

References

Andrew Robert Fausset Robert Jamieson and David Brown. *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. 1871. URL <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/jamieson/jtb.html>. pages Pg. 8



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“Mind Controlled By the Spirit is Life” ver-0-72-(A5) Tuesday 29th, May, 2018

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Galatians 6:14 ESV

¶ But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Hebrews 10:9 ESV

¶ “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.”

John 6:63 ESV

¶ “It is the Spirit Who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

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Notes & Credits

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Map of Shipwreck Journey to Malta

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ASAPH

a²-saf (‘acaph):

Is the name of three men in the Old Testament, of whom one is the reputed author of Psalms 50 and 73-83.

He was one of David’s three chief musicians, the other two being Heman, and Ethan or Jeduthun, and we first hear of him when the ark was taken to Jerusalem (1Ch 15:16-19). He conducted with cymbals the music performed in the tent where the ark was housed (1Ch 16:4,5,7,37), while his two coadjutors discharged the same office at Gibeon (1Ch 16:41,42). In 1Ch 25:1 ff we are told that four of his sons were appointed to conduct under him detachments of the great chorus, the families of Heman and Jeduthun also furnishing leaders, and all took part at the dedication of the temple (2Ch 5:12). A., H., and J. were called the king’s seers (1Ch 25; 2Ch 35:15), no doubt an official title of rank or dignity. The "Sons of Asaph" are mentioned in later times. They formed a guild, and played a prominent part at each revival of the national religion. See MUSIC; PSALMS. James Millar International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia ref: 5794 1/13



Living in Christ – Subjecting Our Fallen Humanity to His Cross

— *Some Notes*

Romans 8 contains a powerful statement about the consequences of following and living in our fallen human nature.

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.
8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:5-8 ESV For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

We are either living by the Spirit of God as sons of God, or we are in the mind of the flesh and face death.
 The mind controlled by the spirit is life, while the mind controlled by the flesh is death.

Romans 8:14 ESV For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

This starts with our inner man. . .

21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:18-6:3 ESV But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

Bibles Quoted From

AB

The Apostles' Bible - English Septuagint

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ESV

English Standard Bible

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NIV1984

New International Version 1984

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Version—Verse Count Estimate for Copyright Requirements

(can include some double ups):

The Apostles' Bible - English Septuagint	AB	3
English Standard Bible	ESV	311
New International Version 1984	NIV1984	30
Total:		<u>344</u>

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

... And then continues outwardly in our whole life, including guidance on what and how God wants things done — we might only get ‘the why’ when we are obeying in fullness – or after completion.

Romans 12:1-2 **ESV** ¶ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 **ESV** **3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

1 ¶ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Ephesians 5:8-10 **ESV** for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

10 **and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.**

Galatians 6:6-10 **ESV** One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.

1 Corinthians

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James

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Luke	Corinthians	James

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Isaiah 50:10-11	ESV, 7
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Matthew 10:17-20	ESV, 19
Matthew 12:31-32	ESV, 18
Luke 11:9-13	ESV, 22
Luke 24:45-53	ESV, 21

Matthew

7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.
8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Keep Your Heart With All Vigilance

We have to guard our heart closely for out of it proceeded the issues of life.

22 For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.
23 Keep your heart with all vigilance,
From it flow the springs of life.
24 Put away from you crooked speech,
 and put devious talk far from you.
25 Let your eyes look directly forward,
 and your gaze be straight before you.
26 Ponder the path of your feet;
 then all your ways will be sure.
27 Do not swerve to the right or to the left;
 turn your foot away from evil.

Proverbs 4:18-27 **ESV** But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
19 The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
 they do not know over what they stumble.
20 ¶ My son, be attentive to my words;
 incline your ear to my sayings.
21 Let them not escape from your sight;
 keep them within your heart.

We have to take every thought captive to the cross of Christ.

We are not our own, we were purchased with something more precious than gold or silver, with the precious blood of Christ.

We should see ourselves as slaves, take the lowest seat in our heart at the banquet table always, and allow God to lift us up — (if we are obedient to our Lord Jesus Christ) – and call us His friends.

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Luke

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John 15:12-19 **ESV** “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

14 “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

15 “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

“This is the way, walk in it”

John 10:27-28 **ESV** *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

God is not haphazard in our lives, and wants us to seek to know and walk in that which is pleasing to Him through our Lord Jesus Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit day to day and beyond.

Isaiah 30:20-24 **ESV** And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.

16 “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

17 “These things I command you, that you love one another.

18 ¶ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

19 “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Ephesians 5:10 **ESV** *and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*

Romans 12:2 **ESV** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern *what is the will of God*, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

4 ¶ “Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation;

for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

5 My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coast-lands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment,

and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

7 “Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law;

fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.

8 For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool;

but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations.”

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Isaiah 50:4-51:8 ESV

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.

6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;

I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

7 But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

8 He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.

9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

10 ¶ Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant?

Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches!

Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled!

This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

51:1 ¶ "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

2 Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

3 For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places

and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD;

joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

22 Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

23 And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plentiful. In that day your livestock will graze in large pastures,

24 and the oxen and the donkeys that work the ground will eat seasoned fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork.

Where God is guiding us we must maintain trust and confidence in Him and His leading(s).
Isaiah warns us solemnly not to deviate or make a torch and light it to provide our own guidance to our path – he says if we do so, we will lie down in torment.

Isaiah 50:10-11 ESV

¶ Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the LORD
and rely on his God.

In contrast to the godly (Isaiah 50:10), the wicked, in times of darkness, instead of trusting in God, trust in themselves (kindle a light for themselves to walk by) (Ecclesiastes 11:9)—

Ecclesiastes 11:9 ESV

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgement.

Proverbs 19:20-23 **ESV**

¶ Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

21 ¶ Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

22 ¶ **What is desired in a man is steadfast love, and a poor man is better than a liar.**

23 ¶ The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.

Proverbs 16:9,25 **ESV** ¶ The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

25 ¶ There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

...The image is continued from Isaiah 50:10, "darkness"; human devices for salvation (—Proverbs 19:21 16:9,25 *above*) are like the spark that goes out in an instant in darkness (compare Job 18:6 21:17, with Psalms 18:28).

Robert Jamieson and Brown [1871, Isaiah 50:11]

Job 18:5-9

ESV ¶
"Indeed, the light of the wicked is put out, and the flame of his fire does not shine.

6 The light is dark in his tent, and his lamp above him is put out.

7 His strong steps are shortened, and his own schemes throw him down.

8 For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walks on its mesh.

9 A trap seizes him by the heel;

Job 21:17-18

ESV ¶ "How often is it that the lamp of the wicked is put out? That their calamity comes upon them? That God distributes pains in his anger?"

18 That they are like straw before the wind, and like chaff that the storm carries away?

Psalms 18:25-30

ESV
With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;

26 with the purified you show yourself pure; and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.

27 For you save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.

28 For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.

29 ¶ For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.

30 This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Additional Scripture Resources

Romans 8:1-21 **ESV** ¶

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

8 **Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

10 ¶ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 ¶ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 ¶ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,
10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

1 Corinthians 13:13-14:1 ESV
So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 ¶ Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:26-40 NIV1984 ¶ What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, **everyone** has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.
27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.
28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.

30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop.

31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.

32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.
33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints,

34 ¶ women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says.

35 If they want to enquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

36 ¶ Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached?

37 If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the LORD'S command.
38 If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.

39 Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.
40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

No-one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame

Instead we are to continue on trusting our God! Not making up our own courses of action but keeping to what God has revealed to us — and finding out what He has to say if we do not already know.

My hope is in You all day long

Psalms 25:1-7 NIV1984 ¶
Of David. To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;

2 in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

3 No-one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

4 Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;

5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

6 Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.
7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.

We are to rely upon the mercy, love and goodness of the LORD. You are to rely upon His character, His nature to forgive you and lead you as you genuinely look to Him. Paul explains our reliance upon God's nature and character in the New Testament, in like terms to David above.

Verse 12 below ties in with verse three above, and verses six and seven above with verse 13 below.

2 Timothy 2:11-13 ESV The
have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;
13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

God's kindness to lead you to repentance

God initially shows His loving kindness to us to lead us to repentance – to change our ways, and adopt His instead.

Romans 2:1-6 ESV Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things.

3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

4 **Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?**

5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

6 He will render to each one according to his works—

There are conditions to continuing to experience the enduring love of the LORD, the lifelong prosperity He holds out for those who keep His covenant (in Christ) and fear Him.

Often liberals and the backslidden say 'how could such and such happen if there is a loving God?'

God is Love — that is an absolute. As humans we must work on that fact in our thinking first. And from there humble ourselves, to fear God and find His answers to our situations. Then He will teach us His Ways, and then we can keep them.

And if you *really* keep them and stop leaning to your own understanding then you will experience His loving kindnesses lifelong!

Psalms 25:8-14 NIV1984 ¶
Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

10 All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

11 For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

12 Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him.

13 He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land.

14 The LORD confides in those who fear Him; He makes his covenant known to them.

4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by **gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.**

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ESV
Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;

6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, **Who apportions to each one individually as he wills.**

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:10 ESV ¶ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

31 **But earnestly desire the higher gifts.** *And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

13:1 ¶ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.**

3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, **but have not love, I gain nothing.**

4 ¶ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

14 ¶ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

15 For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream;

18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Luke 11:9-13 ESV And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent;

12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Hebrews 2:3-4 ESV ... how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

Its really very straight forward – we must fear God and keep His Ways — if we do then "The LORD confides in those who fear Him; He makes his covenant known to them" is what we experience. Then we can better keep his ways and grow stronger in Him.

Proverbs 3:33-35 AB The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly, but the habitations of the just are blessed.

34 The Lord resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.

35 The wise shall inherit glory, but the ungodly have exalted their own dishonour.

James 4:6 ESV But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Paul's Trip to Rome via Malta

A clear example of persevering with the word of the LORD under adversity, is found in Luke's description of Paul going as a prisoner for the LORD to Rome—Acts 26.

Paul was being sent (prepared for it by prophecy) as a prisoner to Rome. Paul is given a number of insights and direct words by the LORD about the journey, and warns his shipmates accordingly.

The first warning was that they should wait and not sail from the place where they were. This was not listened to and the ship ends up in a most dreadful storm at sea that just goes on and on.

Then the LORD sends an angel and tells Paul that they will be shipwrecked, but if they all stay together, they will make land safely.



Acts 27:20-26 ESV When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

21 ¶ Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss.

22 Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

23 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship,

24 and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’

25 So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

26 But we must run aground on some island.”

Some sailors want to escape from the boat — but Paul holds the leading soldier to the word that the LORD has given. . .

Acts 27:31-34 **ESV** Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”

32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.

33 As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing.

34 Therefore I urge you to take some food. It will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you.”

They Had to All Stick Together in the Word of the LORD.

Then their boat shipwrecks, and they are cast ashore in the surf on Malta, and God has the locals show great kindness to them. But while gathering firewood Paul is bitten by a deadly snake—and just brushes it off and suffers no harm. This gets the locals' attention, and Paul is able to use it to talk to them! Then Paul prays for the island's chief man—Publius's, father. . .

Acts 28:8-10 **ESV** It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him.

14 He will glorify me, for **he will take what is mine and declare it to you.**

15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that He will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 20:21-23 **ESV** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

22 And when He had said this, **He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.**

23 If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

Luke 24:45-53 **ESV** Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 You are witnesses of these things.

49 And behold, I am sending **the promise of my Father** upon you. But stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high.**”

50 ¶ Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them.

51 While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

52 And they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Acts 1:1-5 **ESV** ¶ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,

2 until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.

3 To them He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for **the promise of the Father**, which, He said, “you heard from me;

5 for John baptized with water, **but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”

Acts 2:1-4, 12-18, 32-33 **ESV** ¶ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,
17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.
18 ¶ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.
20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

John 15:26-27 **ESV** ¶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.
27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:7-15 **ESV** ¶ “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.
8 And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;
10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;
11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.
13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.

9 And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.
10 They also honoured us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

Then in a faithful attitude Paul (by faith in Christ) survived a deadly snakebite with no lingering pain or consequences, kept his head, prayed for a sick man and great blessing started to flow to a great many! “And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.”
 What is your attitude if the LORD Jesus should lead you into adversity? What if He revealed that His leading to you would result in loss of worldly relationships, in God’s use – and your – earthly loss of riches, possessions, even your physical death?

Job 13:15 **ESV** Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;

Job 19:25-27 **ESV** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,
27 whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Paul knew that, and persevered in a heart attitude pleasing to our Heavenly Father, and look at the great fruit - Don’t go sour on God or your brothers in Christ—maintain faith, hope and love!
 Have that heart of Paul, David, and of course our Lord Jesus in going to the cross — in you too!
 Stay utterly and most fully in the leading of God’s Holy Spirit!

King David’s Seer Asaph

Before he came into the recognised kingship and was based in Jerusalem in the City of David, King David and the men with him understood what

it was like to be in difficult circumstances, be trusting in the LORD – and see the arrogant, the unrighteous, parading around in their self-centredness with no worries while you might be sick and hungry.

One of the men who understood what David had been through – a later chief musician, and seer, Asaph² puts these kinds of experiences like this—

Psalms 73:1-28 ESV

PSALM OF ASAPH.

¶ Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

5 They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

6 Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.

7 Their eyes swell out through fatness; hearts overflow with follies.

8 They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.

10 Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.

11 And they say, “How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?”

12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.

14 For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.

15 ¶ If I had said, “I will speak thus,” I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

16 But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,

17 until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.

19 How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!

20 O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

21 ¶ When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,

The Promise of the Father

The Lord Jesus made definite promises about what the Holy Spirit would do to help us when He came. We need to realise fully upon these promises, believe and live by them!

Galatians 5:25 ESV If we live by the Spirit, let us also **walk by the Spirit.**

Matthew 10:17-20 ESV

Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues,

18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.

19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.

20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

John 3:5-8 ESV Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3:34 ESV For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure.

John 7:37-39 ESV ¶ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 14:15-21 ESV ¶ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

No Matter What — Stay in the Holy Spirit

John 4:23-24 **ESV** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Job 32:6-9 **ESV** ¶ So Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite said: “I am young in years, and you are old; that is why I was fearful, not daring to tell you what I know. I thought, ‘Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.’ But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding. It is not only the old who are wise, not only the aged who understand what is right.

Perhaps after the wonder and gift of life in Christ through His death and resurrection – the next greatest gift to us, is God continuing to give us of Himself – the gift of His Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Moses had wished that all Israel could have God’s Holy Spirit as he did. Never! go this way...

Or even totally fatally worse don’t accuse the things of the Holy Spirit as being of the Devil—

Isaiah 63:10 **NIV1984** Yet they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit. So He turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

Matthew 12:31-32 **ESV** “...Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

We must not look around at those who succeed following their own plans and hearts—without regard to God at all.

22 I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. **23** Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. **24** You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. **25** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. **27** For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. **28** But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

2 Corinthians 10:12 **ESV** ¶ Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

If we only look at their success in the world, then we are being very short sighted.

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

James 4:3-10 **ESV** ... You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

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

12 ¶ Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,*

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 ¶ Do all things without grumbling or questioning,

15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labour in vain.

9 ¶ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,**

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 ¶ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

But Our Citizenship is in Heaven

Philippians 3:17-21 **ESV** ¶ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

To be honest, we must look at the whole picture, we must as the king's seer Asaph, draw near to God and view things from His Eternal viewpoint and plan—keeping true faith.

9 Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name,

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

Philippians 2:8-16 **ESV** And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 3:7-16 **ESV** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. **For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ**