



Just A Minute With Scripture What Will it Take to See the Light?

In order for me to learn God’s love, provision, and trustworthiness, it took losing almost everything. Oh I was saved, even able to rightly divide the Word, and yet I found that reading verses was NOT a magic genie in a bottle that would zap away troubles. Looking back, I was just a babe, not knowing how to practically live unto God. (Rom. 6) I had some head knowledge but didn’t know how to rely on God’s wisdom and power. Day-to-day living became overwhelming. My unsaved, abusive husband of 13 years suddenly divorced me. Devastated, I became depressed and fell into sin, which I could not conquer. I lost my friend support group when my job ended due to a reorganization. Eventually I moved out of state to leave the sin situation behind, but my health was in decline. I had an autoimmune disease that caused pain all over, devastating fatigue, ongoing fever, and sleeplessness, with difficulty walking and thinking. I had to work and found a good job, but it was exceedingly difficult because I wasn’t well physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. Adding to these hardships, the local, rightly dividing Church suddenly dissolved. Nothing in life was going well and definitely not what I expected. All hope seemed lost: *“For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life.” (II Corinthians 1:8)*

Why did I relay this glimpse of my story? Remembering the experience of sitting in my sin and losing everything, even all hope, made me realize I have some things to share that could encourage others when they feel overcome by the devastating sorrows of life, as I had. We all have unique experiences that include sin and life challenges, but will we learn what God desires? Trust Him and walk by faith in whatever situation arises: *“But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.” (II Cor. 1:9)* God transformed my negative, unthankful heart. I began to pray differently, daily listing five things for which I was grateful. I also started a Bible training program that helped me to focus and “dwell” on the Word (Rom. 8:8-14) to exalt and value spiritual things. God slowly adjusted my thinking from dwelling on all I lost, to having all spiritual things. (I Cor. 3:21) This helped me to see the light of His Word to walk out my faith in the details of life .

Think on this: What will it take for you to open your eyes to the light, trusting the Father? Your problems won’t be miraculously taken away... His true power/wisdom works in you. Be humbled to the Truth in Paul’s epistles and trust God in life challenges. Be thankful and open your heart to dwell on verses, allowing God to put difficulties in the background to walk by faith.

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Feel free to call if you have questions with any articles.

The Resurrection: Is it Important?

Believe Christ died on the cross for all your sin. The resurrection proves that sin and death did not hold Christ. He arose, being victorious: *“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Cor 15:55-57)*

Study Devotional of the Book of Galatians



A Final Review of the Book of Galatians:

The book of *Galatians* uses *Romans* teaching as the foundation. Paul saw areas in their spiritual journey that needed adjustment and edification: *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* (II Timothy 3:16) Questions to provoke thought:

1. The Galatians were ‘running well’ (*Gal. 5:7*), applying the doctrine correctly. However, they were hindered and pulled aside.

What specifically happened and how? Find verses to support your answer. What can you learn to avoid a similar problem?

2. What things did Paul do to help the Galatians? Cite verses to prove your answer.

3. As an ambassador representing Christ on this earth, what is your responsibility toward individuals that do not see the Truth or have been derailed? Are you ready? If not, what can you do to prepare as a living sacrifice and servant of God?

4. Describe legalism. Have you ever been put under the law? How? What verses in *Galatians* address this issue?

“For do I now persuade men, or God?” Galatians 1:10

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 1: My plate is too full, so I cannot make time to study?

Our knee-jerk reaction is ‘I can’t,’ or ‘There is no time.’ Funny how there is always time for unexpected or fleshly things. It comes down to just plain priorities. That puts the responsibility squarely upon us. What we use our time for is a clear reflection of what is important to us.

Take a few moments to reflect on what you have on your plate. Is it having too many ‘spiritual things’ or the ‘things of this world?’ Time is a resource from God... liquid gold. Purpose to use it for His glory. Reflect on spiritual priorities and choose to glorify God. (*I Cor. 10:31*)

As the Lord is placed first, everything else will fall into place. Purpose not to be swept up into busyness as soon as you wake up. Instead, prioritize God as the center of your life. Read the Word, thinking on it through the day. This helps you focus above to please God.

One Way to Be Thankful

God has given us all things: *“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”* (*Rom. 8:32*) *“Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours.”* (*I Cor. 3:21*) Can you name ten things He provided to you? Now, reflect on how it was given. Was it through some work you’ve done or did you simply deserved it? No, all has been and is given freely by His grace.

Consider your physical body is the housing for your quickened spirit and soul, but also a Temple for His Holy Spirit to manifest the Word. (*I Cor. 6:19-20*) Are you thankful to truly care for it? *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”* (*I Cor. 4:2*) Nurture and cherish this great gift as it is a resource to use for Him. *“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”* (*I Cor. 6:12*) As a wise steward, take care of yourself (healthy food, exercise, and rest), doing it all unto the Lord: *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”* (*I Cor. 10:31*) Thankfulness would respect His gifts.

In addition, spiritually, many neglect to feed their “new man” by regularly nourishing it by the Word. This results in not growing or regressing, eventually living contrary to who they are in Christ. Wisdom would say: *“That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour.”* (*I Thess. 4:4*) Constrained by love, we can view our temporary, earthly body and inner man as marvelous resources to cherish and use for His honor and glory. Reflect on how you can apply this each day.



The Attribute of Patience by Erin Young

In our world today, we are so use to instant gratification. Patience is not something in which the world holds value. Interestingly enough, this is an attribute God has in abundance. Psalm 103:8: “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.” God’s patience has shown the result of His mercy throughout scripture. *Psalm 78:38: “But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.” 2 Peter 3:9: “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

In fact, if it were not for the patience of God, we as members of the Body of Christ may have never been saved. God could have given up forbearance with Israel and all humans, and thus ending any hope of the Body of Christ existing. But God is long suffering and His timing in everything is perfect. And Scripture shows us we should strive for patience as well. *2 Timothy 2:24: “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.” 1 Thessalonians 5:14: “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.”*

When we wait for God’s timing and not our own, we can better control anxiousness within ourselves. We can learn to enjoy simply living in the moment as saved souls, destined to be with Christ forever.

Questions & Answers *With Deborah*

2. How do I set a new habit to regularly read the Word to glorify God?

Simply make a decision. Use this as an opportunity to prayerfully plan ahead to read daily and put aside your flesh. A few suggestions may help:

a) Change your thinking: Pray and meditate upon the need to read God’s Word. Listen to the Spirit stirring the verses within you to develop conviction. Realize that the flesh will balk at this new habit and scream for control. Close this window of thought, not exalting fleshly wants. It will always try to sabotage your godly walk: *“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)*

b) Allow God to change your behavior: *“Walk by faith” (II Cor. 5:7)* and be *“led by the Spirit” (Rom. 8:14)* to glorify God and do what He instructs: *“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” (I Tim.4:13)*

c) Begin the habit of reading, keeping a hard boundary to follow through. Select a time first thing each morning to read, pray, and to meditate on what was read and how to live in order to apply it. Below is an opportunity!

Purpose to Read Through the Bible in 2024

Some use a Bible App to provide a daily schedule to read through the Bible, but you can also go at your own pace. Or, read three chapters of Paul’s epistles each day and in a month you’ll have read all 13 epistles. Another option is to read the Old Testament (mainly written directly to Israel) in the morning and Paul’s epistles (written directly to the Body of Christ) each evening. Any of these options will reap eternal benefits. Read and Meditate!



Charity Shines... It is Christ in Us!

In the midst of living in “perilous times” (II Tim. 3:1), when good is bad and bad is good, we can live as Paul, who followed Christ. (I Cor. 11:1) His light shone with charity toward others. Charity is produced by God’s Word in us, relaying an added component to love. Godly love is a character attribute of God, a fruit of the Spirit, and refers to possessing a deep affection and care toward others. Whereas charity focuses on the physical outworking (action) of this love to manifest Christ (compassionate service with kindness). “...Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.” (I Cor. 8:1) Christ the Word teaches that service without charity is not profitable: “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.” (I Cor. 13:3)

It’s a tall order indeed to live godly charity, and absolutely impossible to live it consistently, without God’s wisdom and power. Rather, it is to be an outworking of Christ living in us, producing the fruit of the Spirit. This is the light of His Word shining in and through us. Our response to His training is to live charity, the action of love, which is by Scripture “effectually” working in us. (I Thess. 2:13)

The Word enables us to live this godly attribute daily with our loved ones, but even more challenging, with those that ‘seem’ to function as our enemies: “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not: But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” (II Cor. 4:1-2) God’s Word is this power to manifest charity in and through us. The instruction is clear... unto “**every man’s conscience in the sight of God.**” Does this mean those who seem unlovable, including those doing us actual harm or being unkind? Yes it does! Christ died even for His enemies! (Romans 5:10) In the midst of suffering we are to allow “this treasure” of God’s power and wisdom to shine forth in charity. “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” (II Corinthians 4:7) Think and pray how this can become manifest in you. Start applying this to those who are dearest to you, as even they can be hard to love in this way consistently. Be Christ’s light and shine: “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (II Cor. 4:6)

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