



Just A Minute with Scripture Are We Gladly Spending and Being Spent?

II Corinthians 12 provides context as to Paul’s heart motivation to serve, preferring others above himself. As he digested and applied sound doctrine, he learned: *“And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.”* (II Cor. 12:15)

As saints, we are called to manifest Christ in all areas of our life, ministering as Paul did, as a living sacrifice. As we mature to be who we are in Christ, we too will ‘spend’ our time, energy, and resources focusing to exalt others. We’re to be whatever we need to be to encourage and edify. This is done by the Word that has been deposited in our inner man (godliness). This enables us to live godly love, functioning in patience and kindness, whether teaching our children or helping those in need.

Do you think Paul felt “spent,” tired to the bone, serving our Lord Jesus? *“...in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.”* (II Cor. 11:23-28) Yes, of course he was fatigued, yet not distressed. (II Corinthians 4:8)

Serving can seem difficult: *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”* (Gal. 6:9) The flesh will never ‘want’ to serve Christ. Yet Paul, our example, was “very gladly” expended for the saints and lost, motivated by godly love. It can be likened to the love of a Mom for her child, a Father for his family, and much more, Jesus’ love sacrifice for us: *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”* (Phil. 2:5) Use this an opportunity to think on this!



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

Christ is Risen!

Christ’s death on the cross offers forgiveness of sins for all who believe. His resurrection was also glorious. We can realize and experience resurrection life now as we walk by faith in sound doctrine. *“For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.”* We are *“...dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Rom. 6:10-11)

Study Devotional of the Book of Galatians

Verses this Month: *Galatians 5:1,4:* “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage...Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”

1. Read through *Galatians 5* to think on how we have been set free and have liberty in Christ. Describe it.
2. The admonition in *verse 1* is to “stand fast...in the liberty.” Explain how this can be done in your life.

3. Think on “*Christ hath made us free.*” Free from what and how did He do it?

4. In what way was this Church “entangled?” Did they have another chance to live without being “entangled?” How can this help you?

5. “*The yoke of bondage*” refers to something that happened to the Galatians. Look back to find a verse in *Chapters 1-4* that describes this.

6. Christ can become ineffectual in saints when they are “justified by the law.” They have fallen, departed from grace. Explain how this can happen.



“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.” II Corinthians 13:8

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 1: I started to read the Bible, but I am discouraged. What can I do?

Approaching the Bible can make us feel overwhelmed. I recall that after I read my first chapter in Romans, I was sure I was just plain dumb. I didn't understand any of it. Why? It is God's eternal book. It just takes time/perseverance to understand.

What is needed is to read, read, and re-read it, prayerfully. Read a section or chapter and think about the words. Look up 1-2 terms in a Bible dictionary. Think on what you find and then read those verses again. God will slowly bring insights, so be patient with yourself to learn/grow.

Once you have spent some time in a section, move on to the next. Don't expect you will get it all; give yourself grace and be thankful. You will get more the next time through. Realize God is building understanding one piece at a time: “*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*” (I Corinthians 2:10)

So then, don't allow Satan to discourage you; be aware of his tactics. It takes as long as it takes. Press toward the mark.

Crucified, Yet He Liveth

At times, most of us feel weary and lose sight of our many blessings. Some may even forget to focus above as they are bombarded with life challenges. Others may take their eyes off God and His wisdom, power, and eternal realm, and rather, exalt the difficulties, being overly anxious about what has, is, or may happen. Satan has devised cunning devices in this world to distract us and inhibit our edification and godly service. Remember: “*For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.*” (II Corinthians 13:4)

We are weak because of our flesh, yet we have God's mighty power within us. By the Word, we can stand fast, be self-aware, realize where we are in our thinking, and walk forward, open to God's instruction by the Word. “*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you...*” (II Cor. 13:5) God will work mightily in us to stand confident!

God uses Christ the Word to fully provide for us, so we also can live resurrection life! *Romans 1-8* develops confidence as we understand and believe. Paul summarizes this: “*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*” (Rom. 8:35,37) We are to live in God's stead and press toward the mark. Confidently determine to live as who you are in Christ. How? Stay in the Word daily, and think on these things. Be thankful, trusting God and staying focused above.



Who is the Holy Spirit? by Erin Young

We are familiar with the Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit seems to be one of the most misunderstood among these. Many of us probably grew up imagining something like a white dove to convey what the Holy Spirit was. The question is, who is He? How can we know Him better? For this, we turn to Scripture. *Isaiah 11:2* “And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” This verse shows us that the Holy Spirit is many things, all of which work together to help and teach us in our walk in Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:19 “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?” Once we’re saved, the Holy Spirit works in us, maturing us from babes to adult believers. *1 Corinthians 2:12-13*: “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” He helps us to understand how we should pray. *Romans 8:26* “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

It’s clear to see from Scripture just who the Holy Spirit is and how He helps to guide us. *Romans 8:14*: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” He is the very Spirit of God Himself.

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 2: How does the Holy Spirit teach me God’s Word?

As you choose to be led by the Spirit (*Rom. 8:14*), you will learn and grow. The Spirit’s role is to teach you the deep spiritual things God has prepared for you to know. It is all because of His great love for you: “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” (*1 Cor. 2:12*) A positive response would be to be led by the Spirit, read sound doctrine, believe, yield, and let it live within you, despite challenges of the flesh. (*Romans 6-8*)

Question 3: How can I encourage another believer to grow and be led by the Spirit?

Sometimes a saint can stay a spiritual babe for a lifetime, especially if they never read nor live the Word. A new believer or babe is naturally led by worldly wisdom and emotions, what ‘feels’ right. The flesh and heart can deceive him. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (*Jeremiah 17:9*)

God needs to renew his mind with sound doctrine as it is dangerous for a saint to be led by feelings. God appointed Paul as our Apostle and his epistles were inspired and written to us, the Body of Christ, to teach us. Therefore, encourage saints to understand the significance of their identification in Christ, where to read for sound teaching, and to be led by the Spirit. This enables them to live godly and minister to others.

Teach saints about “rightly dividing the Word,” (*II Tim.2:15*) and recognize the context. God has changed ‘how’ He dealt with man over time. Truly, all the Bible is “for our learning” (*Rom. 15:3*), but not all was written ‘to us.’ Help them also to see the form of sound doctrine. Each epistle is laid out in the perfect order for edification. Encourage others to progress thru Paul’s epistles, starting in *Romans* and reading through to *Philemon*. **To Do:** Read *Rom. 9-11* and *Acts* to see how God set aside Israel’s program for a time to raised up Paul. Also study *Rom. 16:25-26*, *I Cor. 2:6-8*, & *Eph. 2 & 3*.

Redeeming the Time by Jeanette Scallan

*Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. **Proverb 27:1***

*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. **Colossians 4:5***

Time is a funny thing: 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week, 365 days in a year. Time marches steadily on, yet we experience it differently at different times in our lives. In our youth and during periods of waiting, time drags slowly. In our older years and during times of great enjoyment it seems to fly by.

Time never really slows or speeds up, but our perspective of time is influenced by how we view our current circumstances. Impatience with difficult situations, pressure from conflicting responsibilities, and enjoyment of leisure can all affect our concept of the passage of time.

We often forget that the only time we really have for making choices is now. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may not be ours. As believers our eternity is secure in Christ, but we can't fully experience it yet in these temporal bodies. The present is all that we have, and God's word says we should be redeeming it for Him.



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