

# Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold for emphasis.

TOPIC: Application of Romans 6

## How Important is it to Really Listen to God?

Listening means that we hear and are receptive to what God has placed in His Word and desires for us to know. *"Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ."* (Eph. 3:4) We are to read, but equally important is to take time to think about what verses mean and how they can apply to us personally. Otherwise, it's mere head knowledge; that is, data and facts. A godly spiritual life comes from a walk of faith (applying the Scripture we have been taught). Thus, we are to obey from the heart, yielding to live the verses in the details of life, as did the Romans believers. *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."* (Rom. 6:17)

Taking the time to really listen may be hard to do when we are caught up in things of this world: electronics, entertainment, or a fast paced life. For many, there is barely a spare moment to find personal time to think, make goals, or read to consider God's Word. We have easy access to 'man's knowledge,' which captures our minds and time. This is being conformed to man's ways and Satan's desire for us. Avoid this by being transformed with the mind of Christ. How? *"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."* (1 Tim. 4:15)

The world hooks us into a false reality that sounds right, but it is really Satan and his lies. When we're deceived in this way, we won't know we are being misled. If we are not regularly reading and thinking about sound doctrine we're already being conformed to this world (Rom. 12:2). Make changes! God wants to talk to you...read and meditate: *"When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh forward things...who walk in the ways of darkness."* (Prov. 2:10-13)

**To Do:** Effective listening includes two things. **1) Pay attention:** Make a regular effort to be open in faith to hear what God is saying. Read. **2) Make it functional:** Think how to apply Scripture through prayer. Picture it, considering ways to live it. This helps you comprehend what the Spirit is teaching, preparing your heart/mind for application.



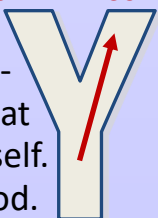
## How to Make Godly Choices?

Once a person becomes a believer by trusting Christ's payment for his sin (Rom. 1-5), he has the ability to make decisions that can glorify God. This is Christ working within him by the Word. The Spirit leads (Rom. 8:14), teaching him to understand, but also providing the power and wisdom to live it out: *Philippians 2:12-13: "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."*

We naturally yield thoughts to serve ourselves under the law, producing sin, if we're not aware nor dwelling on Scripture. As Christians, we are to learn and practice living what we know, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10)

God desires that we wake up to allow Christ to live in the members of our body, rather than continue in sin, living as unbelievers. (Rom 13:11-14) How do we make godly choices? Really listen and do (live) what we read in the Word.

Once we take in Scripture, the Spirit can teach our spirit, helping us to apply it in decisions and daily living. Choosing what to do is like mentally walking down a path in the road of **SATAN** **GOD** life. Which way will we go, God's way or Satan's? The option to the left is a choice that serves the flesh and self. Yielding to the right serves God.



As we listen to God's Word and purpose to live it, we can yield our will to God and do what He asks. Grace can then reign within us (*Romans 5:21*).



Search it out!

Choose Something to Study in This Section

**Romans 6: Identifying Instructions Can be a Study Skill**

Examine verses!



*Romans 6* begins a change in the theme of this book. Paul leaves the focus of Justification, transitioning to our Sanctification, that is, our holy walk before God (*Romans 6-8*). Notice action words/terms that teach us instructions on what to do. This study tool is found on P. 19 in "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools," available through Amazon.

**Instruction:** When Paul gives a direction or correction, he will also provide the way to fulfill it. When you see an instruction, look for the 'how to.'

**1. Read Verses 6, 9, & 16:** Observe the use of 'to know' or 'knowing.' These terms are flags to readers to notice there is a key issue in which to pay attention. Examine these verses, noting what is taught.

**2. Read Verse 11:** Find the verb which indicates an action is recommended. How are we to now think?

**3. Read Verse 12:** The phrase 'let not' is a warning designed to help the reader realize what to avoid. What is the directive and how can you live it?

**4. Read Verse 13:** Target the key word that provides us with instruction. First we are told what not to do, then we are told what to replace it with to renew our mind. Take time to meditate upon these things.

**5. Read Verse 17:** This verse teaches us in a back-handed sort of way. It reminds the Romans saints that they did something in the past that they ought to continue to do as they progress in their edification. What is it and how can you implement this wisdom?

**6. Read Verses 19:** The instruction here is similar to Verse 13, but has some additional insight given about yielding. How are we to yield? It targets a term to describe the way we are to yield our members. Spend time thinking on this word as it is designed to teach.

*\*Newer students: Focus on 'reading' Scripture rather than on using many new study insights.*

**Living Out Romans 6 as a Servant in Interactions**

Obviously, relationship problems arise even when both individuals are believers. Do you know how to resolve conflicts using the teaching from *Romans 6*, so you do not live contrary to God? "*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid...*" (*Romans 6:1-2*)

Oftentimes, saints can be saved for many years and read their Bibles, but don't know the 'how to' of **being a servant** in grace to sustain a holy walk: "...even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness." (*Vs 19*) *Romans 6* begins to teach us this. Decide ahead of time to yield the members of your body to God. Progress on from being a babe in understanding and living, to be a spiritual adult. A humble change of mind is needed. Relinquish your agenda, which serves you and instead, exalt God and what He desires in *Romans 6*. Live Christ by functionally submitting your will to His Word. Choose to think like He does and live life as His servant, allowing God to lay aside fleshly, self-centered thinking. Meditate upon these things and pray for a heart of faith to live to glorify God.

In the midst of a conflict or going into a situation that may be challenging, decide to apply what the Spirit has been teaching you. Choose to be quiet for a time to think before reacting. It's a learning process, so mistakes will be made, but they can help us to learn and live out the Word. Allow God to teach you through experiences, which can fine tune your grace-love (servant) approach. When mistakes are made, be humble to take responsibility for them and learn. What this will look like:

**1) A struggle with a child:** When frustration rises toward a youth, stop and think about the "Y" in the road. Which path are you on? Who are you serving, yourself or God? "*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*" (*Romans 6:12*) Consider how you're speaking and what you're doing, along with your motive. Out of control anger manifests the lust of the flesh and self-centeredness. Allow yourself to be reoriented to a love response, focus on what the child needs and godly options. Think about verses and how to serve or help teach the child. Stop in the middle of an ungodly interaction and take a break to think on verses or calm down to avoid being reactionary. Yield to apply a love response in the situation: "*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*" (*Vs. 12*) **(Continued)**

**Living Out Romans 6 in Interactions**  
(Continued)



**Romans 6 is Designed to Change Our Thinking**

**2) Disagreements with a spouse or another adult:** Prepare ahead of time to serve God. Read the Word daily, believing every word by faith. *1 Timothy 4:15-16: "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."*

When arguments begin, be quiet and reflect upon what and how you are speaking. Compare it to what God instructs. *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."* (Vs 14) Sometimes emotions are so high that a few moments of silence are not enough. It may be best to wait a few hours or until both sides gain perspective. Be reoriented (mind renewed-Romans 12:2) to your motives and goal. Are they grace-love and wanting the best for the other, or is it self-centered and focused on being hurt or having unmet expectations?

Address issues objectively, wording them in a non-threatening or non-attacking manner in kindness. Honest, direct communication works, while acknowledging that the timing of feedback is also important. Wait until the other person is ready to hear; not, for example, the moment he comes home from a tired day at work. Keep discussions short. Some saints tend to talk on and on or repeat themselves. Concise statements are best. Start the conversation with prayer. Include positive, thankfulness statements, and constructive criticism; the motivation is to be helpful.

Why do we still make unwise, ungodly decisions? If we are not allowing the Word to dwell within us and be at the forefront of our mind, we will continue in ungodliness, making unwise decisions as a child. We need to choose to grow up in Christ by the Word and serve. *"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."* (Romans 6:18)

The verses in Romans 6 and through to Chapter 8 teach us about our new identity, being 'in Christ.' We are completely associated with His death, burial, and resurrection so we can live, being conformed to the image of Christ. This new life enables us to serve acceptably. *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you...but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."* (Romans 8:11,13)

As we look into a mirror, who do we really see ourselves to be? Is it our physical self and the old, carnal identity 'in sin,' or do we have confidence being 'in Christ?' *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (II Corinthians 5:17)

Once we understand and grow in our new identity, taking in sound doctrine and applying it in the details of life, we will naturally desire to serve God and make godly decisions: *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."* (II Cor. 5:20) Oh, mistakes are still made, but we learn and grow from them.

Paul admonishes the saints in Corinth: *"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain...Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed."* He also tells them to stay focused: *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* (II Cor. 6:1,3, 7:1)

These verses are wisdom and written to us, even the present day Body of Christ. It doesn't just apply to believers in 'that day.' As we walk in this challenging world, we will be easily affected by Satan's devices. God's resources enable us to serve in righteousness and make wise decisions!



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 (804) 519-1210 - lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com  
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Stamp

To:

**“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)**

## **Living Christ's Life** By Carol Fisher

As a child of God we need to learn to trust God’s words. *Galatians 2:20* “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” It is His faith, not ours.

Our enemy is strong: the world, the flesh, and the devil. We are tempted to get caught up in the problems of this sin cursed world. Although we do have some responsibilities here, as in *Romans 13:1-7* and *II Timothy 2:1-2*, we are also told in *Romans 12: 2*: “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of the mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

The flesh is like a greedy child who is selfish, indifferent, and self righteous and wants be satisfied. God’s Word says in *Romans 6:11*: “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” It is His life, not ours.

The devil uses religion, philosophy, and false prophets to distract us from the Truth of God’s Word. We are warned: “Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies...rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.” (I Tim. 1:4) His words are life.

As we absorb God’s Word and see what He instructs, our life begins to make sense. We are dead to the world, the flesh, and the devil. As we live in obedience to His words, the pressure is off of us. As His will takes its place over ours, the world loses its grip on us, we live and love more completely. It is all about Him. What a wonderful Savior and Lord we have.

### **Christian Life Coach Support Services**

Writers/Editors: Brian/Deborah Johnson  
 Certified Christian Life Coaches  
 (804) 519-1210 lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com  
**Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com**

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