply for your lack!

Express your gratitude to Him and adore Him!

Draw from Him all the supplies for your own need. This is the Gospel.

Pray for your brothers and sisters to receive fresh times of receiving from the Savior!

Lesson 2

Frustration is your sign that you are operating in unbelief, and therefore you are not receiving the grace of God. Frustration is the opposite of the grace of God because frustration means that you feel that you deserve God's help, but are not receiving it. It makes you mad! Grace, on the other hand, is undeserved help. It flows into you when you are most aware of your own lack and inability (which is humility), yet you choose to trust Christ alone for your adequacy (i.e. your righteousness).

Paul says in the KJV of Galatians 2:21 that he does not frustrate the grace of God, for.... When you frustrate the grace of God, you invariably depend upon yourself, which will soon leave you frustrated and eventually worn out. This is why I equate frustrating the grace with your own symptom of frustration. One leads to the other in such a reliable way that it can be used as a clear and dependable marker.

Scripture Meditation: Read Galatians 2:21, replacing "nullify" or "set aside" with the KJV translation, "frustrate." Read it over and over, letting the Holy Spirit soothe your soul. Let Him minister to you as you take each word into your inner being and let them lodge there. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: Examine Galatians 2:21. *(5 minutes)*

How can you frustrate/nullify/set aside the grace of God in a practical day-by-day way?

How can you receive grace every time you feel bankrupt?

Journaling: Write your struggles, feelings, and longings to God on this topic.

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Confess your sin of frustration. Get rid of this lead weight on your soul!

Rejoice in His free gift of grace, help, and love! Rejoicing in Him is worship!

By faith soak up His life. Let Him fill your needs.

Pray for the lost around you to see the wonderful news!

Pray for your Church to be filled with this fresh joy!

Lesson 3

The Gospel of the Cross includes the grace of God. It includes the whole issue of living by faith. It includes operating by and in the Spirit. This may be the first time you have been able to see how these are all inter-related and, when you do, it will turn some lights on for you. Grace, faith, and spirit-filled living are all connected directly to the Cross! The Cross is the key to all three, and all three will lead you to the Cross. No wonder Scripture calls this a mystery; and such a mystery it is!

Scripture Study: Read Galatians 2:20 - 3:5. *(15 minutes)*

Examine Galatians 2:20-21 and define the “grace of God” from verse 21 in terms of verse 20, which is exactly Paul’s definition. The grace of God is...

Finish this sentence: “I frustrate the grace of God when...”

“I can tell when I am forgetting the Gospel of the Cross because I feel...”

Examine 3:2-5 and finish the following sentences. “When I listen to God’s promises and use my faith I receive_____.”

“If I want to live in God’s miracles I must _____ and not_____.”

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Before the Lord disavow trusting yourself and determine to live by faith that Christ is your only righteousness.

Love the Lord back for pouring all His grace upon you.

Delight yourself in Him.

Drink up His grace in all the areas of your soul.

Let Him use you to intercede for others whom the Spirit brings to your mind.

Lesson 4

In Ephesians 3:2-10 Paul connects two key words, “grace” and “mystery,” and indeed the real grace of God is a mystery which seems to elude even many earnest Christians. But keep in mind that when God uses the word “mystery,” He is not referring to something He intends to hide, but rather it means that it is something He wishes to reveal. A “mystery” is a secret, but it is one that God is eager to reveal, though He only reveals it to those who come to Him personally. An example of this occurs when Jesus said to the Jews, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life. It is these that testify about Me, and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life” - John 5:39-40. His secrets are in the Scriptures so they were acting wisely to search them, but they were not coming to Christ personally. This is pretty much the way we humans work, isn't it? We only share our best secrets with those who come to us in order to be close with us.

Scripture Study: *(15 minutes)*

Read Ephesians 3:2-3, noting the words “grace” and “mystery.” From these verses, what do you need to understand and experience this mystery?

Read Ephesians 3:4. What does Paul call this mystery? What does Paul mean by calling this a mystery?

Read Ephesians 6:19. Now what does Paul call the mystery? So now, putting these Scriptures together, this mystery is the mystery of _____ and of the _____. Why is this the same thing?

Read Colossians 1:25-27. Now define this mystery even further. The mystery is...

How, then, is the Gospel of the Cross?

Read Colossians 4:3-4. Why do you think that this mystery compels us to tell others?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Come to God through Christ who is living in you.

Come be with Him.

Marvel at Him, for this is worship!

Delight yourself in Him who loves you!

Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and your Church to fresh new times of experiencing Christ!

Use your faith to pray for the lost!

Lesson 5

God has a number of mysteries, but His primary one explains the full extent of His grace toward sinners. He included us “in Him” before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4), and now He actually lives in the Christian. This is the very essence of the mystery, but it has another aspect. He has included Gentiles in His salvation as well as Jews; and in Ephesians 3:1-9, this aspect of the mystery is the focus. But still the larger view of this mystery identifies it as Christ living in us, and Ephesians 3:10-19 confirms that Paul is thinking of the ultimate mystery as Christ in us. He is the hope.

Once again you will find that your faith is intertwined with experiencing God’s grace, for it’s as you use the faith He gave you (Ephesians 2:8) that you actually experience Christ dwelling in you (Ephesians 3:17). Paul sees that you as a Christian need to be strengthened in your inner man in order for you to rise up in your faith and actually realize that Christ is indeed living in you! As you do this, His grace flows. As you do this, you begin to feel His love for you. As you do this, you begin to be filled with the fullness of God!

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 3:1-21 carefully, using your marking pen to underline and connect key words and ideas. *(15 minutes)*

Looking at Ephesians 3:8, why would it take grace for Paul to preach the unfathomable riches of Christ?

Looking at Ephesians 3:9, what is the mystery which has been hidden? Keep in mind that the Old Testament always pointed toward the inclusion of the Gentiles as in all the nations.

What is the relationship between the Gospel of the Cross (which includes Christ in you), and the wisdom of God being made known through the Church to all the demons in Ephesians 3:10?

If you can see how Paul works in this passage, taking you from the mystery of God including the Gentiles to the mystery of Christ (that He now lives in you) to how this produces the Church which defeats Satan, then you are beginning to grasp something very important about the Gospel of the Cross and how God releases His power.

Looking at Ephesians 3:16, you need the Holy Spirit to _____ so you will be able to really use your faith and believe that Christ is completely available to you since He lives in you.

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your inner man.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the grace of God to you.

Use your faith that Christ does live in you.

Now let Him supply you with your needs (humility, wisdom, courage, purity, etc).

Draw from Him the love of God and let Him fill you.

Intercede for this revelation to come to all the Christians in your Church!

Lesson 6

Worry. Stewing. Dragging “concerns” around with you as you work your way through each day. Stress. Anxiety. Fretting. Apprehension. Troubled. All of these words describe a condition that is neglecting the Gospel of the Cross. You have to decide whether you will submit to “worry” as a lifestyle or whether you will live the Christian life, which is centered upon the Cross and the reality of Christ living in you.

When you allow the sinful habit of “worry” to continue to operate in your life, you are choosing to violate the will of God and, therefore, you will experience the accompanying sense of death that always results when you refuse Christ as your righteousness.

Paul came to a point at which he “determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” regardless of what happened. Are you willing to come to this same point? It is a decision. It is a decision to live each day by choosing the Cross and by choosing to rely upon Christ who lives in you.

What are your alternatives? Worry is a sin and in most people it is also a habit, which Jesus commanded us to stop. Matthew 6:25-34 says: “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life...”

Scripture Study: Study the context in which Jesus raises the issue of worry. As you do, you will notice that He addresses the issue of whether you are serving God or money, so first you have to make a decision about this factor. Where is your trust? Where is your security? Then notice how these issues are all tied together: (1) who really is your Ruler, (2) worry, and (3) whether the Kingdom really is what your life is about. Read Matthew 6:19-34 carefully. Use your marking pen. *(15 minutes)*

Looking at Matthew 6:24, what really is most important to you?

What does your worry tell you?

Why do you worry?

Do you intend to stop worrying?

What does living in the Kingdom have to do with worry?

Why would I say that worry means that you have neither gone to the Cross nor counted on Christ living in you?

When Jesus gives you a command that seems impossible, what do you think He wants you to do?

Do you think that it is possible for you to live day-by-day by using worry as your signal to go immediately to the Cross?

Would you be willing to include someone as your partner in this and together commit yourself to this way of living?

If so, write down the name of the person and when you will do this.

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

“See” Christ Jesus dying in your place for the sin of worry.

Disavow this practice and by faith identify with Christ in dying for you in order to set you

free from this life-dominating smell of death!

By faith, reckon or count on Christ living in you to be the power to live by faith rather than by allowing worry to eat your soul.

Pray for friends you know who are losing battles because of worry.

Pray for Christ to be properly glorified as His people begin to live without worry!

Lesson 7

One of the reasons we forget the Gospel of the Cross is that we do not recognize the relevance it has to our daily felt needs. What Christ gives us is “righteousness” and we do not have a clear understanding of what exactly “this” is. Not at the gut level.

What is this “righteousness”? It is the Character of God as in His wisdom, patience, self-control, love for others, courage, long-suffering, endurance, forgiveness, faith, joy, confidence, understanding, humility, etc. This is exactly the stuff you need, but until now, perhaps, you did not realize that it is “righteousness” which you have felt such a keen need for! Thus you have tried to meet your felt needs by producing some ability yourself and, in the process, you have forgotten the Gospel of the Cross which alone supplies these very things!

No wonder this is good news! The Gospel of the Cross is the good news. You cannot live up to or produce a single bit of this Character-of-God stuff, so stop trying and begin to live in the Gospel!

Scripture Study: Romans 1:16-17. *(10 minutes)*

In a city like Rome, where power is the thing everybody covets, why is Paul not ashamed of the Gospel?

What is the Gospel’s power?

Read Romans 14:23 and explain why God says it is sin when you do not live by faith in Christ.

What can you do to increase your ability to live by faith on a day-by-day basis?

What are the things that decrease your faith?

Finish this sentence: I catch myself trying to produce my own righteousness instead of trusting Christ when I...

Rewrite Romans 1:17 using your own words, and don’t even use the word “righteousness.”

(5 minutes)

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Bring your sins of unbelief and attempts at self-righteousness to the Lord.

Specifically trust the blood of Jesus to cleanse your conscience from dead works. (Hebrews 9:14)

Rejoice in Christ alone as your righteousness!

Express confidence in Christ as He dwells in you.

Pray His will into the various needs that surround your life.

Pray for your local Church leaders.

Lesson 8

Wisdom is seeing your life situations the same way that God does. Wisdom begins with considering God as opposed to reacting; for when you react, you are starting with something other than God. Wisdom involves doing with a situation what God does and, of course, this leads us directly to His Character (righteousness). He always responds according to His nature; and when you are trusting Christ who dwells in you, then His nature comes forth and thus His wisdom.

When you have issues from your past which have not been resolved with Him, then you are carrying your own prison around. You will automatically react in some situations which touch “old issues” that have not been crucified with Him. Then your instinctive reaction will be foolish instead of wise. Your old nature will dominate you. You will be starting with something other than Christ in you, and the results will make life harder for you. In fact, you will be sowing to the flesh and of the flesh you will reap corruption. (Galatians 6:8)

Scripture Memory: 1 Corinthians 1:18. This is such a powerful verse to log into your memory bank so that you can meditate upon this later and absorb the life-changing results of having God’s words abiding in you. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: 1 Corinthians 1:18. *(10 minutes)*

When Paul uses the phrase, “the word of the cross,” to what is he referring?

Why do you think Paul uses the present tense to describe you as “ us who are being saved?” In what sense are you being saved?

If “the word of the Cross” is “foolishness” to “those who are perishing,” you would expect Paul to contrast “foolishness” with the word _____, but surprisingly he uses the word _____ instead.

Why does Paul call the wisdom of God the power of God?

Examine 1 Corinthians 1:24 where Paul clearly calls Christ (another expression for Gospel, or the Gospel of the Cross, or the word of the Cross) both the power of God and the wisdom of God. This being so, it is pure foolishness on your part when you...

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

If any old issue comes to your mind that is not surrendered to God at the Cross, then please bring it to the Lord now.

Identify with Christ’s death at the point of your sin. Ask for His forgiveness and count yourself as having died to that sin!

Worship Jesus as your Savior-Lord!

Pray for the lost around you to be saved and ask God for chances to share the Gospel of the Cross with others.

Lesson 9

Wisdom, or its lack, will define you as a man or woman. Wisdom includes many aspects since it surely involves self-control, knowing what to do, having the power or ability to do what God is doing, understanding, having the right response, etc. No wonder Proverbs 24:3 says, “By wisdom a house is built” and Proverbs 24:5, “a wise man is strong.” This is a topic worthy of your careful attention.

Scripture Study: 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5. *(15 minutes)*

The society around you values wisdom, but their “wisdom” considers the Cross to be _____; therefore God considers such “wisdom” to be _____.

God’s wisdom says that the Cross is the true...

Focus on 1 Corinthians 1:29-31. How is it that God’s wisdom works so that no man may boast?

Who gets the credit for your being “in Christ”?

How is it that Christ is made unto you the wisdom of God?

Can you see that the wisdom contains your righteousness?

Looking at 1 Corinthians 2:2, can you see why Paul is moving in the wisdom and power of God by determining this? Why is this way of approaching all of life the path of wisdom?

Looking at 1 Corinthians 2:5, why does Paul contrast the wisdom of men with the power of God?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Humble yourself this morning before the Lord and qualify yourself to receive Christ as your own wisdom.

Use your faith that He is dwelling in you, and draw your righteousness from Him!

Count yourself as risen with Him and living in the power of His life!

Bring your needs to Him and trust Him to release His wisdom in you in regard to each issue.

Pray for your brothers and sisters in your Church to receive fresh revelation about Christ living in them as their own wisdom.

Lesson 10

Christ is the ultimate expression of God's wisdom. If you want to be wise, then you will give yourself to knowing Jesus Christ, whereas, in God's words, fools are those who refuse to give Christ Jesus the attention, devotion, and faith which He deserves. This is so, because one of the chief characteristics of wisdom is knowing the intrinsic value of a thing.

Scripture Memory: Memorize or refresh your memory with 1 Corinthians 1:18. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: 1 Corinthians 1:21-25. *(10 minutes)*

In 1 Corinthians 1:21, why does Paul refer to the message of the Cross as "the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe"?

In 1 Corinthians 1:23, why is Christ crucified a stumbling block to the Jews?

Why is Christ crucified foolishness to the Gentiles?

In 1 Corinthians 1:24, "Christ" is shorthand for "Christ _____," and this is called the _____ of God and the _____ of God.

In 1 Corinthians 1:25, Christ crucified is called the _____ of God and the _____ of God because _____.

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Thank God for giving you His Wisdom in His Son!

Worship Jesus Christ as the Ultimate Wisdom of God and the Source of all Wisdom!

Receive Jesus as your own wisdom. Receive Him into all the aspects of your life that need wisdom.

Pray for the leaders of your Church that they will receive God's wisdom today.

Ask God to grant His revelation of recognition of who Christ is to those you know who are not yet saved!

Lesson 11

When we are without Christ, we are all fools by God's definition; and this is a serious thing. Wisdom is the most important thing in life as it defines how one should live; therefore, we all lack wisdom and need to ask boldly every day, with great faith, in order to receive. This is one of those life-messages which all need to learn and relearn. Is this working in your life? Are you doing this? If not, then it means that you are forgetting the Gospel, for your "wisdom" is faithless, self-reliant, useless, and counter-productive. Your "wisdom" involves trying to be adequate, trying to be successful in life, trying to cope with life's situations without having to despair of yourself, which means that inwardly you wish to receive the credit for it. The Cross is the place to take your "wisdom" and, when you do, you will discover the faith to be able to draw His Wisdom into your life. Ah, this is the goodness of God.

Scripture Study: James 1:5-8. *(10 minutes)*

If James 1:5 is not a promise from God which is deeply embedded in your memory bank, please go to work on this one right now!

Can you recognize the importance of your having humility in order to experience this promise from God?

Go back to James 1:2, for if you have trouble considering it all joy when you encounter trouble, then perhaps you are not humble enough to realize your inadequacy. Write down your thoughts about this.

What is it about being "double-minded" that makes it impossible to regularly receive the wisdom of God?

Now that you understand that Christ crucified (or the Gospel of the Cross which includes Christ in you) is the Wisdom of God, go back and consider Ephesians 3:10. *(10 minutes)*
What is the Church's power over Satan?

Why would Satan work so hard to bring confusion into your life so that you would not remember the Gospel?

How do you think God's Wisdom is made manifest through the Church?

Why would the corporate expression of Wisdom uniquely defeat Satan?

What are some of the things you can do to help your Church express the Wisdom of God?

Prayer Time: *(10–25 minutes)*

Worshipping God is the wisest thing you can do.

Give Him your undivided attention by honoring Him with your words and voice!

Exchange your needs for Christ's sufficiency.

Use His promises to pray for His help into your situations.

Pray over the needs of your family.

Lesson 12

From the Old Testament we learned that Wisdom begins with fearing God, which means that you respect God and reverence Him above all others. (Proverbs 9:10) We are also promised that God gives wisdom to the humble and to those who are eager to learn, easy to teach. (Proverbs 11:2) By wisdom, God founded the earth which means that when you begin to acquire wisdom, God is giving you the ability to understand the how's and why's of His creation. (Proverbs 3:19) For these reasons, you can understand why Proverbs says that the one who loves Wisdom loves his own soul. It's that important. Then, when God says that He has made Christ to be His Wisdom to you and for you, you can begin to better appreciate what He is giving you. To value Christ as the most important thing/person in your life is certainly going to mark your life as a person of great wisdom.

Scripture Meditation: Colossians 2:2b-3. Mull over these words about Christ being God's mystery in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Just let your eyes drink up the words and allow them to come into your inner being. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: Colossians 2:2b-10. *(10 minutes)*

If God has hidden all Wisdom in Christ, how does He expect you to receive this Wisdom?

What is Paul warning you about?

Do you experience any of these temptations? If so, what?

How does Paul expect you to learn to "walk" or live day-by-day in Christ?

God gives you everything He will ever give you ... where?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

By faith, acknowledge Christ in you and draw close.

Draw all your wholeness from Him.

Draw all your need for Wisdom from Him.

Read Colossians 2:6 before the Lord as His word over your day!

Believe Him to guide you today and use you to express His Wisdom in difficult circumstances.

Lesson 13

The grace of God comes as you trust God's promises, and for this reason it is very important that you make His promises to you a real focal point. This is the reason He gives you His promises. He intends for you to treat them as extremely valuable, yet He knows your tendency to forget often troubles you and leaves you trying to face life without His undeserved help. Today let's study how He wants you to treasure His promises.

Scripture Study: Galatians 3:18-22. *(5 minutes)*

Notice that Paul contrasts depending upon yourself (works of the law) with trusting God's promises.

How did Abraham use God's promise?

Do you remember how God counted Abraham righteous? It was as he...

So why did God give the law? To show you what He means by obedience, and to show you that you can't do it by trusting yourself. In this way, those who try to obey the ways of God discover their own inability and find that they must rely entirely upon Christ in order to have the power to live God's way!

Scripture Study: 2 Peter 1:3-4. Here I recommend the NIV, for it is so clear in this translation, although the NASV will surely work. *(10 minutes)*

Write down the promises that are contained in these two verses...

What is the role of "His very great and precious promises"?

Prayer Time: *(15-30 minutes)*

What promise do you need to hold before the Lord today?

Lay your promise at His feet and come to Him on its basis.

By faith, enter into fellowship with the Lord on the basis of His promise to you.

Ask the Lord to keep you from forgetting His promises, especially in the Gospel.

Take His promises with you into your day.

Pray faith into your family!

Lesson 14

It is my contention that the Christian's greatest problem is forgetting the Gospel of the Cross and, by now, I think you may agree with me. Your tendency to forget is probably better than the Old Testament saints as they did not have Christ dwelling inside, and only a few were filled with the Spirit. Still, it is a problem, and those Christians who do not stay alert to the need to remind him/herself of the promises of God end up going without the grace, without the peace, without the power; and they become weary and discouraged.

The Hebrew Christians were forgetting and it was not going well with them. Today, let's examine some of the remarkable things spoken by the Spirit to all of us who tend to forget, let slip, and fail to remember the Gospel, which frees us from the consequences of our unbelief.

Scripture Study: Hebrews 2:1-4. *(5 minutes)*

What have they done with the Gospel?

How can you tell from the context that it was the Gospel which they have drifted away from?

Scripture Study: Hebrews 3:13-14. *(5 minutes)*

If they (we) are to become partakers of Christ, they (we) must...

Why is it important to encourage one another day after day?

Scripture Study: Hebrews 4:1-3. *(5 minutes)*

What happened to the Old Testament saints that caused them to have such bad results?

Their "good news" is equivalent to our...

How does the author think you may "come short of it"?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Repent for the times you have forgotten the Gospel of the Cross and tried to accomplish things in your own ability.

Believe in the blood of Jesus as He cleanses your conscience from "dead works."

Honor Him by receiving His cleansing and forgiveness.

Thank Him and rejoice in His goodness to you!

Honor Him by believing His goodness over all your problems!

Ask Him for opportunities to share this good news!

Lesson 15

Abraham's faith began with God making a promise. Abraham's part was to believe and hold the promise of God no matter what happened, and with this God was very pleased. In fact, it was this faith in His promise that God counted as righteousness! It was in this way that Abraham became the father of all who would believe.

God promises and then the question is: Is God faithful? Faith must be anchored in something solid and that's why God gives us specific promises. He wants to unite your faith with His solemn promises and the Gospel of the Cross is His highest and best promise. Don't let yourself forget it!

Scripture Study: Galatians 3:6-9. *(5 minutes)*

When Abraham believed the promise, God counted it to him as...

So why does Galatians 3:8 speak of God preaching the Gospel beforehand to Abraham?

Scripture Study: Hebrews 3:12. *(5 minutes)*

What does the author call our unbelief?

And the author is exhorting them because they have been...

Scripture Study: Hebrews 4:6. *(5 minutes)*

Who might the "some" be?

Why is our forgetting the Gospel called "disobedience"?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Call your forgetting the Gospel of the Cross what God calls it and ask for His forgiveness.

Use the faith He gave you to go to the Cross and identify with His dying for your unbelief.

Receive His faith into your heart.

Delight yourself in Him who loves you so intensely.

Pray for God to use your brothers and sisters to carry this good news to others.

Lesson 16

Today is Father's Day, and a good day it is! Honoring your own Dad is one of the healthiest things you can do. Perhaps you remember the command to honor your father and your mother was the first command that was linked to a promise, and a powerful one at that! This promise unites it going well with you and the lifetime desire to honor your father and mother.

No one has a perfect Dad, but you never want to dishonor him. This would contradict God's wisdom, for He only commands things that will work for your ultimate good. Instead, look for ways to honor him in your heart, in your speech, and in your decisions.

If you have dishonored your Dad in the past, ask his forgiveness and determine to not allow old habits of thought to dominate your life, lest it not go well with you.

Scripture Study: Ephesians 6:1-4. *(15 minutes)*

Why do you think God places so much importance upon the relationships between parents and their children?

In what ways might it not go well with you when you violate this command?

When a Dad actually provokes a child to anger or when a Dad fails to bring both discipline and instruction into the life of a child, what is he doing that damages the child?

The Gospel of the Cross will bring you into the freedom of forgiving and loving your Dad, if you will enter into it.

Journal: Express on paper to God how you are processing this command to honor your father.

(5 minutes)

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Thank God for your Dad.

Pray for him if he is still on earth.

Pray a blessing both up and down your family line.

Ask God that it might go well with you in all your human relationships.

Ask God to move in America to restore true fathering to a fatherless generation.

Lesson 17

The Gospel of the Cross is of course “the word of God,” but in the book of Hebrews it is also God’s final, ultimate, and last word. (Hebrews 1:1-3) It is this Gospel which the Hebrew Christians were drifting away from and neglecting in Hebrews 2:1-3. It is this Gospel that they should have been confessing, but instead they were forgetting and trying to please God without it! No wonder that the author says they should “fear” in Hebrews 4:1.

Clearly in Hebrews 4:2 and 4:6 the author is equating “the good news” with the news of Christ’s dying and living in us, which is the Gospel of the Cross.

This is the “rest” to which the author refers. Joshua led the people of God into a type of “rest” when he took them into the promised land, but now our “Joshua” (Jesus) has taken us into the ultimate promised land, which is Himself! Our “rest” is a ceasing from our own efforts to earn God’s pleasure or favor. Our “rest” is found in the person of Christ, which is expressed in the Gospel of the Cross and this “rest” is what grace is all about. We receive this grace always and only by faith.

So then, when the author speaks of “the word of God which is living and active,” etc., in Hebrews 4:12, it is primarily the Gospel of the Cross to which he refers. Of course, “the word of God” includes others words of God, but here in Hebrews, the ultimate “word of God” (Hebrews 1:1-3) is Christ Himself and the Gospel, which tells what He has accomplished for us.

Scripture Study: Read through Hebrews 4:1-12 with these things in mind. Freely use your marking pen to underline or to make notes in the margin. *(10 minutes)*

Journal: Write down your thoughts about your own forgetting of the Gospel and its effects upon you. Then talk to the Lord and have a conversation with Him on paper about how all this affects your life.
(5 minutes)

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Enter into the Gospel this morning. Identify with Christ as He died for you in your failures.

Then ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your inner man so that you can use your faith to know that He is actually living in you.

Thank Him for giving you His righteousness (i.e. His purity, His love for others, His wisdom, His boldness, His courage, His patience, etc).

Declare His promises over every situation you face.

Pray for your family.

Lesson 18

Grace comes to you by means of your believing a promise from God. Notice that Pentecost happened as a result of a promise. Jesus told His disciples, “Wait for what the Father had promised, which,” He said, “you heard from Me...” - Acts 1:4. Then Peter made sure that all the Christians who would follow could also receive the Holy Spirit in the same way when he said, “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself” - Acts 2:38.

Memorizing Scripture is one of the most effective ways of not forgetting the promises of God. When you memorize, frequently review, and meditate on God’s promises, you are building His promises into your very soul. You are investing in your life of faith for which there is a huge reward.

Scripture Study: Proverbs 2:1-6. Read these verses as if God Himself is speaking to you about listening, treasuring, memorizing, re-memorizing, desiring, and meditating upon His words.

(10 minutes)

Why would Solomon refer to God’s words as “hidden treasures”?

What does it mean to “treasure my commandments within you”?

What happens to you as you do these things? Read Proverbs 2:9-21.

Scripture Memory: Proverbs 3:5-8. This is a famous passage and an excellent one to memorize or to refresh in your memory. *(5 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Thank and praise God for giving you His promises.

If you have been worrying recently, repent of it and determine to live by faith in God according to His promises.

Read Proverbs 3:5 before the Lord and then follow the Spirit as to how to pray.

Ask God to make His Wisdom something which you and your family inherit.

Pray for the Spirit to anoint and feed your spiritual leaders.

Lesson 19

One of the reasons that we may drift away from God's promises is that not only must we exercise our faith, but there are other factors. Patience. Endurance. Even when our faith is sufficient there is often a time delay, which tests us strongly. It's tempting to give up. Abraham is the one who pioneered our faith walk and his time delay was incredibly long. No one likes this process but God, and He does seem to like it. As a result, it's best if we factor into our lives the delay of time which demands that we not only believe God's promises but that we also learn to wait upon Him with confidence.

Romans 4 draws a clear line linking faith, grace, and the promises of God. Once again, Abraham is the subject as he really is the archetype and model for us all.

Scripture Study: Hebrews 6:12 describes this process, and in Hebrews 6:13 the text refers to Abraham. Underline "faith" and "patience." (5 minutes)

Scripture Study: Romans 4:16-24. Underline the words, "faith," "grace," and "promise," so that the connection jumps out. (10 minutes)

What are the references which indicate that our faith must be ready to undergo long periods of delay which test us?

How did Abraham overcome the temptations to move into unbelief?

Journal: Write down some of your feelings to the Lord in reference to the time delays in your life.
(5 minutes)

Prayer Time: (15–30 minutes)

If you recognize times when you have given up on faith and jettisoned a promise from God, ask Him to forgive you.

Express to the Lord your confidence in His wisdom and timing.

Bring each situation which is disturbing you to the Lord, and commit each thing to Him in real faith.

Pray for your Church to reach the lost that live around you.

Lesson 20

We forget the Gospel of the Cross when we complain, gripe, moan, and express dissatisfaction with our lives. It is as if our Father God were not being good to us. Negativity drains our faith and, as a result, we lose even what little grace we are experiencing; unless we remember in the process and go immediately to the Cross! That will break the downward spiral and bring us back into the flow of His grace, which is our life.

We call the words that are coming out of our mouths our confession. Either we are confessing faith in God or we are confessing our disbelief in Him. Of course, it doesn't mean that every little thing we say has to be positive. We can say how things are. We aren't called to be shallow or phony, but in the process of sharing some of the hard things we may be experiencing, what attitude are we expressing toward the Lord? Is it faith? Abraham was not hiding from the realities of his aging body, but he grew strong as he used his confession to give glory to God!

Scripture Study: Hebrews 4:14-16. *(10 minutes)*

In Hebrews 4:14, what does the author say that makes you think they were forgetting the Gospel?

What are you confessing?

Since your faith must be coupled with patience, how does Hebrews 4:15 help you?

Because of the Gospel of the Cross, the throne, which represents His authority, is called the throne of...

When you forget the Gospel of the Cross, God's authority is characterized by...

Scripture Meditation: Hebrews 4:16. Read these words slowly, letting your eyes draw them right into your inner being. God will do the rest. *(5 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Draw near to Him who has experienced your very temptations and receive comfort from Him.

Ask His forgiveness for confessions which have dishonored him.

By faith, ask for His wisdom and know for sure that it will come.

Trust Him with all the things you face in life.

Honor Him with your vocal praise!

Lesson 21

Still another reason we tend to forget the Gospel of the Cross is that when we attempt to supply ourselves with our own adequacy we are investing (sowing) in the flesh and, of course, we reap certain results from this. What are they? Well, one of them is a defiled conscience, which Hebrews 9:14 says can be cleansed with the blood of Christ (“cleanse your conscience from dead works”). However, when we fail to recognize this need, we then proceed to reap another result, which is a general hardening of our heart. This is described in Hebrews 3:12 and it leaves us less sensitive to our need for the Cross and even more inclined to trust in ourselves over and over. In other words, this is habit forming and a very bad habit it is. Rather than live with an inner sense of “life and peace” (Romans 8:6), we increasingly live in frustration and worry.

Scripture Meditation: Acts 3:19. Repentance is such a great relief. It removes the burden from you and places it upon the Lord. It brings you back into the light and therefore takes you out of the darkness, which is a bad place to be. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: Hebrews 9:14. As you study this verse and think about it, what you want to happen is to begin to become sensitive to the times when you are doing “the dead works thing.” So often you don’t even realize you are doing it and then bad stuff piles up, leaving you “in the dark.” But what a breakthrough when your inner man becomes sensitized to the “dead work” feel and immediately you go to the Cross! Oh joy! A new day of freedom has come! *(10 minutes)*

Are you aware of the power of the blood of Jesus to cleanse your conscience from the “dead works” of trying to please God or accomplish something without specifically trusting in Jesus Christ?

What does it feel like when you are attempting a “dead work”?

Say in your own words what it is that makes something “a dead work”?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

By faith, come to God in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and stand before Him as His very own child, worshipping Him!

Come boldly to the throne of Grace and receive His gift of mercy and grace for your every need today!

Intercede for those who are troubling your life today.

Pray a blessing upon them.

Declare the goodness of God over your life.

Lesson 22

When you forget the Gospel of the Cross, things go badly, right? Well, think of this in terms of what Jesus said in Matthew 13:12: “For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.” HmMMM.

Christians who most often forget the Gospel tend to form the habits, which only make matters worse and they then model the same for their families and friends, which tends to make them worse also. Bad thought, I know; but true.

On the other hand, Christians who remember the Gospel more often shall be given the undeserved help (grace) to remember it still more, thus often breaking old bad habits. They live in more and more freedom and joy. Thus they are able to model, encourage, and minister life to their families and friends; and once again they become the recipients of all those blessings. HmMMM.

Scripture Meditation: Matthew 13:12. Mull over these words that Jesus wants to speak into your soul.

(5 minutes)

Journaling: As you ponder these things, write your thoughts to the Lord. Share with Him. Ask Him questions and perhaps even wait upon Him for His reply. Learn to pour out your heart before Him on paper. This is an ancient discipline, which is an excellent tool for spiritual growth. *(5 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Come to the Lord of the Cross this morning, and identify with Him to break bad habits which are robbing you of the Life Jesus intends!

Praise Him that He who lives in you is greater than he who is in the world!

Exalt and praise the Lord as being far greater than your flesh or your enemies!

Bow before Him in worship and adore Him.

Ask God for opportunities to tell others today about Him.

Lesson 23

The Gospel of the Cross contains so many promises for your life. “It is no longer I who live.” “Sin shall not rule over me.” “I am dead to sin.” “I am alive in Christ Jesus.” “Christ lives in me.” “I am no longer a slave to sin.”

“Christ loves me.” “Christ gave Himself up just for me.”

You need to become an expert in God’s promises that spell your freedom! Learn them. Memorize them. Think about them. Remember them. Talk about them to others. Remind your brothers and sisters. Share the exciting promises with those who do not yet understand.

Scripture Study: 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV): “For no matter how many promises God has made they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through Him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.” *(10 minutes)*

What happens to you if the “many promises” are not fresh in your mind?

When you are tempted to complain, feel sorry for yourself, and gripe about how unfair things are, you will have to make a choice. What are your choices?

Scripture Review: Romans 4:20. What would have happened to Abraham if he had not spoken the promise and given glory to God when things looked bleak?

Scripture Review: James 1:2. What happens when you get caught up in the situation, and you forget to “consider it all joy”?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Rehearse some of the promises of God and give Him the Praise He deserves!

Bring any habits of seeing yourself as a victim or of complaining to Him, for His forgiveness and deliverance.

He has saved you to go from one degree of faith to the next, so use your faith this morning.

Tell Him that by faith and patience you intend to reap His promises.

Give Him glory as the supplier of your life.

Go into this day expecting Him to take you into every situation.

Lesson 24

One of the signs that you are getting closer to God is becoming more aware of your sin. The devil will try to use this sensitivity to condemn you and perhaps to get you to continue to hide the sin rather than bring it out into the light where God works His cleansing miracles. “Every room is ‘clean’ in the dark,” is one of my favorite sayings. So as you experience the Gospel of the Cross, you will increasingly become aware of God’s holiness and your own sinfulness, but this will happen without any condemnation. Why? Because only Satan condemns. Jesus came to set you free and His light will reveal your sin, but only in order to forgive you and set you free. Never fear the light. In the light is mercy, relief and comfort. Satan is a liar, but he is a pretty good one. The Truth sets you free and “light” is a metaphor for the Truth.

Scripture Study: Read 1 John 1:7-9. *(10 minutes)*

Bring anything that lies hidden in the darkness into the light. You can do this by simply writing it out clearly, calling things by what the Bible calls them.

If you sincerely expose your sins to God and repent of them, how can you know that He has forgiven you?

Scripture Meditation: Contemplate Romans 8:1 and let it sink in deep. *(5 minutes)*

Finish these sentences: It is God’s nature to _____ when I
_____.

It is Satan’s nature to _____ and _____ and
_____.

Any time I feel condemned, I can be sure it is from the _____.

Is Romans 8:1 a promise? How are you supposed to use this promise?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Bring your flesh to the Cross this morning. Confess any sin that has been plaguing you and robbing you of your peace and joy.

By faith receive the righteousness of Christ as your very own.

Wait upon the Lord.

Wait quietly and then do whatever you sense He is doing.

Lesson 25

I assume that you wish to be transformed. We all began with an incredible amount of bondage in our lives and, since we first encountered Christ, we have experienced deliverance in stage after stage. Your transformation is your personal freedom; a Biblical understanding of freedom can be described as your ability to respond to the provocations of life with the character of God. This really does describe freedom, for your final transformation will be when you die and see Jesus face to face. At that point, your character will be perfected.

Paul speaks of your experiencing the mercies of God and of the powerful effects of this upon your life in Romans 12:1-2. Where do you experience these mercies? At the places where or times when you “consider yourself to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus,” you exchange bondage for mercy and freedom. (Romans 6:11) Paul has been carefully defining the Gospel of the Cross and by chapter 12, he is assuming that you are richly experiencing God’s mercy in such a way that you are surrendering everything to God. This is the Truth that is transforming you. It is the Gospel of the Cross!

Scripture Study: Read Romans 12:1-2. *(15 minutes)*

If you are familiar enough with Romans 6 and Romans 8 to quickly glance over them, do so and relate these things to Paul’s expression in Romans 12:1, “the mercies of God.” What are the mercies of God to which Paul is referring?

If you are embracing the Cross when your flesh tries to dominate you and you are thus sharing in the mercies of God, how does this lead you to surrender your body to God?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Experience the mercy of God this morning by counting yourself to be dead with Christ at the Cross.

Then count yourself to be alive with Him and trust Him to be living in you.

Worship Him this morning by telling Him how much you love Him!

Ask Jesus to send your brothers, sisters, and yourself into the harvest fields to tell others about this incredible news.

Lesson 26

What is “a renewed mind”? What does Paul mean by “a renewed mind”? Obviously, it is a mind that thinks like God thinks as opposed to how society thinks. This is chiefly reflected in how you think about the Cross of Christ. At no point does God and the world so differ as on the topic of the Cross.

A “renewed mind” is one that has experienced God’s undeserved mercy so often that it can be said that such a person is living in the Gospel of the Cross. The renewed mind does not forget the Gospel, but instead is taking the flesh to the Cross so that “life and peace” have become the norm for everyday living.

By not forgetting the Gospel you are renewing your mind. By learning to “crucify your flesh with its lusts,” you are breaking old habits and forming the habits of the renewed mind. This is life. This is peace. This is freedom from worry and frustration.

Scripture Memory: Romans 12:1-2. This passage is an excellent portion to put into your memory bank. Don’t be discouraged if it takes you a number of days to truly memorize just two verses. Never underestimate the power of review! *(10 minutes)*

Scripture Meditation: Romans 12:1-2. Slowly read these words and allow them to speak to you. In meditation, you’re not trying to master the words; rather you are submitting to them and allowing them to work their power over you. *(5 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Give God your mind and your body this morning!

Put yourself on His alter and offer yourself to Him!

He loves you and wants you for Himself!

Respond to His love by worshipping Him.

Surrender your every need to Him.

Pray for the needs of your Church.

Lesson 27

Isn't this amazing? God transforms you by allowing you to experience His mercies. Think about it. Of all the gracious, loving ways that might be used to change a person, this is the most remarkable!

What causes you to forsake the mercies that you so desperately need? You forsake your mercies when you defend yourself instead of coming to the Cross. You miss His help when you try to be adequate in yourself instead of trusting Christ alone for your righteousness. When you focus on your supposed "rights," when you blame others for your problems, when you harbor unforgiveness, when you allow your flesh to operate in anger or fear, then you are forsaking your mercies.

Scripture Memory: Work again on Romans 12:1-2. Just keep repeating these words over and over to yourself. This allows these words to log themselves into your memory. (*5 minutes*)

Scripture Study: Examine Romans 12:1-2.

How does your body figure into your sin and bondage?

Why does Paul call this "presenting" worship?

How is it that the world does not present their bodies to the Lord?

Prayer Time: (*15–30 minutes*)

Bring any area of bondage to the Lord this morning by coming into the light.

Embrace the Cross of Christ by identifying with Him in His dying for your particular sin.

Receive His righteousness into yourself by faith.

Worship Him this morning by offering Him your will, your mind, and your body!

Now submit to Him any problem you are facing.

Praise Him over every situation you are facing today!

Lesson 28

The more you use the Gospel, the more you experience the power of God unto salvation/deliverance/freedom. It's addictive. His grace, His mercy, His love, His life become your life and you never want to be absent from it. This is the "renewed mind."

This is surely the way Paul lived. He lived by the Gospel and he lived for the Gospel. These two things are inseparable and both characterize the "renewed mind."

Such a mind does not serve fear as its slave. This mind is free and it's yours for the choosing as you determine not to forget the Gospel.

Scripture Memory: Keep working on Romans 12:1-2. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: Romans 12:1-2. *(10 minutes)*

Why does Paul feel like he has to "urge" these Roman Christians?

Compare this urging with Hebrews 3:13 and explain why this process is important for your life.

What are the pressures you experience which want to conform you to this culture (the world system)?

How can you go free?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Raise your hands to the Lord this morning; praise Him out loud for His mercies and for the work He is doing in you to set you free!

Exalt Him by again offering your mind, your thoughts, your memory, and your will to Him.

Receive His mind by faith.

Receive Christ's faith into your own soul.

Receive His outlook this morning.

Determine to know nothing today apart from Christ Jesus and Him crucified.

Lesson 29

Those who do not forget the Gospel of the Cross develop a mind that is Kingdom centered and they see the miracles of God! They look at life differently than other people. They live by faith, and because of that they look for what God is up to in every situation. No wonder they see more miracles.

Pain, suffering, and loss become transformed when you live by the Gospel. Truly this is a transformation and yet it is a transformation that God considers “normal.” He fully intends to bring you into living this way and why not? Who would want to live any other way?

Scripture Study: Acts 5:40-42. Read these verses. Then scan the previous verses which explain what is happening to these men. Really glean the impact of how they are living by the Gospel and how it is transforming their lives. *(15 minutes)*
How did they look at their suffering?

If you have read 1 Peter or 2 Peter recently, you will notice that he has a theme of suffering with joy because...

Why is it an honor to suffer for and with Christ?

Notice in Acts 5:42 where Peter and the brethren went to teach and preach. How brave was that?

Describe how you think Peter was living that differs from you and what you might do to change how you view suffering.

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Bring your sufferings to the feet of Jesus and offer them to Him as worship.

Thank Him for being in absolute charge of everything in your life!

Read Romans 8:28 before the Lord and worship Him accordingly.

Speak faith in Him over everything you face in life.

Ask God for opportunities to bring Him glory and honor in each situation.

Lesson 30

Imagine living without worry. This really is for you. But you'll have to "fight the good fight of faith and take hold of eternal life to which you were called," if you want to live this way.

The Gospel of the Cross is the power unto your deliverance. Your part is to do the things you can do which make it possible for you to not forget the Gospel when you need it most. As you take on this task of living in the Gospel, God Himself will transform your mind and you will experience more and more victory over the things that battle against your soul. You will rise up in the resurrected Christ. You will grow in confidence that Christ really is dwelling in you. Oh, what a new way to live. This is the renewed mind, which Paul is urging upon you. No wonder he was so on fire!

Scripture Study: Read Acts 5:12-42 and this time I think you will see more in it than before.

(10 minutes)

Why do you think these men were so brave?

Do you see anything in this passage that might help you live this way? If so, what?

Why was it not rebellion that you see in these men?

Why would Peter's attitude toward suffering be considered high worship?

Journaling: Finish this sentence and then continue writing as you feel. *(5 minutes)*

What I believe the Lord is saying to me is...

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Spend some time praising God for the Gospel.

Thank Him for bringing you into a new phase of life in which you are not forgetting the Gospel.

Confess that He is making you more than a Conqueror through His grace!

Confess that you are a new person, because you are the vessel that contains Christ!

Speak into the spiritual realm how good God really is!

Pray His honor into all of your upcoming day!

I purpose to meet with God tomorrow morning at _____ a.m.