

*“And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.” (Galatians 2:9)*

## Just A Minute With Scripture

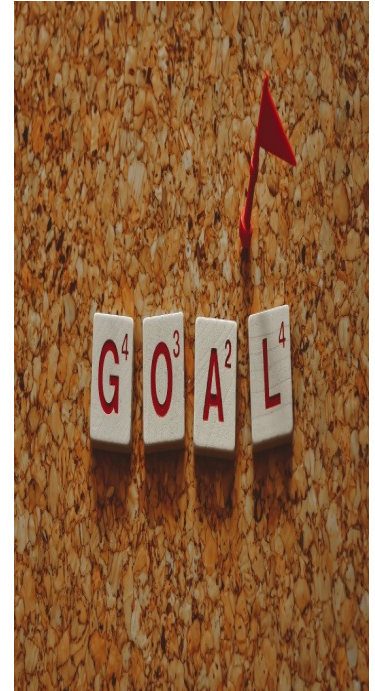
### Faithfulness to Live Your Goal ?

What is your goal as a member of Christ’s Body? Consider that the local assembly is not to be the sole place we get spiritually fed, interact with other saints, and do ministry. Learning, fellowship, and the outworking of our faith is to be a part of our daily life. As we do our own study, one-to-one with God, we’re to rightly divide to recognize context (*II Tim. 2:15*), and then believe and live it. It’s with these convictions we’re to trust God to minister to others through the day. It is to be our life.

In *Acts 15*, Paul’s ministry was evaluated by the Little Flock leaders. *Gal. 2:9* (above) shows that they found him to be a faithful Apostle, giving him the “right hands of fellowship.” For us to be faithful, we’re to learn sound doctrine in *Romans-Philemon* and follow Paul. (*I Cor. 4:15-16*) This enables each of us to apply “the grace of God” (*I Cor. 3:10*) to the details of life and prefer others. As we serve in love as an ambassador, servant, and soldier, we will see time and opportunities as liquid gold, to “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.” (*Col. 4:5*)

*Romans 12: 1-3* gives us a purpose and how to do it: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, (goal) that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (How) 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.” We are not to be puffed up, but sober-minded: “...according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Out of a renewed mind we are to serve, ministering to others: “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.” (*Rom. 12:10-11*)

**To Do:** Paul relays God’s goals for us and how to apply it: “Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus. 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. Thou therefore **endure**, 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 2:1-4*) What does this really look like in a daily walk? (See P. 2)



### Women’s Conference

Saturday, March 16, 2024

#### Topic: Attributes of God

Mark your calendar and join us for a good time of study and fellowship!

**Location:** Fellowship Bible Church, Orlando, Florida

Call/Text Sue at (804)690-6789

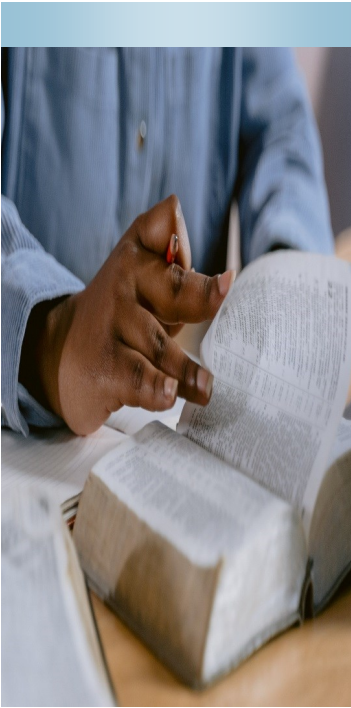
Feel free to call if you have questions with any articles.

### Do You Believe ?

The Lord Jesus Christ was obedient to the Father and went to the cross for you, providing a great free gift!. Choose to believe and this gift of eternal life is yours.

We can never be good enough, it is all grace! “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (*Romans 5:8*)

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## Study Tools With Practical Study Ideas: Ephesians 3

The study tool below is taken from the book: "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools." Be open to think afresh so this principle can help you learn a new way to study *Ephesians 3*.

**Tool: Look for Application of Scripture:** After you read through *Ephesians 3*, determine if you understand the passages, then think about one thing they are teaching you to do. Now think on 'how' you could put it into action, applying it in a situation in life. Reflect on how it went. What did you learn from applying it? Now find another situation to practically live this new insight. Take time to reflect on the results and grow. Examples:

**1. How to share Paul's distinctive ministry and the Mystery taught in *Ephesians 3:9*:**

a) Choose a saint who is unaware of Paul's ministry to the Body of Christ and hold forth what Paul taught. Prepare a list of several points and key verses you feel he needs. Next, give thought to what you would like to say. b) Plan a time to talk to this believer with minimal distractions and time restraints, i.e. discuss at lunch or over a cup of coffee, and do it. c) Reflect upon what went well and areas you can improve. d) Make time to follow up, extending grace and being patient.

**2. Read *Eph. 3:20* and determine if you believe this in situations.** a) Pray and, as challenging situations occur, reflect on *verse 20*. b) Ask yourself questions: Is God really "able to do exceeding abundantly above all" that I ask Him or think? How will God work in me? c) Choose to grow, trusting Him in the details.

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*"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me... Galatians 2:20*

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### Questions & Answers With Deborah

**What can help me when I am in the midst of fear and doubt?**

I was reading *II Chronicles 20:5-15* this morning and it sparked an amazing answer. Though this account is written to and about the Nation Israel, much can be learned. As Israel fixed their eyes on the Lord, the prophet said to them, "**the battle is not yours, but God's.**" (vs. 12) God was with Israel and fought for them when they cried unto the LORD, and repented of their evil, trusting.

We have so much more, as God has placed His Spirit and the Word (Lord Jesus) in our inner man as members of the Body of Christ. Christ suffered and died to save us from wrath and give the Body all things. Therefore, God offers you an intimate relationship with Himself and desires for you to be a co-laborer in what He's doing. (*I Cor. 3:9*) **Continued**

### Walking Out Your Goal? (Topic Continued)

In love, duplicate in others your Biblical understanding (*II Tim. 2:1-4*) and zealous conviction by holding forth the gospel of grace. The goal is that these saints "*shall be able to teach others also.*" In other words, a devoted mentor patiently helps others to understand and apply *Romans-Philemon*, building faithful ambassadors who also live for Christ.

How is this done? Allow Christ to live in you: "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...*" (*Gal. 2:20*) Regularly read and study to consider these teachings and those heard at Church, making them your own by examining and comparing Scripture, led by the Spirit. As the doctrine works, gain conviction to become passionate to hold forth grace: "*For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God...I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*" (*Gal. 2:19,21*) The grace of God equips you to have your own ministries to teach and mentor others, replicating what you've been taught, as "*labourers together with God.*" (*I Cor.3: 9*) Love compels you to live it.

**Reflect:** This ministry is given to the Body of Christ and NOT just to pastors or designated Church teachers. Each saint is to hold forth the Truth to others wherever he goes. "*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*" (*Rom 13:12*) Don't sit on your hands or kick your feet up and wait for the 'catching away' (Rapture), being content to passively be a recipient of another's ministry. Instead, have a goal with purpose to live the Truth, as did Paul: "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*" (*II Tim. 4:7*) Take the baton and run your race; press toward the mark in thankfulness for all God has done.





## Preparing Your Heart

To live as who we are in Christ as an acceptable sacrifice (*Rom. 12:1*), each of us needs to be prepared for the battle. In the journey of life, there can be many unexpected obstacles and challenges. To begin our journey, we are to have the doctrines of grace formed in us and live out of our new identity, otherwise, Satan can pull us aside by his many tactics.

For example, we can become caught in legalism or another false doctrine as were the Galatians: *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”* (*Gal. 2:16*) We don’t want to return to the law as we will not be a vessel of honor and our labor will not be acceptable.

So then, stay focused on Paul’s distinctive ministry to us as the Body of Christ, rightly dividing the Word. We are to keep pure and separate from false doctrine and prepare ourselves. *II Timothy 2:21* says: *“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.”* This is referring to purging ourselves from religiousness and ungodly saints in the Church, not allowing worldly views or doctrines to creep into our thinking and lives.

To do this, study the doctrines of grace, pray, and be ready as vessels of honor, strong in God’s wisdom/power: *“That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour.”* (*I Thess. 4:4*) How will you prepare?

## Questions & Answers

With Deborah

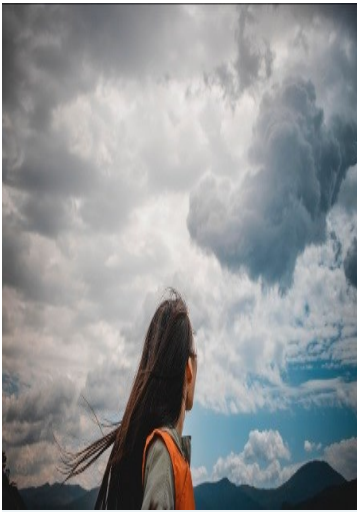
You can also trust, fixing your eyes on God’s great power within. You’ve been left here for a purpose and are no longer your own: *“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: **therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.**”* (*I Cor. 6:19-20*) You have access to God and His wisdom/power. God placed His Spirit in you, loving you more than you can imagine. You are NOT alone.

The spiritual battles and challenges you experience are not yours. They are God’s. It is His battle with Satan. You are to use the armor He provided: *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* (*Eph.6:10-11*) God fights the battle for you by the Word in you, working. Then, your responsibility is to stand, equipped with the Spirit and Word. Trust Him and do it by faith!

### **2. I want to see God and His power as I wonder if He is really for me and cares about me.**

The answer is a spiritual one as God isn’t working miraculously with signs and wonders today. Read and reread, then study and meditate on *Romans 1-8*. This section is designed to teach you absolute confidence and trust in God’s love and care for you to enable you to go through **any** life difficulty to be victorious..

*Romans 8:31-39* is a summary of *Romans 1-8*: i.e. *“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 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? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth”* It is Christ that died, yeah rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” (*Rom. 8:31-34*) Nothing can separate you from God’s love: not ‘tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword.’ Do you trust Him? *“With God all things are possible.”* (*Matt. 19:26*) If you don’t trust yet, reread *Rom. 1-8*.



## Embracing A New Reality

As saints we have an interesting challenge every moment. Basically, we are to view the spiritual realm as more real than what we know, see, and feel. This is so contrary to everything we have learned in this world. The Galatians did not do this and allowed themselves to be pulled aside by another doctrine in this world, legalism. To avoid this mistake, Paul provides insight: *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* (II Cor. 10:5) It is setting our affection above to mind sound doctrine, walking in grace, and focusing on these spiritual instructions from Christ for application. This is the **‘Yield** (unto Christ the Word), **Let** (God the Spirit work in us), **and Be** (who we are in Christ) **Process.**’ This enables us to walk by faith in spite of fears and inward or worldly pulls, affected by emotions, or by what others say or do. It does not matter how real or powerful the pulls. Lay worldly views and feelings aside to trust God.

Abraham is a good example of walking by faith in God’s Truth, not by what he felt or saw in the world: *“Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations...And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb: He staggered not at the promise of God though unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”* (Rom. 4:17b-21) The issue is having faith to rely on God, above what you see, or your feelings and wants. We’re to die to sin and the lusts of the flesh. Don’t let them rule.

All our life we have had certain experiences and learned to trust our senses and worldly wisdom. This is exactly what Satan designed. Take a moment to read and think about *Romans 6:4-5*, as it declares we can live resurrection life. Once we are justified unto eternal life (saved), we’re instructed to renew our minds to put aside our worldly views to keep our focus above: *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”* (Colossians 3:1) As we are led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14), trusting and seeking these things and not our own flesh. We are enabled to walk by faith to bring forth power: Christ’s life being manifested in us. (Eph. 3:7,20) This produces the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and resurrection life: *“I am crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:6 taught us that our old man, Adam’s nature, was crucified): 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.”* (Galatians 2:20)

**Think on this:** God has left us in this sin-cursed world as His ambassadors and living sacrifices. We are to put aside our way of thinking and acting to live Christ, even when we do not know the outcome and are scared. The flesh will never want to live God’s way and will focus on what the world and our feelings says to do. Remember, you are God’s soldier and to live His wisdom. Now, think on this: What has the Word taught you to do or change in your life? Pray, write it down, reflect, and now... do it!

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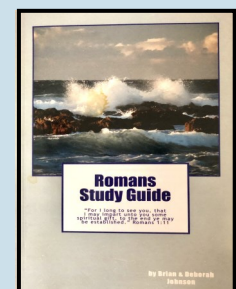
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Note: For all Publications the King James Bible is used. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

## A Helpful Book: Romans Study Guide

Are you looking for help to study *Romans*? This guide is designed to help you examine each chapter to establish you in the faith. (Romans 1:11)



*Proverbs 2:4: We are to ‘seek her as silver, and search for Truth as for hid treasures.’*