

The World As It Really Is

How can you progress to live wisely? See the world more clearly to navigate obstacles. *Otherwise, you'll be taken advantage of by Satan and his tactics. A saint cannot afford to be 'ignorant of his devices.'* (II Cor. 2:11)

Recall that before you believed, you were blind: *"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh..."* (Eph. 2:2-3)

In the past, Satan devised a wicked policy. (Dan. 8:25) His ways 'are' this world system, i.e. Darkness appears as light, evil is redefined as good, and the foolish are exalted as wise. Yet God's spiritual realm is to be our reality/hope. Scripture teaches of God's ways, true light, and wisdom.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (II Corinthians 4:3-4)

This world is dangerous; even believers are blinded. *"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."* (II Cor. 11:14) God's own priesthood was corrupt; it's leaders crucified Christ. (Matt. 27:20)

So, be aware. Stay in the Word under God's protection and ready yourself!

Just A Minute! With Scripture

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



As you mature, seeing the world as it is, you are able to function as God's soldier. He's given you perfect provisions: the Spirit & perfect Word. This life is your training ground for the spiritual warfare ahead. Consider what's needed for yourself, your ministries, and the local Church.

*"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; **that** he may please him who hath **chosen** him to be a soldier."* (II Timothy 2:3-4)

The battle is spiritual and all around, with many unexpected troubles and fleshly issues. Satan's world system has effective, deceptive ways. All this may seem negative, yet facing reality is crucial. It can put you on your knees daily, waking you up to depend on Christ, detangled from Satan's lures. (How? Be established in sound doctrine and mature in the provisions written 'to you' in this time of grace, given by the Apostle Paul: Romans through Philemon.)

Preparedness enables you to live wisely! Your training manual is designed for all situations. What a great opportunity to feast on the Word, a soldier's key provision.



Every person's life is different; but wise decisions are key, along with learning from mistakes. Ideally, prepare ahead, using God's training manual. Trust Christ's work within to be readied for life, a type of obstacle course!

"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air." (I Cor. 9:26) Determine to run the race well! Nourish up in the Word, then confidently, *"Fight the good fight of faith..."* (I Timothy 6:12)

For maturing saints, life is not all about having fun or relaxing on a beach. It can be more like a spiritual Iron Man Triathlon, a long distance race. Paul endured and was able to say, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."* (II Timothy 4:7)

The Importance of Mentoring Others

How long does it take for a new believer to be established in the faith and prepared as a good soldier? Most of us know that just being an older saint, listening to Bible teachings, even attending Church for years does not mean someone is 'spiritually mature.' On the contrary, a believer can talk about grace or even recite doctrines without true understanding or ability to live it.

Many variables affect spiritual growth: Personal time in Scripture, quality of teachers, motivation, age, abilities/weaknesses, strongholds, challenges, etc. Having a mentor the first years can help to establish saints; some may need support throughout their life.

New roles or situations can thrust some into a need for a coach: i.e. Marriage, parenting, aging, or illness. These can add new complexity to living the Word. Struggles can be minimized or avoided altogether with sound counsel from a wise, trusted believer.

Hardships have a way of humbling us to realize we all could use help at times. Paul provides the perfect example, continuing to mentor an established man in the faith, Timothy. The tendency for us all is to lose our focus and be pulled off course. Paul instructs: *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."* (II Timothy 2:2)

Encouraging a saint to stay in the Word, thinking about what is read is key. *"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."* (II Corinthians 4:16)

Growth and learning to trust God is invisible construction that builds doctrine in the inner man. Help is often needed to acquire the subtleties of grace in order to apply it, and then go on to help others. **How can you mentor someone overwhelmed or in need?**

What Is Up With All These Life Problems?

Do difficulties in life mean God is mad or has left us? In the past, God dealt with man according to a 'law system.' Blessings occurred when there was obedience. *"If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; **Then** I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."* (Lev. 26:3-4) Cursings or a withdrawal of blessings happened for disobedience under 'this system,' such as plagues, illness, or calamity.

In this time of Gentile grace, God is no longer blessing or cursing by the Law. Every believer is *"...justified by faith..."* has *"...peace with God..."* (Rom. 5:1) and *"...enriched in every thing to all bountifulness..."*. (II Cor. 9:11) Blessings aren't dependent at all upon us being good; it is all grace.

"Why do we have problems?" Romans 8 relays two sources: 1) The 'sufferings of this present time' are those difficulties common to every man; Adam's fall brought hardships, sickness, and death. 2) The 'sufferings of Christ' are a result of allowing Christ to live in you. Pray to patiently endure challenges that come as you live in Satan's world system. What a privilege to be renewed daily in the Word and make wise decisions. There is even value to suffering, as we live here on earth, but also when we go to heaven. *"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) **God plans well!**

A Concrete Picture Of A Driven Life



As we grow up in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have the great opportunity to do spiritual service to God: *“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.”* (II Corinthians 5:18)

The journey of faith may be long, so provisions are essential; being prepared is wise. We can consume sound doctrine (spiritual food); Paul’s unique teaching to the Body of Christ. This is being washed by the Word, allowing it to nourish us and dwell within to purge and also avoid worldly thinking. This is how we can be refined.

Negotiate this ‘unfriendly physical realm’ in grace, using Paul as the example: *“Holding forth the Word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.”* (Philippians 2:16)

Our ministry takes two forms: 1) A light to others: Making choices and living consistent with our convictions. 2) Sharing the Truth: As we’re conformed to Christ, we can be driven to consider/prefer other’s needs. *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.”* (II Corinthians 5:14)



The focus is not to be on the flesh, nor our sufferings, challenges, or inconveniences. Rather, *“Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.”* (Col. 3:2) Scripture focuses our heart and mind on the wondrous manifestation of Christ in us. Sufferings can work for us when we

walk by faith. As we mature and are prepared to deal with the battle, our passion becomes the selfless love of Christ toward others to teach and encourage them.

One’s life journey may not be what’s expected, so be alert to the unexpected. God’s wisdom with application can be obtained over time to deal with any obstacle: Self-centeredness, calamity, illness, poverty, addiction, violence, and even changes or unfairness in government. There may be grievous afflictions, yet trust God is powerful and always faithful. Living a driven life to ‘fight the good fight’ does not ‘just happen.’ Plan to serve the Father as Paul did: *“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 3:14)

What's The Goal?

Stay focused above and be driven forward to walk by faith, even in fear and trembling. Satan’s world system may be scary, but God is your power to jump hurdles, side-step obstacles, and endure as a good soldier **to complete the ‘ministry mission’** you have while on earth.

Be careful. This world lures your flesh and mind and is designed to overwhelm and distract, like: Man’s wisdom, religion, politics, electronics, entertainment, drugs, or any excessive focus on the world. These are physical things we see, feel, and experience. It’s unseen, spiritual things God desires for you.

Many believers today are living without basic faith and trust in our Heavenly Father. Instead, they trust themselves, exalting what ‘they think, want, see, or feel.’ The world can gain a ‘death grip’ on saints, that is, death to their spiritual life. Consider putting away distracting ‘things of the flesh’ to simply do what God instructs. Reprioritize!

Are you willing in thankfulness to live Christ in selfless love for others needs, ministering ‘the Word of reconciliation?’ God in you develops the attitude: ‘whatever it takes.’ We cannot do this alone. Christ being formed in you prepares your heart.

Religious activities, fleshly living, or self-exaltation has never been what God desires. *“If a man therefore*



purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.” (II Tim. 2:21)

Christian Life Coach Support Services

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Stamp

To:

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

What's The Answer To Struggles?



Some saints can be discouraged even of life itself as waves of troubles place the focus on worldly things. Hardships in life can be grievous, especially if you have lost sight of hope, or never even had it. *“But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.” (Romans 8:25) Trust God!*

Reading what God the Father desires to say to you in Scripture in order to help is often the last thing our flesh desires. *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit...” (Gal. 5:17)* Yet, the Word is where your power and answers are found!

What is a faith walk? Just do and keep doing what God says by faith. Often, it's without full understanding or tangible evidence, and when we don't feel like it. God the Father only wants what is best for you. Actually, His way is exactly what you need. *“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor. 1:24) Christ the Word: Our power & wisdom!*

(Applying Pauline Truth)



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About Our Grace Ministry: Contact us if you are interested in any of the opportunities below, have questions, or need assistance.

Life Coaching (Applying Pauline Truth)

Coaching 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/groups (support groups/retreats/presentations).

Home Church-Bible Study: Join our 'Grace' ministry in the Richmond Area. Call (above) for directions.

Friday Home Family Bible Study/Church: 7-9 pm

Wednesday Ladies Study: 10:30-12 pm at LaPrade Library

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Newsletter

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

Newby's Bridge: A quarterly bulletin designed to reach out to the 'newby,' that is, an unbeliever, or a Christian who has not had much opportunity to grow in sound doctrine or who may be confused in some basic Truths.

Books

What to Appreciate As We Approach God's Word

How the Bible is Practical and Able to Mature Believers

Growing Up In Christ To Become A Mature Believer

Romans Study Guide

Jeremiah 32:27

**“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh:
 Is there anything too hard for me?”**

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