

## Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

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

### Stockpiling Knowledge

Theme: Application of I Corinthians 8

Paul tells us that we can become high-minded (puffed up) by knowledge: *"Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."* (vs 1) If our focus is just learning more and more and not living godly love, we've missed the key issue of God's grace.

It's important to understand the grace message by recognizing the context of passages, "...rightly dividing..." the Word (II Tim. 2:15). Yet, if we comprehend these things without letting them impact our daily living, we may be just stockpiling bits of data. This creates prideful thinking and can cause us to look down on others.

The Corinthians did this and became exalted and puffed up about many things i.e. They compared/exalted teachers one against the other. Paul labeled this carnal, because the glory always belongs to God: *"For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?...I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."* (I Cor. 3:4,6) It is God's power/wisdom that is manifest through teachers. **To Do:** Read I Cor. 3 to get a sense of their carnal attitude.

Therefore, the goal of our godly training as a Christian is NOT to build a storehouse of Bible data, but rather, to access our new life in Christ to yield unto God. He will enable us to set our flesh aside to apply what we learn in love: *"For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you."* (II Cor. 4:11-12)

**Reflect:** Meditation and asking yourself questions can help you think on sound doctrine: 'Am I applying it? How can I apply it? or How can I improve the way I apply it?' This process is against your flesh, so remember a few things: Angels are learning from you (Eph. 3:10), but also dear ones are watching, as are others in your circle of influence: *"For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols..."* (I Cor. 8:10) Your choices greatly affect others, as Christ can be manifest in your body.

### Strongholds and Baggage

When we desire to edify saints and share the Truth with the lost, it's wise to take time to look closely at the faith journey; ours and theirs. This helps us understand our audience. We quickly notice that the flesh & the course of this world causes all of us to have holes, gaps, as well as strongholds in our understanding. Knowing that our own journey of growth takes a lifetime, we can be patient and love others, especially the weak. This is Christ working in us (The fruit of the Spirit-Gal. 5:22-23).

It takes time/openness to purge bad thinking, false doctrine, and old religious traditions so one can grow, acquiring understanding of Paul's teachings in Romans thru Philemon. Therefore, we can graciously deal with differences in perspectives, allowing babes time to study to gain clarity and conviction. *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* (I Cor. 10:31)

The tendency to focus on differences as a way to get the weak saint on board with what 'you know' in the Truth, may actually injure them more than help. Doctrinal baggage and religious thinking definitely need to be purged. Personal study and meditation is needed to digest and become fully persuaded by the Word. Our grace attitude can encourage the weak to apply what they learn when they're convicted & ready. This is an individual process taking longer than others expect.

**Reflect:** Is it legalism to pressure or coerce others to change their view, even to believe a Truth of a grace doctrine? Yes! It creates contention, debates, wrath, frustration. It can push a weak brother or the unsaved person away or cause them to succumb to 'your beliefs.' Then the Word itself is no longer their sole authority. *"And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?"* (I Cor. 8:11) Grace approaches them gently, inspiring growth, and pointing them to the need to study for themselves.



Search it out!

Choose Something to Study in This Section

**One of the Study Methods: Daily Devotional**

Examine verses!



How to effectively use a daily devotional is found on p. 31 of “Exploring the Bible Using Study Skills.” This is available on Amazon:

**Daily devotional:** In this method, many use a man-made book. Ideally, however, select a book of the Bible and each day meditate upon verses in sequential order. Evaluate the context, think about words in the passage, and consider how it can be personally applied. Avoid man-made devotionals that do not use verses. Also, avoid using a devotional to replace daily Bible reading and study. Instead, use it as a supplement, that is, an additional way to keep you thinking on Scripture. It can be a good resource to focus above.

**1) Memorize Verses:** When using a daily devotional resource, make time to memorize a verse you are examining. Place it on the bathroom mirror or in the car to prompt further thought about how it is practical to you.

**2) Write out learnings:** Keep a daily log of what is learned and periodically recall how God is teaching and progressing you by His Word.

**3) Thankful list:** As you meditate on the Word, document things for which you are grateful.

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

**How to Deal With Weak Saints Who Have False Beliefs**

*1 Corinthians 8* can be a difficult chapter to understand. The issue brought up compares doctrine believed by mature saints with that of a weaker brother who doesn’t even have basic understanding about key doctrines. **Strong believer:** To established saints there is one God and Father, and they know they are in Him. The strong also realize there’s one Lord Jesus Christ who made all things, including the Body of Christ (*vs. 6*). However, it goes on to relay that some saints don’t have these convictions yet. **The weak:** *“Howbeit there is **not in every man** that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.”* (*vs. 7*)

Some may think they cannot be true believers if they don’t have this basic understanding, but let us look at what God says in the context. This man in *verse 7* is a babe in Christ with a defiled conscience. He is later called a weak brother: *“And through thy knowledge shall **the weak brother** perish, for whom Christ died?”* (*vs. 11*) Paul goes on to reinforce this in the next verse, saying: *“But when ye sin so against **the brethren**, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.”* (*vs. 12*) We also see in *verse 13* that God directs us regarding how to proceed: it is a high priority not to offend a dear, weak brother.

So, as we regularly deal with younger saints, we clearly see that weak brethren may hold onto ‘other doctrines and beliefs’ that have not yet been purged or renewed by the Word. Though someone trusts in the blood of Christ, there can be a time period where babes can hold on to very basic thinking errors. He may not understand things like: *“...there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”* (*vs. 6*) Though it may seem outrageous and unbelievable, we’re not to be ‘puffed up’ in our knowledge (*vs. 1*) and should realize *“...God is able to make him stand.”* (*Rom. 14:4*). We are to believe these things that God’s Word is teaching about weak believers. Therefore, gentle patience in love is needed to clarify and teach them.

**Handling false beliefs in babes:** It can sometimes take a long time to learn even these elementary issues and then to walk by faith in them. A new believer, or one who hasn’t grown, has a whole religious system of ideas developed in their mind that they may tenaciously hang on to in fear. Growing in the Word and living in faith takes reading the Word, time to think and develop conviction, and then to yield to allow God to replace current thinking by sound doctrine. It is humbling and not easy to do. If a babe is pressured to conform their thinking to something they don’t really see in the Word, ‘we’ as the teacher become their standard, instead of Scripture (*Rom. 14*). This is putting them under the law and injurious (*vs. 13*). Recall, we’re to hold forth the Word in love; God will do the work to convict (*Eph. 4:15 / 1 Cor. 3:6*).

## Charity in a Broken World

By Erin Alexander

Today it feels like the world is becoming more divided. Everyone is sure they're right, and few listen. *1 Corinthians 4:6* "And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."

How should we as the Body of Christ lead by example for the world? One word, charity. *1 Corinthians 16:14* "Let all your things be done with charity." We must remember to step back and realize who we are in Christ. While the rest of the world becomes divided, we can remain diligent to God's Word, waiting for that blessed hope. The best way to do this is through charity. *1 Corinthians 8:1* "Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."

Of all the traits a believer should have, charity is the most important. *1 Corinthians 13:3* "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." *1 Corinthians 13:13* "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." A person can have worldly wisdom. It means nothing if they don't glorify God. *1 Corinthians 3:18* "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise." With charity, we become equipped to deal with this broken world. Just as Christ endured the sufferings on the cross for our sakes. That is the true meaning of charity.

## What is the State of Your Conscience?

(Verse below is numbered to help understanding.)

Once someone trusts the blood of Christ by faith alone in order to pay for their sins, they attain a few things: "Therefore being 1) justified by faith, 2) we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 3) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace 4) wherein we stand, and 5) rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (*Rom. 5:1-2*) **Positionally**, this person is now made just and sanctified (holy/set apart) unto God.

However, we are still under construction to be conformed to the image of Christ (*Rom. 8:29*) to develop His mind. Thus, we still make mistakes and can forget to yield unto God. As we learn to be regularly led by the Spirit in our choices, we start living a **sanctified walk**. Placing faith in the Word produces a holy walk. While every believer has a 'sanctified position' with God, not every saint lives a 'sanctified life,' walking in his new identity. It is a learning process to make godly choices, since the flesh resists at not being in control: "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." (*Rom. 7:23*)

Each saint has a unique journey. The conscience, that inner voice or sense of right/wrong, reflects where & how we are functioning in our faith journey. Examples:

- Pure:** "Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience." (*1 Tim. 3:9*) This means unpolluted by the world/sin.
- Good:** "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck." (*1 Tim. 1:19*) Basically it is living what you believe.
- Weak:** "But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ." (*1 Cor. 8:12*) These seem feeble, not understanding Truth.
- Defiled:** "Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled." (*1 Cor. 8:7*) This is marred or spoiled.
- Seared:** "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." (*1 Tim. 4:2*) Insensitive to Truth.

**Reflect:** The state or condition of your conscience is affected by what you take into your mind/believe. How you live displays what you believe, but also the status of your conscience. So, where are you at this point?

**Christian Life Coach Support Services**  
 (804) 519-1210 - lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com  
 Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

Stamp

To:

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

## How to Help Weak Brethren Walk by Faith in the Word

**Teach about the Bible and that it’s to be their authority. A few ideas:**

### A. What the Bible is

- Matthew 4:4*: The Word is food for our spirit to live “...by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Also *Deut. 8:3*)
- John 1:1-3,14*: The Word, from the beginning, was with God, and was God.
- John 17:17*: The Bible sanctifies us, making us holy: “...thy Word is truth.”
- II Timothy 3:16*: All Scripture is inspired, profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, & instruction that matures us, furnishing what we need to live godly.
- Hebrews 4:12*: The Word is quick (alive), powerful, sharp, and pierces the body, soul, and spirit, discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- I Thessalonians 2:13*: Scripture is God’s own words; the Word is another name for the Lord Jesus. As we receive and believe it, it works effectually within us.
- Isaiah 55:8-11*: Whatever God says will never come back to Him void. It does what He desires and says. His thoughts and ways are much higher than ours.

### B. The Bible is kept forever pure and undefiled, perfect.

- Psalms 12:6-7*: The Word is pure, refined, and preserved.
- Psalms 119*: Take time to read this chapter; it’s all about Scripture (also called: precepts/law/Word): *Vs. 89,93,99,100,103*: “... thy Word is settled in heaven.”
- Matthew 5:18*: Not a jot or tittle of the Word will pass until all is fulfilled.

### C. God-Inspired

- II Timothy 3:16*: All Scripture is inspired, which means God breathed.
- II Peter 1:21*: God wrote Scripture through Holy men, as the Holy Ghost moved them to speak/write His Word down. God’s Word is to be our final authority!

### D. Is the Bible just a story or is it history, with real people and events?

- The whole Bible is, among other things, a history book**: Notice the details and organization, i.e. the Creation account, events with verifiable names, places, and people. Some events, such as the Flood, are historical facts or, as with Sodom and Gomorrah, there is strong evidence it existed and was actually destroyed. Precise listings, such as lands given to Israel or confirmable wars.
- Listings of lineages**: For example, in *Matthew 1:1-16* and *Luke 3:23-38*, the man Jesus is a known historical character, with his lineage back to David, Abraham, and even to Adam. If this is true, then Genesis, as well as the whole Bible, is a factual historical listing of people who really existed and not just a story.
- Prophecies**: These were made and documented; many were already fulfilled.
- Conclusion**: Basically, one needs to approach Scripture by faith...Believe what God says is perfect/always true. If anyone disagrees, he is wrong. (Romans 3:4)

## 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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### Periodical

*Just A Minute:* Monthly Grace newsletter providing Bible study, edification, and life application with sound doctrine.

### Books (Available on Amazon)

- *What to Appreciate As We Approach God’s Word*
- *How the Bible is Practical & Able to Mature Believers*
- *Growing Up In Christ To Become A Mature Believer*
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