

## Just A Minute! With Scripture

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

### The Video Game of Life



Bible students know that “perilous times” are coming (*II Tim. 3:1*); we already see disturbing changes. Seems like life can be a lot like playing a video game, requiring us to navigate unexpected obstacles and calamities. Will we be able to maneuver through the game to conquer the increasing challenges? Success depends on learning what we can and then applying what is acquired in new situations. Difficulties come with greater speed and complexity as the game proceeds. This seems to parallel living in the real world. Will we learn and trust God’s wisdom to negotiate the many tough trials, walking by faith to apply sound doctrine?



The Spirit’s teaching by the Word gives us confidence in our eternal resources as we proceed. We need to be prepared, trusting ‘God’s way.’ If not, Satan will have ‘his way’ with us: “*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made...*” (*Gen. 3:1*) Satan has crafty “devices” in his course for this world. (*II Cor. 2:11*) Life’s obstacles are designed to derail or immobilize us, enticing our flesh. If we’re not prepared and experienced to trust God’s way, we will: 1) be unaware, 2) not know how to use God’s provisions, and 3) certainly give in to fear.

Our Father fully provides what we need! Reading the Word regularly and applying it prepares our heart and mind for a victorious life, being “*...more than conquerors through him that loved us.*” (*Rom. 8:37*) God’s armor protects our inward man from Satan, so we can stand fast, but also run well in this spiritual warfare: “*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*” (*Eph. 6:11*)

The Word also places spiritual weapons in our inner man to live this game of life. Do we know how to use them for our life trials? (*II Cor. 10:4*) As we grow, the Scripture enables us to negotiate problems by...purity, knowledge, longsuffering, kindness, the Holy Ghost, love unfeigned, the Word of God, the armor of righteousness, honor and dishonor, and by evil report and good report. (*II Corinthians 6:6-8*)

**Should you prepare for this reality game?** Yes, opposition can be grievous, so study, pray, & yield to stand confident to run the race, holding forth the Truth. (*Eph. 6:18-20*) ([cont. on p. 2](#))



## What's the Worst He Can Do?

Think for a moment: Do you believe that the very worst Satan can do to you is to kill your body? Remember that we have the Living God, the King of Kings, & Lord of Lords on our side:

**Death is NOT a negative** (*II Cor. 5:8/Phil. 1:23*): If Satan kills our bodies, it glorifies God, enabling us to be present with Him, which is far better! In the context, we are victorious, even in death: “*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*” (*Rom. 8:37*)

**Difficulties in life instruct us** (*Rom. 5:3-5,8:18/II Cor. 12:8-10*): The problems, mistakes, and sufferings are designed to teach us to apply (work out) the doctrine of grace. “*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*” (*Phil. 2:12*) Thus, as we believe, God made it so life difficulties actually work for our good. (*Rom. 8:28*)

Yet, we definitely need to be ‘circumspect’ (*Eph. 5:15*), that is, watching all around, staying focused above. Satan uses deceptive ways to: 1) distract us by worldly enticements, 2) confuse or overwhelm us so we don’t know where/how to learn sound doctrine for today, 3) discourage or make us depressed or anxious by the course of this world, and 4) render us useless, immobilized with fear or apathy.

Don’t think that YOU can deal with Satan’s wily ways yourself. Allow God and His Word in your life: read, meditate, and pray, developing trust that Christ lives in you and God will work within you. (*Phil. 2:13*) “*That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.*” (*I Thess. 2:12*) To avoid Satan’s tactics, press forward and trust God.

# The Video Game of Life (Continued)

Know that loving our enemies is a part of our ministry: *"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim 2:4)* *"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good."* (Rom. 12:20-21) Rather than respond in anger, manifest Christ's love.

Additionally, use a concordance and dictionary to study the armor and weapons for yourself to learn how to apply them to stand fast. Prove this specialized equipment that God has provided. That means, practically apply God's Word in the details of life. START TODAY. The goal is to learn how to use (apply) what God is teaching you, living as who you are in Christ. The full instruction is found in Romans through Philemon, written directly to the Body of Christ. It will enable and empower you to be an acceptable living sacrifice. Your body and the time you have left on earth is not your own. We can choose to see as God sees: *"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ...For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* (1 Cor. 6:15a, 20) You've been left here to speak Truth to the unsaved, but also to edify other believers.

**What does this look like in your life?** Each day center what you do around God as the priority of your life, rather than on YOU and YOUR needs, concerns, and to dos. As you walk through your day, pray and thank God. Look for open doors to be God's ambassador, but also think how to make opportunities to share the Truth with others in love. **So, will you win in this game of life?** Actually ALL believers win eternal life with God. However, He also desires to give us rewards at the judgment Seat of Christ, determined by how we live and respond to the Word and challenges in this life: *"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."* (Col. 3:24)



## Do You Embrace Sufferings in Your Life Journey?

Has anyone ever said, "God, I'd like more suffering?" Probably not! Most of us, at one time or another, have asked God to take away an illness or difficulty. Paul asked for relief from his challenge in *II Corinthians 12:8-9*: *"For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..."* Paul understood what God was teaching. Notice his response to God's instruction about this grievous thorn: *"...Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."* Paul gloried (boasted) in problems, knowing that the challenges were how Christ's power would rest on him.

*II Corinthians 12:10* says Paul matured to even "take pleasure" in difficulties. When we are humbled to know that we are weak and need Him and then yield, Christ's power can work mightily, enabling us to walk by faith in the doctrine stored in our inner man: *"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."* Follow Paul in this learning process. He chose to adjust his thinking and response to difficulty. His motivation was "for Christ's sake," doing it all unto the Lord and not doing it for man. (Col. 3:23)

Why would he "most gladly" glory and "take pleasure" in the challenges? Paul is teaching us to embrace the sufferings of this world, as this is how God helps us to grow up in Christ, trusting His way to negotiate life, reaping fruit. *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."* (Rom. 8:18) Though actual problems, tribulations, calamity, and the difficulties of life are never joyous, we can have confidence in God's way. He works the doctrine in our inner man to teach us to trust Him as we walk by faith. Infirmities of life are for us, maturing saints, while manifesting His power mightily to others in us. What a wondrous plan!

## Do I Really Trust God?

by Deborah Garner



Do I really trust God? Why? If not, why?

It is someone's character and track record that proves his/her trustworthiness. The Bible is written proof of His trustworthiness. That is why I will keep reading, renewing my mind, and stepping out in faith when His Word challenges me. How about you? The result of trusting is PEACE even in the midst of storms.

-Who do I run to when I need answers? (*Job chapters 39-41, Psalm 73:26*)

-Whose word/answers do I put most value in? (*John 17:17, Hebrews 4:12*)

-Whose presence steadies my heart? (*Psalm 3:4-5, Philippians 4:6-7*)

-Who do I allow to mentor me? Is it someone who follows Christ? (*1 Corinthians 11:1*)

-If I truly trust God, do I wait for His peace and timing on things (to release me to action)? (*Col. 3:15*)

-Have I recognized in the past that I've transferred the responsibility of trusting God to another human being or my own reasoning?

(Have I trusted another human being or my own reasoning, rather than God?) What am I afraid of? Why? (*Phil. 4:13, 19*)

-Am I Googling, researching, reading books, talking to experts before I seek God for answers and direction? Why? (*Job chapters 39-41, Prov. 2:1-12*)

-Do I move forward in fear or confidence? Why? (*Romans 8:38-39*)

-Do I doubt God's Word when things don't play out as I understood His Word directing me? Or do I look within myself to see where I may have misinterpreted His Word? Do I search the Word again to see where "I" missed it? (*Romans 3:4*)

-Do I really believe the Word is true; that the gospel is good news? (*Ps. 34:8, II Tim. 3:16-17*)

Reflect on these questions and allow them to reveal your confidence level in God and His Word. Don't be condemned, but challenge yourself to trust and grow. *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."* (*Proverbs 3:5-6*)

On A Personal Side

## Question & Answers

by Deborah Johnson

**Question 1: Can you explain the race Paul describes?**

*"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore run, not as uncertainly, so fight I, not as one that beateth the air."* (*I Corinthians 9:24-26*)

This race seems to be our individual spiritual journey as we live on earth. If we run it God's way, we function as who we are in Christ, led by the Spirit, running by applying sound doctrine. We would also effectually hold it forth to others, being co-laborers with God. This results in receiving a reward (crown). (*I Cor. 3:8-9*)

Our goal is to stay focused on what Christ teaches, as did Paul: *"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* (*Philippians 3:14*) Paul lived this goal: *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith..."* All those who *"...love his appearing"* by running the race God's way will receive a *"crown of righteousness."* (*II Tim. 4:7-8*)

**Question 2: How do I readjust my negative attitude about the challenges and disappointments in my life to live godly?**

At times, we can become overwhelmed with a negative perspective about something in our life. The best way to address this is to deal with it immediately, as soon as you recognize it. Renew your mind by God's Word: *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."* (*Rom. 12:2*) Be mindful of your thoughts. Don't allow fleshly thoughts to become a stronghold by letting them rule your thoughts. Put them off: *"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind."* (*Eph. 4:22-23*) Recognize the "Y" in the road. It's your choice to yield left, minding fleshly things, or yield right, minding things of the Spirit. Choose to allow God to adjust your mind!

**Question 3: Help me to understand faith verses trust?**

<sup>20</sup> *"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; <sup>21</sup>And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."* (*Romans 4:20-21*)

**Faith** is a decision of the heart to believe; it is the heart responding positively to God. One hears the Word and with confidence, believes. Abraham didn't stumble at what God told him, but believed God's Word as an absolute fact. (vs. 20)

**Trust** is a confident reliance on something, especially when everything is against us. Though Abraham knew that he and Sarah were too old to have a son, he was fully persuaded that God would indeed give him a son. So, he rested in this fact. (vs 21)

**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)**

## Let, Be, and Yield (Part 2) by Jeanette Scallan

*“...that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (Romans 7:4b)*

Just as the course of this world has perverted the natural process of physical conception, religion seeks to pervert the spiritual process of sanctification. Instead of letting God’s Word be true, we are told to seek. Instead of being justified, we are told to try harder. Instead of yielding to God’s working in us, we are told to do the work ourselves. This is not only the exact opposite of how grace works, but a direct denial of the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ at the cross.

When the apostle Paul learned that the Galatians (who had been saved by grace through faith under his ministry) had turned to performance of works as a means of bearing fruit unto God, he was appalled! *“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” (Galatians 3:1-3)*

We would be shocked at the idea of a woman attempting to seek out, overpower, and force a man to give her a child. Yet, this would be no more shocking to the apostle Paul than the idea that any of our own efforts could ever produce righteousness. The very idea that they should turn from the grace that saved them to performance of works for righteousness was outrageous, and he warned them sternly, *“This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.” (Gal 5:8)* **To be continued.**

### Christian Life Coach Support Services

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

**About Our Grace Ministry:** Contact us if you’re interested in the opportunities below or have questions, or need help.

**Christian Life Coaching** Applying Pauline Truth in the details of life

**What is Coaching?** It is a helping service, which includes Bible instruction, mentoring, support, and applying Scripture to life situations for personal growth. The Scripture is used as our primary resource. Options: In-person/phone/skype, Coaching and teaching: individuals, couples, and groups (support groups/retreats/presentations).

#### 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*
- *Romans Study Guide*
- *Discovering God’s Glorious Treasure*
- *Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools*

**Join Us: Fellowship & Bible Study**  
**Chesterfield, Virginia (Near Richmond)**  
**Family Study: Saturday 10-12:00 am**  
**Call For Location: (804) 519-1210**

**Request subscriptions/past issues or forward questions to writers and editors, Brian & Deborah Johnson.**