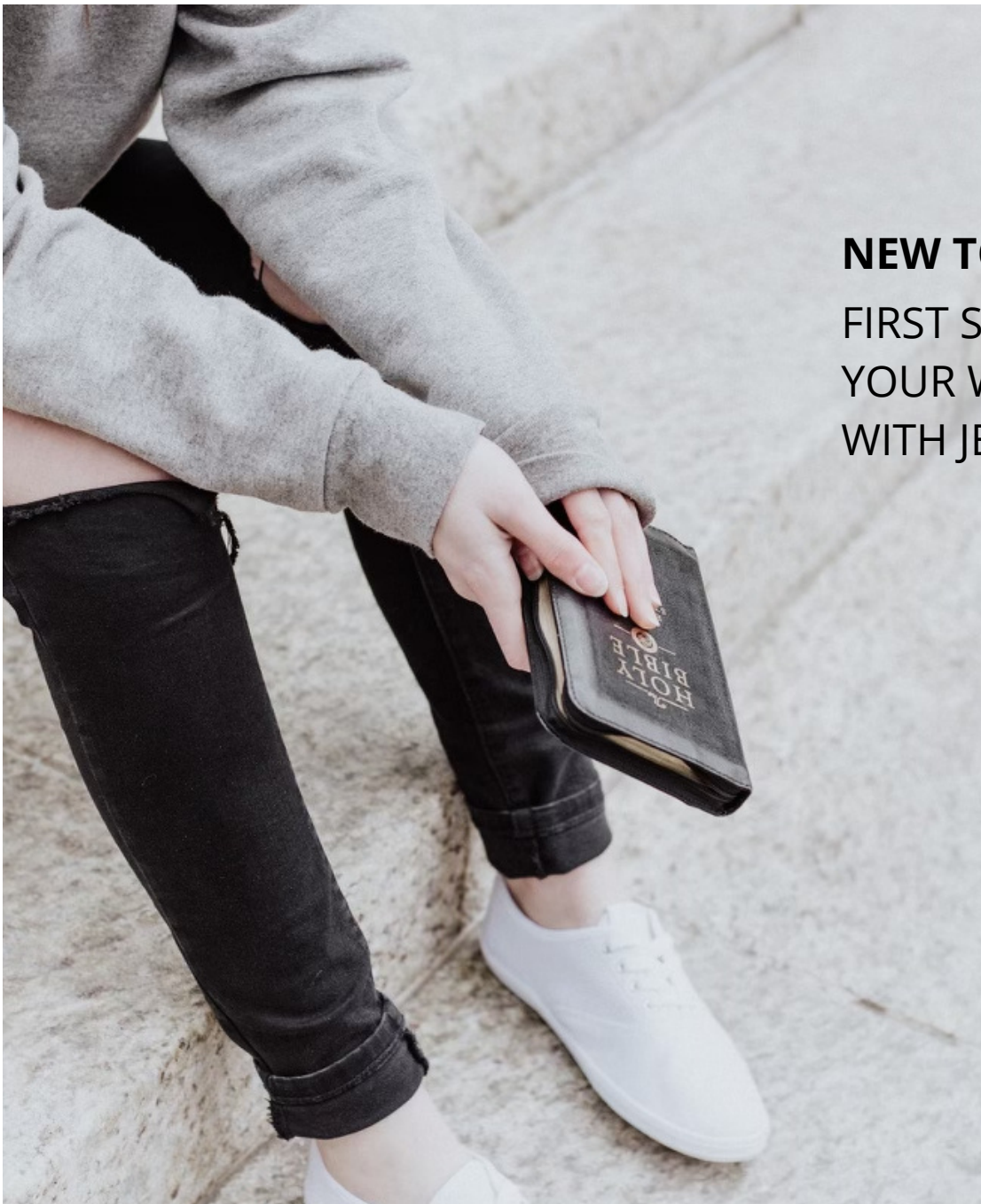


**b e l i e v e**

# **HOPEPOINT**

FOUNDATIONS



**NEW TO FAITH**  
FIRST STEPS TO  
YOUR WALK  
WITH JESUS







# welcome

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What a great first step you've made saying YES to Jesus. We are excited to welcome you onto this journey of faith in Christ. Our desire for you is that you will grow in your relationship with God everyday.

Whenever we start a new relationship, it takes time to get to know one another. Starting out with God is like that. We were created for relationship with Him and there's an open invitation for us to spend time getting to know God and His ways through reading the bible and talking to Him in prayer.

We've designed this book to take you through your first 30 days of faith. You'll learn the basics, and as you get new questions, write them in this journal to talk to a mature believer in Jesus.

If reading the Bible is new to you or seems hard, check out the tips on the next page to help you get the most out of your daily Bible reading.

Our prayer is that you will develop a daily habit of spending time with God, and that it will become a haven of peace and reset each time you sit.



**PUT JESUS  
IN YOUR  
EVERYDAY LIFE**







# TIPS

How to get the best from this book...

## **1. Find a quiet place each day**

Try to find somewhere you are unlikely to be interrupted so you can read and reflect.

## **2. Read the Bible passage**

Turn over the passage in your mind and ask yourself: What is it really saying to me? Each part of the Bible is best understood in its context, so it's helpful to read the surrounding passage to see how it gives meaning to the text.

## **3. Read the notes**

We've included some notes to help you get the most out of the passage

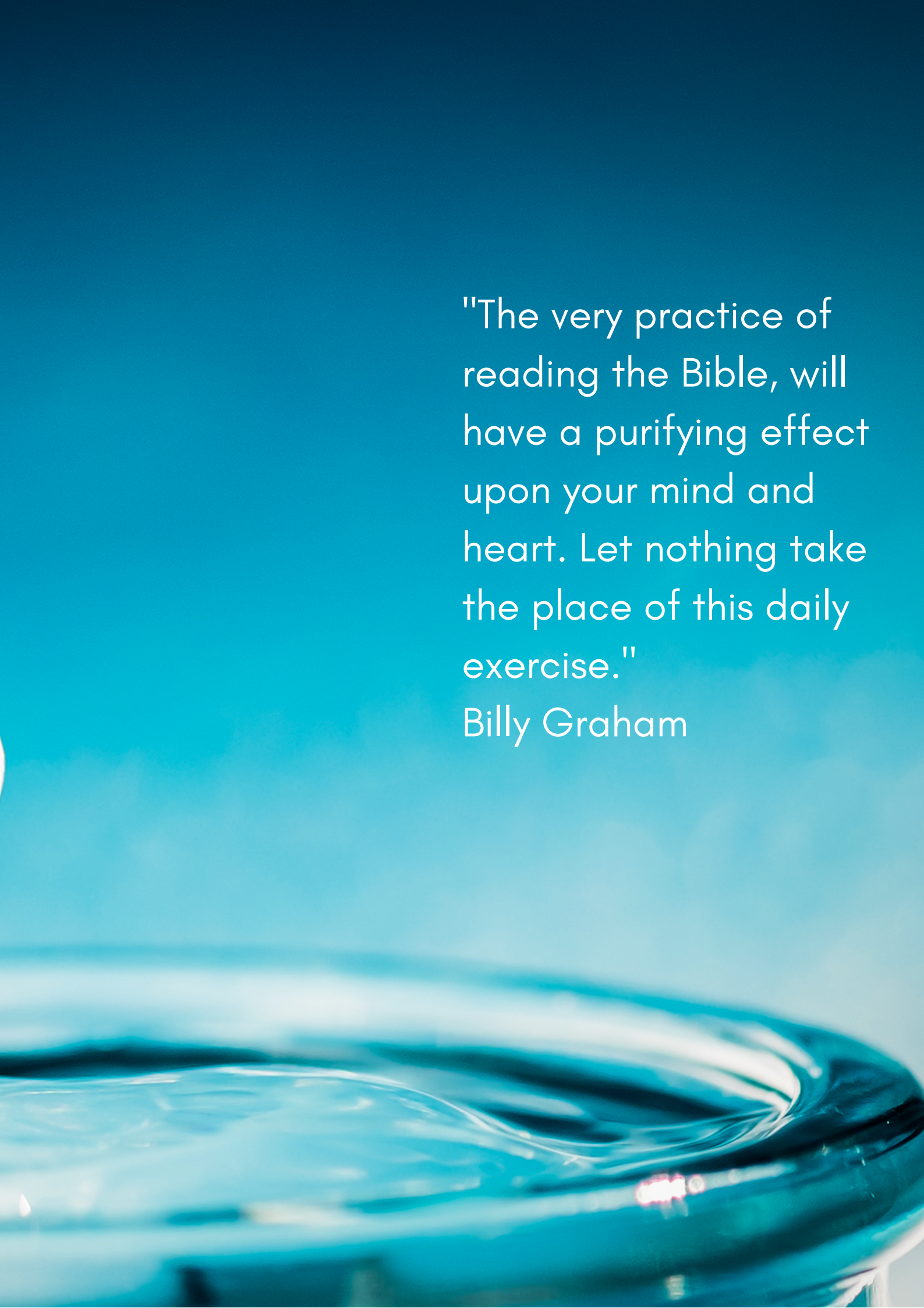
## **4. Respond**

Getting used to responding to God is a part of your new journey. Each day there'll be space for you to write your thoughts and respond to God in prayer.

## **5. Talk to someone**

One of the ways that we grow in our faith is by talking to other Christians. Talking to someone about what you are reading and learning is a great part of your growth.





"The very practice of reading the Bible, will have a purifying effect upon your mind and heart. Let nothing take the place of this daily exercise."

Billy Graham

# THE BIBLE

## HOW TO FIND A BIBLE VERSE

### JOHN 3:16-18

THE BIBLE IS  
MADE UP OF 66  
BOOKS. THE  
NAME OF EACH  
BOOK CAN BE  
FOUND IN THE  
CONTENTS PAGE  
OF YOUR BIBLE

THE FIRST  
NUMBER IS THE  
CHAPTER

THE SECOND  
GROUP OF  
NUMBERS ARE  
THE VERSE  
NUMBERS.

EACH BOOK IS  
BROKEN UP INTO  
CHAPTER AND  
VERSE SO YOU  
CAN FIND  
THINGS EASIILY.  
THESE MARKERS  
WEREN'T IN THE  
ORIGINAL  
MANUSCRIPTS,  
THEY ARE ONLY  
THERE TO HELP  
US AS WE LEARN  
FROM GODS  
WORD.



The God who made the  
world and everything in it is  
the Lord of heaven and  
earth and does not live in  
temples built by hands. And  
he is not served by human  
hands as if he needed  
anything, because he  
himself gives all men life  
and breath and everything  
else

ACTS 17:24-28



## Who is God?

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Many have tried to describe God. People try to limit God to certain spheres. There is no limit to God. There is no limit to His wisdom. There is no limit to His power. There is no limit to His love. There is no limit to His mercy. Men change, fashions change, conditions and circumstances change, but God never changes.

God is the Father of all creation, the Creator of all. He is all powerful and sustains the universe. He exists outside of the universe, yet He is present throughout the universe as its ruler. He exists in nature, but He is not nature, nor is He bound by the laws of nature. He is the source of all life and everything that is.

God remains intimately involved in the world He made. His love for the world he created, resulted in Him sending His son to rescue the world from sin and pain.

The best description of God is the name that He gave for Himself to the early Israelites, Yahweh. Yahweh is usually translated Jehovah or LORD. Scholars believe that this is a tense of the Hebrew verb "to be" and literally means "He who (causes everything) else to be."

God exists beyond our understanding of time and space. God is all-seeing and all-knowing. We cannot hide from Him. He knows our thoughts. In fact, the Bible book of Psalms says God knows us even before we are born - 'you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb'...'you have searched me and you know me...you are familiar with all my ways...before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely...'

(For biblical references see Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Psalm 147:5, Isaiah 66:1, Jeremiah 32:17, John 4:24, Hebrews 1:3, and 1 John 4:9).



# Respond

## Day 1

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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The Son  
is the image  
of the  
invisible God.  
COLOSSIANS 1:15



## What is God like?

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The Bible declares that God is Spirit, that He is not limited to body; He is not limited to shape; He is not limited to force; He is not limited to boundaries; He is absolutely immeasurable. This can be hard to grasp. Have you ever had a child ask you, "What does God look like?" Or have you ever wondered about that yourself? The book of Hebrews gives us the answer to this question: "Jesus is the exact representation of God's being."

What does God look like? He looks like Jesus because Jesus looks like God. To some of us this might not sound helpful, because we do not know exactly what Jesus looks like. But this is about more than just a physical appearance. We know that Jesus became a human being, so we can assume things about his physical nature. But this also means much more.

Jesus says in John 14:9, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." Likewise, we're told in Colossians 1:15, "The Son is the image of the invisible God."

In Jesus we can see God—and this has to do with God's character. Jesus reveals "the exact imprint" of God's nature. In Jesus we see that God is loving, merciful, caring, just, righteous, and more. In the actions and words of Jesus, we see God's character.

Jesus revealed God's character the most clearly when He showed His love for us by dying on the cross to save us from our sin. In that one act we see God's love, mercy, care, justice, and righteousness. If you want to know what God looks like, look to Jesus. In Him we see what God looks like in all His glory.

# Respond

## Day 2

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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He predestined us for adoption  
to sonship through Jesus Christ,  
in accordance with His  
pleasure and will — to the  
praise of His glorious grace,  
which He has freely given us in  
the One He loves.

EPHESIANS 1:5-6



## How can God be my father?

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Having a heavenly Father means that we are a part of the family of God. Through Jesus, we can receive eternal life and adoption into God's family. This comes with many implications. As God's children, we know that we are loved by Him.

This may be an easy concept to grasp, or a hard one depending on your relationship with your earthly dad. Sadly, many people have had very negative experiences with their physical fathers—sometimes due to abuse, neglect, absence or other factors. God the Father, on the other hand, is the source of truth and love (John 17:17; 1 John 4:16).

God is the perfect Father. His love, protection and devotion to us is incomparable and can't be matched by human love. He loves us more than a human father could comprehend.

He is all you ever wanted in a dad! He is a good Father.

The fact that God views us as His children also reflects the fact that He no longer holds our sins against us because of Jesus Christ, but instead has a personal connection with us. God the Father wants to have a close, "father-child" relationship with us. God doesn't want us to view Him as a Father who is cold, and hard to relate to. God wants us to have a warm, affectionate, personal relationship with Him. He wants us to recognize His gentle concern and desire to bless us.

We are children in God's eyes, and we have the ability to enjoy the bond only a father and his children can enjoy. We are sons and daughters of our loving Father in heaven.

# Respond

## Day 3

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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God is love

1 JOHN 4:8-10



## Is God really love?

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God is not just loving, he is the source of all love. It means that the very essence of God's character is love. We will never be able to plumb the depths of His love—not even in eternity. But the apostle John pointed out that we can begin to understand it as we view the cross (1 John 4:9-10). As we see Christ dying there for us, we catch a glimpse of the beauty of the loving heart of God.

The wonderful news is that God doesn't just keep His love to Himself, but He shows it to the world. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." God spared nothing by giving us the most special and beloved gift which He could give, His Son, and He sent Him to a world which didn't deserve such a gift.

God initiated love because love is Who He is; His own nature compelled Him to give us Jesus. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Often at weddings we hear a famous bible passage from the book of 1 Corinthians, chapter 13. It describes love in detail. It goes on to say, "Love is patient, love is kind" etc. If we read this passage, we can get a true picture of God's love for us.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 with God's name where the word love is and you'll get a fresh revelation of what God's love looks like.

God's love is patient, God's love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, God's love keeps no record of wrongs. God's love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

God's love never fails.



# Respond

## Day 4

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

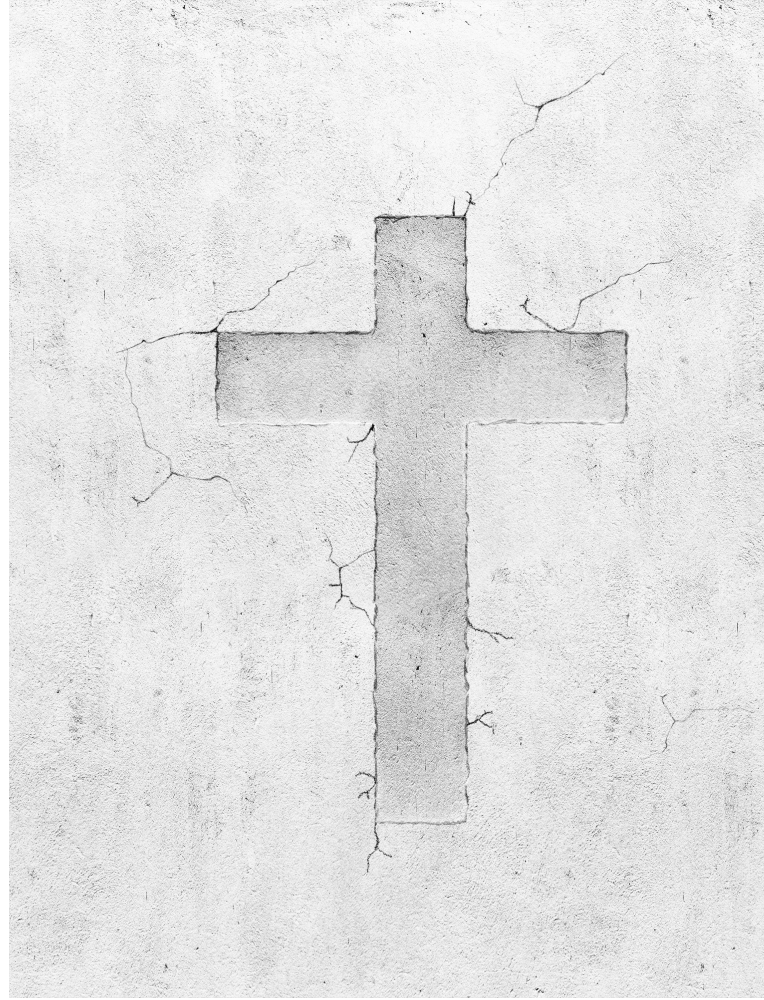
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"But what about you?"  
Jesus asked.  
"Who do you say I am?"  
Simon Peter answered,  
"You are the Christ,  
the Son of the living God."

MATTHEW 16:15-16



## Who is Jesus?

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Jesus is the son of God. He was fully man and is fully God. He came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross for the sins of all who would believe in Him. He lived again three days later, ascended into heaven, and will come again! Jesus has dominion over all things; he holds all things together (Colossians 1:17).

Did you know that Jesus is the beginning and the end? He was there at the very beginning of time, when God created everything, and He's still here now. He's the alpha and omega, which means He's the first and last, and knows everything in between. We can trust Him with our lives.

The apostle Paul wrote the letter of Philippians while he was in jail. The world he lived in wasn't perfect. It would have been easy for him to get discouraged and wonder if Jesus really was, who he said He was. But Paul knew that the day would come where temporary things will be swept away and only that those things which are which eternal will remain.

At the end of time, when everything unfolds, and all that seems a mystery now, becomes plain, "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). In the meantime, each person has a decision to make today. Is Jesus the Lord of my life? Who sits in the driver's seat of our life?

# Respond

## Day 5

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Therefore be imitators  
of God,  
as beloved children.  
And walk in love,  
as Christ loved us  
and gave himself up for us,  
a fragrant offering  
and sacrifice to God.

EPHESIANS 5:1-2



## Is it possible to become like Jesus?

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Jesus lived a life of purpose. He had a mission and he gave it his all. And that's what we need to do, too.

As new believers in Jesus, we begin to understand that from the very beginning, God decided those who come to him should all become like his son, Jesus.

But how do we get there?  
How can we become like him?

We become like Jesus by the Spirit of God. He helps us to become who we are designed to be as we look to Jesus, the ultimate role model. As followers of Jesus we are not just learning about Him and He is moulding our character and making us new from the inside, out.

Our lives are shaped by all the circumstances of our life—the good and the bad—and they are all used by God to shape us into His image. Through the ups and downs of life, God has been using everything to draw us to Himself.

God wants us to become like Jesus. Think about that for a moment, His aim for our lives wasn't what career we would have, but who we would become.

Allow God to help you each day become like Jesus. Like a caterpillar becomes a butterfly through a process of transformation, our lives are in the process of God transforming every part of our lives, by His Spirit.

# Respond

## Day 6

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and  
just to forgive us  
our sins and to cleanse  
us from all  
unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9



## Does Jesus forgive all sin?

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In Romans 3:23, Paul tells us that ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. There is no one righteous, not even one. Sin is breaking God's guidelines. God gave us guidelines in His word, so we can have the best possible life. Sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instruction to them. Sin results in destruction, chaos, sadness, and death. The bible says in Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God made a way for us to know eternal hope and life through Jesus. Christians have been relieved of their guilt through faith in the Saviour. We no longer have to live condemned of our sins, for Jesus has paid the price for us to be free.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," on the cross, He was proclaiming that redemption for our sin was completed (John 19:30). He paid the full price with His death, and now all who believe in Him are forgiven.

Christ's sacrifice reaches back to the past, into the present, and beyond to the future. That means we never have to fear that something we did in the past or might do in the future is beyond the reach of God's forgiveness. The Lord never takes back His pardon.

For a person to find true forgiveness, he or she must admit the sin. This is called confession. The bible says that "if we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9).

We should ask ourselves if there are things in our lives that need forgiveness. It may be hard to do, but God will lovingly show us the areas where work is needed. We should grow in God every day, and this is a good way to start. Let's not ignore sin. We must deal with it. Bring it to Jesus. Allow His forgiveness to remove the sin in our lives.



# Respond

## Day 7

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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When Jesus spoke again to the  
people, he said,  
"I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me  
will never walk in  
darkness, but will have  
the light of life."

JOHN 8:12



first  
things  
first

## I believe in Jesus, what now?

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Following Jesus is a journey. It starts with a BIG decision to say YES to God and his ways. It starts with believing in your heart that Jesus died on the cross and was raised back to life, so that ALL might have eternal life and to be the Lord of your life and an acknowledgement that Jesus is Lord. But the journey doesn't end there, that's just the beginning.

The Christian life is an adventure, and is about learning to follow Jesus' teaching, learning the ways of God and living as a demonstration of God's love in our world today. In the first century, when Jesus was on the earth he was a Rabbi, a teacher. Rabbi's had disciples who followed them around, walking in their dust. Learning about them and eventually becoming like them.

When Jesus called His first disciples, He called four ordinary fishermen to join Him on His journey. He made a simple call to follow, and all four men immediately left their work, belongings, and people to follow Jesus. This serves as a powerful example of what it looks like to follow Jesus. When He calls you to follow Him, nothing matters as much as your relationship with Him. For from it, as we read in Matthew 6:33, everything else flows. So, to truly follow Christ is to put Him first in your life, and to surrender to His lead. As the disciples followed Jesus wherever he went, we are to do the same.

For centuries, men and women of all ages and ethnicities have been disciples of Jesus, committing to following Jesus every day. We join the multitudes that have gone before us as we make sure Jesus is a part of our everyday lives. Jesus is not an "add on" to our lives, He is the main thing and everything else is "added on".

# Respond

## Day 8

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Many are the plans  
in a person's heart,  
but it is the  
LORD's purpose  
that prevails.

PROVERBS 19:21



## Does God have a purpose for my life?

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Do you have a goal for your life? Well God has a vision of what He wants for your life too! God has a purpose for your life. Imagine the creator of the entire universe has a plan for you! A perfect plan. We don't serve some figure up in the sky, who doesn't care about us, we serve a God who is interested in our well-being. So interested, that he wants to guide us along the best pathways for our lives.

Ephesians 1:11 says, "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, He had His eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone."

This verse gives us three insights into our purpose. First, is that we discover our identity and purpose through relationship with Jesus Christ. Second, this verse is a good reminder that God was thinking of you long before you ever thought about Him. He planned your life before you existed. And third, the purpose of your life fits into a much larger purpose that God has designed for eternity.

We often look to the future and can imagine where we want to be. It may be wanting to finish a degree or get married or travel the world. God asks us to submit our plans to Him and trust Him to lead us through life. He created you, and He knows you better than you know yourself. God has created you uniquely. You are the only you on Earth, and you have a divine mission only you can accomplish. You were created on purpose, for a purpose, and with a purpose.

# Respond

## Day 9

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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But the Helper,  
the Holy Spirit, whom the Father  
will send in my name,  
he will teach you all things  
and bring to your  
remembrance all that I  
have said to you.

JOHN 14:26



## Who is the Holy Spirit?

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The Holy Spirit is God, just as God the Father and God the Son are also God. We speak of them as Three in One, the Triune God. This can be a hard spiritual fact to get our minds around. It may help to remember that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have all existed from eternity. The work of creation was given to the Son and we are told that, “All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made.” But when you read the second verse of the first chapter of Genesis, you will find that the Holy Spirit was also there, moving upon the face of His creation.

In time, as Jesus prepares his disciples for His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, He teaches them about the Holy Spirit who is to come. The disciples were worried, they couldn't imagine life without Jesus. Jesus understands their fears and sadness and then assures them of something even greater than His physical presence among them. His physical presence within them.

Jesus promised his disciples a parakletos—someone on whom they could call when they needed help; someone who would be there for them in their hour of need. Jesus promised that this friend would be with them forever. Jesus himself, through the Holy Spirit, will reside in these disciples and in all people who put their trust in him.

Jesus told the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to arrive (Acts 1:5). In Acts 2, we read that the disciples were gathered together to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. The sounds of heaven announced the Holy Spirit's grand arrival, the Holy Spirit came upon each man and woman gathered together in the upper room, igniting them all with the flame of God's love and power. Then they came out of their meeting place into the streets of the city, sharing the gospel in languages they had never even learned.

The Holy Spirit brings the energising power for us to be witnesses to the truth of Jesus to our world.



# Respond

## Day 10

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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But the fruit of the Spirit  
is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness,  
self-control;  
against such things there  
is no law.

GALATIANS 5:22-23



## What role does the Holy Spirit have in my life?

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The Holy Spirit is a person; He is a Spirit. When we receive Christ into our lives, the Holy Spirit comes and lives within us.

The indwelling of the Spirit takes place when we say yes to Jesus, when the believer's body becomes the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19). According to Ephesians 1:14, the Holy Spirit is given to all believers as a pledge of our coming inheritance. What better guarantee could we have of our salvation and eternal security! The Holy Spirit dwells in us to enable and empower the believer's new life in Christ.

But the work of the Holy Spirit doesn't stop there. Throughout the history of the Church, many people have been able to identify a distinct experience when they received the power of God. This experience was what propelled them into greater levels of fruitfulness and effectiveness in ministering to others.

This type of encounter has been described in many different terms, such as being "baptised in the Holy Spirit," receiving the "gift of the Holy Spirit," or being "filled with the Holy Spirit." Regardless of which term you use, these men and women of God definitely received the same thing: the power of the Holy Spirit.

Then we are encouraged to "keep on being filled" (Ephesians 5:18). The beautiful thing about the Holy Spirit is that God wants you to be filled often. To be filled with the Spirit simply means to be under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit. God longs for His people to not just receive the Holy Spirit but to be filled daily with that Spirit. His Spirit is there to remind us of His words, empower us to obey them, transform our lives to look more like His, and create His fruit within us (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control see Galatians 5:22-23). The Holy Spirit equips us for every good work (Hebrews 13:21).

The evidence of the Holy Spirit in our lives can be seen through the fruits of the Spirit operating in our lives, and the different gifts the Holy Spirit gives.

# Respond

## Day 11

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Rejoice always,  
pray without ceasing, in  
everything give thanks;  
for this is the will of God  
in Christ Jesus  
for you.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



## How do I pray effectively?

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The best way to get to know someone is to talk with that person often. God longs for you to know Him. Communicating with God is called prayer. The Bible is full of invitations to come into a deep, personal relationship with God the Father. "If you seek him, he will be found by you" (1 Chronicles 28:9). In Jeremiah 24:7, speaking of those who would become followers of Jesus Christ, God says, "I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord."

When we pray, we don't need to be something we're not. We can come before God and be real, vulnerable and open before Him and we can pray about EVERYTHING. The apostle Paul encouraged the church in Philippi with these words, "...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6). It's the same for us today. There is absolutely nothing in life you cannot share with God.

Communication is a two-way street. It doesn't consist of one person doing all the talking while the other does all the listening. You may have to develop an ability to listen, but you can learn to listen for God's whispers in your life. God will speak to us through His Word or as a direct revelation to your heart (which will always line up with the Word of God).

Jesus Christ spent many hours in prayer. He would leave His disciples and spend time alone in prayer, and sometimes they would pray as a group. If Jesus felt that He had to pray, how much more do we need to pray?! As followers of Jesus, we want to get to know God but sometimes we don't know where to start. The disciples were the same. They asked Jesus how to pray. You can read Jesus' response to them in Matthew 6:9-13. The main thing is, God knows you! He is waiting for you to talk to Him and take time to listen.

# Respond

## Day 12

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17



## What is the Bible?

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The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. The Bible is a collection of ancient writings we believe to be God's revelation to people. Some people say it's like a library of books and letters all bound up in one. The Bible tells the story of God's relationship with creation.

The Bible consists of two parts – the Old Testament (the time before Jesus) and the New Testament (during and after Jesus' life). The Bible is comprised of 66 books, written by 40 authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit over a period of 1,500 years, and preserved for nearly 2,000 years. The Bible's unity is due to the fact that, ultimately, it has one Author—God Himself. The Bible is “God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16). The human authors wrote exactly what God wanted them to write, and the result was the perfect and holy Word of God (Psalm 12:6; 2 Peter 1:21).

The list of books that make up the Bible is called the canon. All Protestant churches have the same 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. Some of the writers were kings, royal officials, poets and even a doctor, while some parts were written by poor uneducated fishermen. There are also some parts of the Bible where scholars and historians are unsure of who the authors are.

Jesus is the central character in the Bible—the whole book is really about Him. The Old Testament predicts His coming and sets the stage for His entrance into the world. The New Testament describes His coming and His work to bring salvation to our sinful world. The Bible is the written word of God, it is our source of wisdom for life and is far more than just a book of rules or instructions.



# Respond

## Day 13

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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For whatever was written in  
former days was written for our  
instruction, that through  
endurance and through the  
encouragement of the  
Scriptures we might have hope.

ROMANS 15:4



## Should I read the bible regularly?

The Bible is foundational to the Christian faith. It is through the Bible that we can learn more about God and his plan to restore all people and the entire world to himself, by sending his son Jesus Christ to live on earth.

Hebrews 4:12 says that God's Word is living and active. This means the Bible is more than a book, more than words on a page. It is more than words spoken in ancient times. The Bible is relevant; it addresses the needs of today. God wants us to grow in our faith—and one of the ways that happens is through reading God's Word and letting it into our hearts and minds.

Today, many people keep the Bible on the shelf and pick it up occasionally, this has caused all kinds of issues. Let's put it this way. We need food in order to survive, and without food we'll grow weak and eventually die. Yet many Christians are spiritually starved and weak because they ignore the spiritual "food" that God has provided in the Bible. The Bible is not an option; it is a necessity. You cannot grow spiritually strong without it. Job said, "I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread" (Job 23:12). Is the Bible this important to you?

In the bible we discover who God is and what He wants to do in our lives. The Apostle Paul put it this way: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

# Respond

## Day 14

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Is anyone among you sick?  
Let them call the elders of the  
church to pray over them  
and anoint them with oil in the  
name of the Lord.  
And the prayer offered in faith  
will make the sick  
person well;  
the Lord will raise them up.

JAMES 5:14-15



## Does Jesus still heal today?

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The question of healing is essential to understand and apply in a believer's life. It is a valid question that needs to be asked. The simple answer is, "Yes, Jesus still heals today".

The New Testament teaches that the Holy Spirit gives the gift of healing to the church, and we are to earnestly desire the spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8-11; 14:1).

All healing and gifts of healing are to glorify God and point to Jesus Christ. God can and does answer prayers for healing when it is in accordance with His will (Hebrews 2:4).

Only Jesus has the authority to heal someone (Acts 3:12-13). All through Israel in the First Century, Jesus went about healing those who were suffering. Healing minds, bodies and hearts. Our healing comes through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Isaiah prophesied about this in Chapter 53 verse 5, "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed."

There are occasions when we pray for people and they don't get healed, some things remain a mystery. In these times, we keep on asking and keep on believing while trusting in God's divine will.

The comfort we have is that there is coming a day when there will be no more sickness, disease, or death. Revelation 21:4 says, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Until that day, we pray in hope and faith knowing that whatever the outcome, it will be for the glory of God.

# Respond

## Day 15

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

HEBREWS 10:24-25



## Why should I go to church?

God never intended the church to be for spectators who just show up for a performance on a Sunday morning. He designed His church to be a place for all, to grow together in community.

Here are 5 reasons why we should go to church.

**1. The church is God's idea and the church is His plan for this age.** The most important reason for God's people to attend church is that the church is God's idea, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). THE church is how God is accomplishing His work on earth today.

**2. The Bible tells us to be involved in the church.** From the account in Acts of the first church in Jerusalem, to the seven churches listed in Revelation, it's obvious that the Bible teaches the importance of local church involvement. It's clear from passages like Hebrews 10:25 above.

**3. The church is where God's people are taught God's Word so they can grow spiritually.** The focal point of local church ministry is to clearly teach and preach the Word of God.

**4. God's people connect with other believers in the church.** The community provided by a local church is essential for believers because the Christian life was never intended to be a solo act. That's why there are close to 60 "one another's" mentioned in the New Testament.

**5. God designed His church to fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples.** The last thing Christ said to His disciples is what has commonly been called "the Great Commission" where He left the lasting imperative to "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19-20) for His people to follow.



# Respond

## Day 16

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

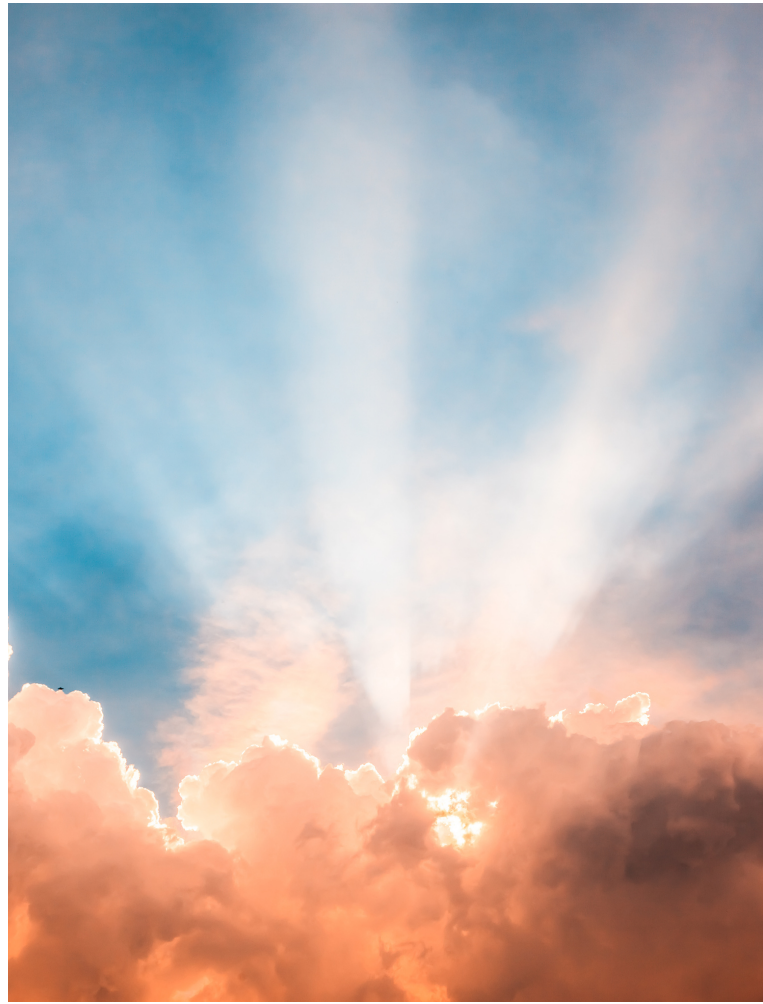
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In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

JOHN 14:2



## Where am I going when I die?

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Followers of Jesus believe that there is an afterlife. The Bible teaches that when people die, their souls live on. People will spend eternity either with God (commonly called heaven) or separated from God (commonly called hell).

If we do not know Jesus in this life, we will not know Him in the next.

People try to reach God through being very moral, doing good deeds, or behaving in ways they think of as very religious. But the Bible teaches that no one is actually worthy of spending eternity with God based on their own efforts. In fact, trying to get to heaven on the basis of our own effort is actually part of the problem the Bible refers to as sin. This is the problem Jesus' death and resurrection solved for anyone who trusts in Jesus.

Are you afraid of dying? Do you know someone who fears death? Connected to Jesus by faith, we have nothing to fear. His death and resurrection assures us of our forgiveness from sin and our place in heaven with him. The Bible also makes it abundantly clear that you can determine where you go when you die by believing on Jesus as Lord and Saviour in this life.

This world is temporary. Yes, God has given us an assignment here. But it is temporary. As long as we are here, we are not at home with the Lord. Paul went on to say in 2 Corinthians 5:8, "I prefer to be once for all absent from the body so that I can be once for all at home with the Lord." That is what happens to Christians when we die. The moment we leave this body, we are forever at home with the Lord.

# Respond

## Day 17

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:19-20



## Why should I get baptised in water?

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Water baptism is one of the most beautiful, significant and life-defining moments in your journey as a Christian. This simple act of obedience as a believer, has powerful supernatural significance.

Water baptism is a public declaration of our faith in Jesus Christ and the outward demonstration of the inward transformation that takes place when we receive Him as our Lord and Saviour. So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).

A simple example of a similar symbol in our culture is the practice in Australia of getting married. We ask someone to marry us, and we are betrothed. We both apply to be “legally married” and then we have a marriage contract or “papers” as we often refer to it. After we have the papers, a ceremony takes place (sometimes just in front of one person, and in some cases thousands) to let the world know, our relationship status has changed and we want to spend the rest of our lives loving our spouse. The same can be said for our spiritual journey.

We accept Jesus’ invitation for new life, and join our lives with Him. We enter into the new covenant, an eternal contract of new life with Him. And then to let everyone know of our new faith and relationship with Jesus, we get water baptised.

Baptism is the first step of obedience, after we have received Jesus as Saviour for every new believer.

# Respond

## Day 18

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

ROMANS 6:3-4



## How do I get baptised?

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Water baptism is one of the most common practices in the whole tradition of Christianity. It is not merely a religious ritual; Jesus commanded we repent and be baptised (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16). There are many people who have received Jesus Christ as Saviour but have not come to the waters of baptism. The Bible very clearly calls us to baptism in this sequence: repent and be baptised.

Water baptism is a symbol of Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection. We enter the water as a symbol of entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ, coming just as we are, clothed in our old life with all of its habits, mindsets and behaviours.

Allowing ourselves to be immersed in water by somebody else during the process of water baptism, is symbolic of willingly yielding our life to God's rulership as an act of love, obedience and trust.

Sometimes people come to faith in Jesus and they have already been baptised as an infant and they wonder if they need to be baptised again. It's important to find out what the bible says on the subject. The Greek word in the Bible for 'baptism' is Baptizo, which literally means to "immerse, to submerge and to overwhelm." Jesus is our example in everything. Jesus wasn't sprinkled or partially baptised in the Jordan River. He was baptised by full immersion ("As Jesus came up out of the water..." Mark 1:10) and therefore, we follow His example. If you have been Christened as a baby, you need to be baptised as an adult.

God sees the faith in our vulnerability and humility and is pleased.



# Respond

## Day 19

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Praise the Lord!  
For it is good to sing  
praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant,  
and a song of praise is fitting.

PSALM 147:1



## Is singing really in the Bible?

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Singing is quite significant in the Bible. Multiple examples in both the Old and New Testament demonstrate the use of song by humans, angels, and the Lord Himself. Throughout Scripture, singing is used to worship the Lord, offering praises through song to God.

Singing praises to the Lord is a common experience during worship services. Whether traditional hymns, contemporary praise songs, or a mixture of both, most Christians cannot imagine a church gathering without lifting their voices in song. Spanning back to the earliest times in the Old Testament up to the era of the early church, singing has been an integral activity for followers of the Lord.

Within the Bible, there are numerous examples of people singing praises to the Lord and telling of His mighty deeds. Such use of music is a form of worship to the Lord, offering praises to Him through song and melody.

The Bible never says, let those who have beautiful voices sing, as if natural talent were required to praise God. The Bible just says "Sing!" Over and over, dozens of times, we are commanded to sing: sing to the Lord, sing praises, sing joyfully, sing a new song. Come into God's presence with singing.

The command to sing may be repeated more frequently than any command in the Bible except the one to love. Certainly we're told to sing more times than we are told to witness or teach or baptize or even to bring offerings.

James says it beautifully in Chapter 5 verse 3: "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise." Of course we know we are commanded to pray, but we are also commanded to sing.

# Respond

## Day 20

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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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.

JOHN 4:23



## What is worship?

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When we look at all the Scriptures on worship, we can sum it up simply in the following way: Worship is the acknowledgement of Who God is, and what God does, directed to God Himself. We can glorify God throughout our entire day. Worship can happen anywhere you are and in whatever you're doing, assuming it is not sinful or against God. When you are in a posture of gratitude and reverence to God, everything you do can be used to praise Him.

A few of the many ways to worship God include:

- Music, Singing and Dancing (Psalm 98:1)
- Prayer (1 Chronicles 29: 10-13)
- Creativity: Filmmaking, Writing, Painting, etc. (Exodus 35:30-35)
- Exercise (Romans 12:1)
- Serving Others (1 Peter 4:10)
- Giving and Sacrifice (Genesis 22 and 2 Corinthians 9:11)
- Reading His Word (1 Timothy 4:13)
- Fasting (Luke 2:37)
- Enjoying His Creation (Psalm 63: 3-4)
- Obedience (1 Samuel 15:22)
- Lifting our hands in worship (1 Timothy 2:8)

God can truly be glorified in everything we say and do, so this list represents just a fraction of the ways you can exalt Him. Whatever you do, do it for Him. Honour Him in all that you say and do, and He will be praised. While worship is not about us, there is still a deep connection between us and God when we choose to praise Him in good and bad circumstances. While we should not worship God for the sake of getting something in return, He is still a gracious God and gives us something anyway in the form of His presence.

The author of Hebrews urges readers to make a continual spiritual offering to God: "a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:15-16). Our everyday lives can be presented to God as an act of worship, where we both; give thanks with our lips and do good to those around us.



# Respond

## Day 21

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Give, and it will be given to  
you. Good measure, pressed  
down, shaken together,  
running over, will be put  
into your lap.

For with the measure you use  
it will be measured back to  
you.

LUKE 6:38



## Why is money given at church?

Believe it or not, money and possessions are the most talked about subjects in the Bible — more than prayer, faith or salvation. That's because God knew what areas we would struggle with. Our interaction with money should begin with acknowledging that everything belongs to God (Psalm 24:1). When we honour the LORD with our wealth, we demonstrate that we trust Him. In return He promises to take care of us (Proverbs 3:9 – 10).

In Old Testament times, tithes were to be given to God from the proceeds of land, herd and flock. The Israelites were to give a percentage of their belongings to God, recognising God as both the source and owner of all material blessings. The tithe (Hebrew "maaser", meaning "the tenth") was originally ten percent of every Israelite's property (Leviticus 27:30–33). It was given as a type of tax to support the priests and Levites (Numbers 18:21–24). However, greed discouraged many Israelites from paying it, and eventually it became a duty that replaced true worship.

In Matthew 23, Jesus addressed the Pharisees and acknowledged the importance of the tithe, but emphasised the importance of a generosity of spirit and heart.

Giving should be an act of stewardship. God is the source of everything we have (John 3:27; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 12:7 – 11), so in a sense we own nothing but are only stewards of what is rightfully God's (1 Peter 4:10). Giving should be an act of worship (Romans 12:1). Giving should be proportionate (1 Corinthians 16:1–2). Giving should be voluntary (2 Corinthians 8:1– 5, 11–12; 9:2). Giving should be planned (2 Corinthians 9:3–5). Giving should be cheerful (2 Corinthians 9:7) and giving should be generous (2 Corinthians 8:2; 9:5, 11, 13).

Setting a standard of giving, such as tithing, can help us do what we believe in our hearts to be right even if our feelings should waver. But if a Christian decides to tithe, it should be a free and joyous decision, not a legalistic one.

The apostle Paul summed up the New Testament standard of giving in 2 Corinthians 9:6–7 when he said, "each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Limiting ourselves to a rigid ten percent standard of tithing can cause us to miss the fundamental principle behind biblical generosity. God's liberality is the basis for His people's openhanded, bighearted responses.

# Respond

## Day 22

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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For as often as you eat  
this bread and  
drink the cup,  
you proclaim the  
Lord's death  
until he comes.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26



## Why do we take communion?

Communion or the Lord's Supper is the breaking and eating of bread to symbolize Christ's body broken for us and drinking juice (or wine) to remember the blood Jesus shed for our sins. "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (Matt 26:26-28)."

Communion is much more than just eating a piece of bread and taking a sip of juice. It is to:

- Remember Christ our Saviour, dying on the cross for the sin of humankind
- Proclaim His death
- Give thanks
- Examine our hearts
- Commune with God and fellow believers
- Acknowledge our covenant with Him
- Anticipate His return

Communion is a time when we collectively reflect on the covenant that joins us together. It's also a time to individually reflect on the price Jesus paid for us to be in a relationship with Him.

There is no need to wait for a special occasion, you may choose to take the communion elements as often as you choose! "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Cor 11:25-26)."

We are to continually observe the Lord's Supper "till He comes" (verse 26).

Partaking of communion reminds us that Jesus is victorious and He will set up His kingdom here on earth. We are to proclaim the Lord's death (through the observance of the Lord's Supper) until He comes again in the future. It also signifies the destruction of Satan, when Jesus will return in victory. We won't be taking communion at that point. We'll be at the banquet table, and Satan will be defeated.

The Lord's Supper keeps us focused on the cross. It draws us into fellowship with God and the body of Christ. It gives us the hope of the resurrection, the promise of victory over Satan and sin, and the truth of Heaven.

# Respond

## Day 23

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Whoever believes  
in the Son has  
eternal life;  
whoever does not obey the Son  
shall not see life.

JOHN 3:36



## How can I know I am saved?

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Many Christians spend years wrestling with the assurance of their salvation. This is an issue that must be settled first and foremost with those who would be disciples as a believer. When a baby is born, there is no question that he has arrived. Just as physical birth is a clear event that happens at a moment in time, so, too, salvation happens when a person is born again by the Spirit of God.

We respond to God through our intellect, our emotions, and our will. When we are presented with the gospel, the Spirit of God enlightens our mind to understand the facts of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection and our own lost and sinful state before God. It involves the surrender of our will to Jesus' place in our lives and putting our trust in Him, for today and forever. The assurance of salvation comes when we hear the gospel, respond by faith, and take God at His word.

Like many Christians, it is not unusual to experience doubts in our mind. We begin to wonder whether we should even ask questions. The Bible is full of stories of people who doubted and asked questions. Their doubts were part of the process of growing into maturity. Abraham, Mary and Peter in the new testament all asked, "How can this happen?".

When you have doubts: take your doubts to God, remind yourself of what you know about God's character and talk to people who are strong in their faith. In Mark 9:24, a Father was bringing his son to Jesus and says, "I believe, help my unbelief". That's the prayer that the Father prayed, and Jesus responded to Him by healing His son. Jesus wasn't afraid or angry at the man's honesty or admission and He won't be with ours.

# Respond

## Day 24

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Submit yourself  
to God.  
Resist the devil,  
and he will flee  
from you.

JAMES 4:7



## Is Satan real?

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The short, simple answer is yes. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible's writers (including the prophets, Jesus, and the apostles) describe Satan as a real, active being with a beginning and, thankfully, an end. Followers of Jesus should know and be able to explain what God's Word teaches about the devil.

Jesus referred to Satan in discussion with the Jews in John 8:44: "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Jesus recognised Satan as the great deceiver and as a murderer. Part of his deception is to convince people he doesn't exist. Another is to convince people he has equal power with God, except he uses his for evil. While Satan does have some limited power in the world, God's power far exceeds his. Mark records that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan for 40 days (Mark 1:13).

Jesus withstood the temptation of Satan in the wilderness by declaring God's Word. This act demonstrated that God's Word is a powerful weapon against him. Jesus resisted Satan, and with the Holy Spirit's power, so can everyday Christians.

Jesus refers to Satan as a thief in John 10:10: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." Satan does not create, he destroys. He spreads death while Jesus, gives life and life to the full! When Jesus returns, Satan, his followers, and all who continue to reject salvation through Jesus Christ will be judged. Revelation 20 describes Satan's end. When we read Revelation 20:10, we see Satan's future: "... and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

We don't need to become overly distracted in our understanding of Satan, but we should be clear enough on biblical teaching that we don't fall prey to imagining he isn't real. We should know his tactics and schemes and what the Bible teaches about avoiding and escaping them.

# Respond

## Day 25

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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For I am not ashamed  
of the gospel,  
for it is the power of God  
for salvation to everyone  
who believes.

ROMANS 1:16



## Should I tell others about my faith in Jesus?

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Christians have something that is very valuable in today's world: hope. As Christians, our hope is found in Jesus Christ and His redemptive sacrifice for us. 1 Peter 3:15, tells us to "always be prepared to...give a reason for the hope that you have."

Sharing your faith story might not always be an easy task, especially if you are afraid of being judged or looked at differently because of what you believe. It may seem intimidating at times, however, sharing your faith journey can bring hope to those who hear it, and can begin conversations that have eternal consequences.

People love to share good news. We announce marriages and births. When something good happens, we rush to tell someone. The more exciting the news, the harder it is to be silent. A Christian has the most exciting news—the life-changing news of Jesus. It is natural for a Christian to want to share this good news.

Think for a moment about the various people God used to bring you to the place where you were willing to receive Jesus. Now God wants you to be part of helping others come to know Jesus.

Sharing the Gospel does not have to be a source of stress, rather it can be an exciting chance to share your passion. You do not need anything other than a willing spirit to share with others. The Holy Spirit will touch people's hearts; your words don't have to be elaborate to teach others. Always remember you can turn to Scripture or a friend if the person you are talking to has questions that you are unsure about.

It is important to show kindness and respect while sharing about Jesus. Not everyone wants to hear about your faith, so try not to take it personally if they are unwilling to listen. Make sure not to be forceful while sharing your story as this does not make for a good witness. What you can do is pray that other people will come along who are more willing to listen to what you have to say.



# Respond

## Day 26

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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As each has received  
a gift, use it to  
serve one another,  
as good stewards  
of God's varied  
grace.

1 PETER 4:10



## Should I volunteer at church?

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As Christians, we are called to live differently, not like the rest of the world. Instead of looking to serve ourselves, we should look to serve Jesus Christ foremost as well as others. Volunteering is a great way to get plugged into your church, feel like part of a community, and serve Jesus at the same time. God has uniquely equipped every person in the Church with specific skills and gifts. As Christians, we are tasked with utilising these gifts in our community and within our local church. Using your God-given skills as a volunteer is a fantastic way to serve the church while playing your part.

Volunteering has a spiritual benefit as well. By volunteering, an individual will often want to dive deeper into the life of the church. At the same time, they serve not only as a helping hand, but also as a witness of the Gospel message within the community.

Serving others involves more than simply our actions. Rather, it involves our hearts and attitudes towards each other while we are serving; it involves love. Once again, we can look to Jesus as an example for this. He did not serve begrudgingly but instead showed true humility and love while he helped people from different backgrounds and social standings.

God is far more interested in why you serve others than in how well you serve them. He's always looking at your heart, serving willingly and eagerly out of love for Jesus and gratitude for all He's done for you.

You are most like Jesus when you're serving others. After washing His disciples' feet, Jesus said, "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you." (John 13:14-15).

# Respond

## Day 27

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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(Jesus said)  
I am coming soon.  
Hold fast what you have,  
so that no one may  
seize your crown

REVELATION 3:11



## Will Jesus come again?

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When you reach the Bible's end in Revelation, Jesus makes a final declaration: "Yes, I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). Based on this statement, we believe in the second coming of Christ. His return from heaven will be personal, visible and glorious, a blessed hope for which we should constantly watch and pray.

The overriding emphasis related to Jesus' second coming is for us to be ready. When Jesus was asked by His disciples when He would restore the kingdom to Israel, He told them flat out that it wasn't their business to know about the timing of when this would happen. Instead, they were to be His witnesses throughout the world (Act 1:6-8). The fact that Jesus is coming soon does not mean he is coming tomorrow...but he could. Jesus coming soon could mean He will return within the next few days, the next few years, the next few decades, or possibly the next few centuries. Christ's return, no matter when it happens, provides us with the assurance that Satan will ultimately be defeated.

The enemy (Satan) does not have the last word, and we stand with the Lord of Hosts and victory is ours.

Billy Graham once said that the end "will come with the return of Jesus Christ... That is why a Christian can be an optimist. That is why a Christian can smile in the midst of all that is happening... We know what the end will be: the triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ."

"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Luke 21:25-28.

# Respond

## Day 28

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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Peace I leave with you; my  
peace I give to you.  
Not as the world gives do  
I give to you.  
Let not your hearts be troubled,  
neither let them be afraid.

JOHN 14:27



## Do Christians have trouble and trials?

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The Bible is full of amazing and precious promises. There is one promise that you don't expect in the Bible. The promise that Jesus made, that in this world we would have trouble.

There isn't a human being alive on this planet who isn't acquainted with troubles. Times of difficulty arrive unexpectedly, often remain indefinitely, and the sorrowful memories they produce take deep root in the mind. It is no wonder, then, why Jesus's promise in John 16:33 also takes deep root in the minds and hearts of so many Christians: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

In this verse, we see two certain realities: Firstly, the followers of Jesus will suffer great distress, and secondly, Jesus has already won the victory. He didn't want his disciples to be under the delusion that their future ministry would be full of ease and comfort, and he doesn't want us to think that either.

Therefore, we are not called to overcome the world ourselves because Jesus already did. He provides his children with a certain future — a "living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" and "an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade" (2 Peter 1:3-4). It is because of this reality that we can "take heart" and "be of good courage."

Don't spend your days worrying or looking for trouble. Spend your days drawing near and getting to know your Saviour. Build your relationship through prayer and get to know Him through His word. Know that ready or not, one day trouble is going to show up at your door. But you don't have to be frightened or even panic. You can face life's troubles with peace. You can recognise, relax and rejoice your way through trouble taking heart in knowing that your Saviour has already overcome, and He will bring you through.

# Respond

## Day 29

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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But as he who called you is holy,  
you also be holy  
in all your conduct,  
since it is written,  
“You shall be holy,  
for I am holy.”

1 PETER 1:15-16



## How do I live a holy life?

In 1 Peter 1:15-16, it says, “but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” These verses are a challenge to even the most mature of believers. Is holiness an impossible command to try and emulate in our life? Do we know what a holy life looks like? To be holy is crucial to living the Christian life, and without holiness, no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

To understand holiness, we need to look to God. He describes Himself as “holy” (Leviticus 11:44) and it means that He is set apart and altogether different from us. Humanity is separated from God because of sin. All of humanity has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). In contrast, God has no sin in Him, rather He is light and in Him there is no darkness (1 John 1:5). The amazing news is that God has dealt with sin through the cross of Christ and understanding this forms the foundation of holy living.

Ultimately, a holy life looks like the life that Jesus lived. He was the only person on earth who lived a perfect, blameless, and holy life before God the Father. Jesus said that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father (John 14:9) and we can know what God is like when we look to Jesus. A holy life starts with an inner change which then begins to affect the rest of our life outwardly. We are to offer ourselves “as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” which is true worship to Him (Romans 12:1). We have been accepted by God and we are declared holy through the sacrifice of Jesus for our sin (Hebrews 10:10).

The Holy Spirit is the One who transforms our hearts and minds. We cannot hope to live a holy life without the transformation found in the new life of a believer. In 2 Timothy 1:9-10 it says, “He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace”.

# Respond

## Day 30

MY THOUGHTS

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I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

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QUESTIONS I HAVE...

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MY PRAYER...

FATHER GOD,

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The bible is  
God's written  
word to us.





# HELP FROM THE BIBLE

## ANGER

PROVERBS 15.1; MATTHEW 5.21-26, 43-48;  
EPHESIANS 4.26,27,31,32;  
JAMES 1.19-21

## ANXIETY/WORRY

PSALM 25; LUKE 12.22-31;  
JOHN 14.1-7; 1 PETER 5.7; 1  
JOHN 4.13-18

## CONFUSION

PSALM 37; EPHESIANS 4.14;  
COLOSSIANS 2.8; 2  
THESSALONIANS 2.1-17;  
1 JOHN 2.3-6; 1 JOHN 4.1-3;

## DEPRESSION

PSALM 16; PSALM 130;  
LAMENTATIONS 3.18-24;  
ROMANS 3.21-26; ROMANS 5.1-  
11; ROMANS 8.31-39;  
EPHESIANS 3.14-21;

## DISAPPOINTMENT

PSALM 55; JEREMIAH 15.10-21;  
MATTHEW 5.1-12

## DISCOURAGEMENT

PSALMS 42, 43, 62;  
2 CORINTHIANS 1.3,4; 2  
CORINTHIANS 4.1—5.10;  
PHILIPPIANS 3.12-16;

## DOUBT

PSALM 8; PSALM 146;  
PROVERBS 30.5;  
MARK 4.35-41; JOHN 14.8-14;  
JOHN 20.24-29; JAMES 1.5-8

## FEAR

PSALM 27; PSALM 46; LUKE  
12.4-7; JOHN 6.16-21

## FRUSTRATION

JOB 36.1-33; MATTHEW 7.7-11

## DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

PSALM 23; ISAIAH 25.6-12;  
JOHN 3.16,17; JOHN 11.25-27; 1  
CORINTHIANS 15.20-24;  
1 THESSALONIANS 4.13-18

## DECISIONS

1 KINGS 3; ESTHER 4; PSALM  
139.23,24;  
PHILIPPIANS 1.9-11; 1  
THESSALONIANS 5.19-21;

## GOSSIP

PROVERBS 10.18,19; PROVERBS  
11.13; PROVERBS 16.28;  
PROVERBS 18.8;

## ILLNESS

PSALMS 41, 91; ISAIAH 38.1-20;  
MARK 1.29-34; MARK 6.53-56;  
JAMES 5.13-16; 3 JOHN 2

## PEER PRESSURE

PROVERBS 1.8-19; ROMANS 12.1,2;  
EPHESIANS 5.1-20; 1 TIMOTHY  
4.12

## PREJUDICE

EXODUS 22.21; EXODUS 23.9;  
LEVITICUS 19.33,34;  
MATTHEW 7.1-5; LUKE 10.25-37;

## MARRIAGE

GENESIS 2.18-24; PSALM 45;  
1 CORINTHIANS 13; EPHESIANS  
5.21-33; COLOSSIANS 3.12-14

## STARTING A NEW JOB

PROVERBS 16.1-3; GALATIANS  
6.3-5; 2 THESSALONIANS 3.6-13;  
1 PETER 4.10, 11

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

PSALM 40.1-5, 11-17;  
PSALM 116.1-7; PROVERBS 20.1;  
LUKE 15.11-32; ROMANS 7.18-25;

## COURAGE

JOSHUA 1.1-9; PHILIPPIANS  
1.28-30; 1 THESSALONIANS  
2.1-4; 2 TIMOTHY 1.7

## FAITH

DEUTERONOMY 4.1-14;  
MATTHEW 15.21-28;  
HEBREWS 10.35-39;  
HEBREWS 11.1-3; JAMES 1.12

## FAMILY

EXODUS 20.12; RUTH 1, 4.13-  
22; PSALM 127.3;  
MARK 3.31-35; EPHESIANS  
6.1-4; COLOSSIANS 3.20,21

## FORGIVENESS

PSALMS 32, 51, 103;  
PROVERBS 28.13; MICAH  
7.18-20;  
MATTHEW 6.14,15;  
MATTHEW 18.21-35

## FREEDOM

EXODUS 6.6-8; EXODUS 15.1-  
21;  
JOHN 8.31-38; GALATIANS  
5.13

## FRIENDSHIP

1 SAMUEL 18.1-4; PROVERBS  
17.17; PROVERBS 24.26;  
PROVERBS 27.6;  
ROMANS 16.1-16

## GENEROSITY

DEUTERONOMY 15.1-11;  
PROVERBS 11.25;  
PROVERBS 22.9;  
MATTHEW 6.1-4; LUKE 21.1-4;  
ACTS 2.43-47;  
ACTS 4.32-37; 2



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