

Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

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



Our Walk Is Important to God

Once we trust that Christ has paid the complete price for our sins by His own blood (*Romans 3*), we can rejoice in the eternal position we have received: *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."* (*Rom. 5:1-2*)

The topic of justification is clearly laid forth in Romans 1-5, however, the story is not finished. God earnestly desires for us to go on and realize that there is so much more to know than just being justified. He wants us to understand how to live godly: *"...Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"* (*Rom. 6:1-2*) God cares what we do. How will we respond? *"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light."* (*Ephesians 5:8*)

As believers, we have such spiritual wealth, why do many continue in worldliness? Could it be a lack of awareness or thankfulness, or even fear? The flesh is strong and tends to lead us, so we need to learn God's way. As we obey from the heart the doctrine given to us (*Rom. 6:17*), we will be transformed and our mind renewed: *"For whom he did foreknow, he also **did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**"* (*Rom. 8:29*)

To Do: God desires for us to be godly: to think like the Lord Jesus Christ, live like Him, and progress to labor together with God. We have been left here on earth to grow and, on His behalf, be ambassadors, workman, and soldiers. Take an honest look at your walk, using what you know in sound doctrine. Do you live in line with your convictions? If not, read the Word and yield.



Do You Sit, Stand, Walk, or Run?

God fully provides in His Word, offering to help each believer in their challenging journey. Yet, some **sit** idle and do nothing with what they have been given. Others **stand** firm in their salvation, but primarily still live to please their flesh. Another group of saints do **walk by faith**, living by what they believe. Finally, a small number not only have a walk of faith, but also **run** with the doctrine (*Gal. 5:7*), laboring together with God. So, which one are you and how can you progress?

To Do: A word study on these four terms could prove quite edifying.

Our Father is a Perfect Provider



From the very beginning of time, God has been man's complete provider. He knew everything that man would need and supplied them in love: *"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."* (*Acts 17:28*)

Once saved, students need to mature in sound doctrine to rely and gain confidence in God as their Provider to live and serve Him in life situations. Paul strategically uses questions in *Romans 8:31-39* to help readers reflect on whether they truly trust God.

Two examples: 1) *"...If God be for us, who can be against us?"* (*Rom. 8:31*) This question helps us recall that God can be depended upon; He is always for us and does what is best for us! Reading and thinking on Romans 1-8 will verify & cement this into our thinking.

2) *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"* (*Rom 8:35*) Confidence is built as we reflect on the character of God. Christ's love was Paul's anchor, it never failed, through all his challenges!

Meditation: Read through *Romans 8:31-39* for yourself. Do you firmly know that God is always by your side as you live unto Him, deal with life difficulties, or suffer persecutions? If not, reread Romans 1-8 to develop this confidence. We are to use our time/resources wisely: *"Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."* (*Ps. 90:12*)



Search it out!

Romans 11: Noting Changes in Subject

Examine verses!



This month, another study tool will be introduced, using an example from *Romans 11* to practically see how God uses this teaching method. The tool will be taken from, "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools," a new booklet soon to be available. This can help you observe and search things out in your study.

Change in subject, topic, or who is being addressed: At times, Paul changes the focus within a chapter. It is critical to be aware of changes to understand what is being taught.

1. Romans 11:1-12: In this first section, Israel is the focus and what happened to them in the early Acts period: a) Read through the section to find related evidence that indicates the subject is Israel: b) Read to find a specific word or phrase in *Verse 1, 2, 3, and 7*. Notice supporting references i.e. Israel's prophet

Elias is used in Vs. 2. c) References are made to Israel in the context, using terms like 'them,' 'they,' or 'their' (Vs. 8-12).

2. Verses 13-24: This second section now deals with Gentiles: a) Notice *Verse 13* has a stark change in subject, using the term 'Gentiles' twice. b) Observe the contrasting pronouns in this section: 'them,' referring to the subject in the last section, 'Israel.' Now also, note 'thou,' referring to the new subject, Gentiles, which is being compared to Israel. The reader needs to be alert to notice these important issues.

3. Verses 25-32: In this last grouping of verses, believers in the Body of Christ are the focus. a) In the first verse in this section, notice the new term used, 'brethren.' b) In *Verse 25*, also see the three groups being addressed: brethren, Israel, and the Gentiles, reinforcing the three different subjects. c) In addition, notice the supporting pronouns, 'ye,' and 'your' in the section. How many do you count? It is contrasted with the Nation Israel and what God will be doing with them in the future.

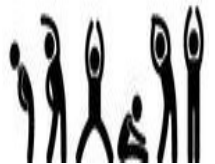
4. To Do: Look for a subject change in *Romans 2 & 16* to practice this study tool, gaining experience for understanding.

Preparedness Enables Us to Walk by Faith

Some saints may have been Christians for years, yet find that walking by faith in the details of life can be challenging or elusive. Why? The answer may not be easy to hear. Knowing the Bible and the details of the verses, even sound doctrine written to us, may have become just head knowledge. Confident assurance with conviction to live godly can take time to think on and apply, to place it in the heart to develop trust. Simply going to Church services, listening to messages, or reading can build Bible data, without heart understanding and conviction. Realizing this is important; it's the first step.

Honestly, we need to confidently trust God, living what we know in order to rely on it in difficult life situations. Effort is often needed to place doctrine in our heart to trust it: "*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) So, do we need to purposefully prepare?

Yes, it's helpful to think of it as spiritual faith exercise. Think on what you know: use it, prove it, and try it out to become strong in understanding, confidently relying on it. This may mean, when you are uncomfortable and pressed, you will need to make a choice to rely on God, even though you are fearful. God doesn't take our feelings away. A good example is Abraham offering his son Isaac as a sacrifice. It required him to live by what he knew about God, not knowing the outcome. It helps us to trust that God will use circumstances with the doctrine to turn all things for our good. (Rom. 8:28) This is walking by faith and living your convictions.



This process enables us to learn from mistakes in application, develop confidence, and become strong and prepared. *1 Tim. 4:7-8* says, "...exercise thyself rather unto godliness...godliness is profitable unto all things..." Even *Hebrews 5:13-14* refers to this method: "For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who **by reason of use** have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." So, go to the spiritual gym to be strong in Christ, obeying from the heart. This enables a walk of faith.



Do you have trouble staying focused to pray, read your Bible, remember to do something for a friend, or yield to God in life situations? The multitude of thoughts constantly running through your minds can prevent you from thinking and doing what you really want. It is very distracting.

The fleshly mind controls us unless we purpose to yield to God. We're constantly bombarded with new things and ideas, guilt, responsibilities, past/present/future fears, problems, etc. Can these interfering thoughts be stopped?

Truly, we are unable to fully control our own thought life, but God is able. *"Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" (Gen. 18:14)* We can rest and trust our God: *"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 Corinthians 10:5)*

It would be helpful to remember three things God has taught us in His Word: **1)** Imaginations are man's wisdom exalted above God and His Word. (Rom. 1:21-22) **2)** Our efforts are filthy rags to God (Is. 64:6). **3)** If we desire to access God's wisdom and power, we need to trust Him to do it within us. *"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." (I Cor. 1:27)* It is all about resting in Christ's work.

God is able to replace ungodly, distracting, time-wasting thoughts to renew your mind. Read the Word daily and think on what is learned, then, prayerfully trust in it. In time, God will do invisible work in your inner man. *"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.12:1-2)*



To Do: If you are overwhelmed with thoughts, things below may functionally help you:

1. Remember you have a new identity: This complete identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is the new resource that God will use to teach and empower you (Romans 6: 1-7).
2. You have choices. Cease from your dead work and efforts. Stop and think. Who and what has God created you to be?
3. Yield your members to God, with your thoughts: Allow God to replace them with sound doctrine. (Rom. 6:13-20) Read and think on verses you know. Be patient and live what you learn.



Now, Get Ready...Set...Go

At any given point, we can just start walking by faith. Believe, and then live by what the Spirit has taught you through the Word. There's no need to wait for a certain understanding or maturity. *"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:13-14)*

Once you respond by faith, trusting Christ's blood to become righteous, you can continue to walk by faith to have a holy, sanctified life. It helps to be spiritually prepared. Know your new identity and yield to access God's wisdom/power (Rom. 6). This enables you to choose to make wise decisions.

Let us be candid, unexpected challenges and problems happen. Also, know ahead of time that it is typical for the flesh to experience fear, yet you can trust Him: *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Tim. 1:7)* We have power within that develops an attitude of love and a sound mind, to confidently trust God to push through the fears.

Application: How to succinctly walk by faith: Christ the Word works the doctrine in you by the Spirit. Believe it and walk in it, trusting God. Fleshly thoughts will continue to run through the mind, but can be pushed out as you stay focused on the Word and meditate. God works in you by renewing your mind. Use the 'Y' in the road, found in Romans 6, to make decisions. Choose to believe verses, yielding to God (to the right on the 'Y'). Recall your new identity in Christ and the power God has placed within you. This enables you to step off the path of the flesh controlling you (on the left), to live unto God. (Rom. 6:12-13)



Christian Life Coach Support Services
Writers/editors: Brian and Deborah Johnson
(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)

How is The Bible Helpful, Right Now?



When a saint begins to read the Word, even Paul’s epistles, which have been specifically written to the Body of Christ (II Tim. 2:15), they may wonder, is this really applicable to me? The answer is absolutely, without a doubt!

Think about these verses to be convinced: *“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 Tim. 3:16-17)*

Let us take a moment to examine II Timothy 3:16-17 and define key terms which address four ways Scripture is profitable:

- For Doctrine:** Rules, principles, or set of beliefs or ideas taught as Truth. In Scripture it is meant as a body of information or teaching designed to affect how someone thinks, acts, and spends time.
- For Reproof:** Expression of blame or disapproval; a rebuke, admonishment, or admonition. This gives opportunity to realize there is a problem.
- For Correction:** Act of amending or adjusting something; to bring back order or renew thinking or behavior. This specifies how to change.
- For Instruction in God’s righteousness:** Providing direction or insight, detailing how something is to function or operate using God’s standard.

So then, God has placed at least these four means by which Scripture is helpful to anyone who takes the time to read and think on it to apply in the details of life. If one has the pre-conception that it is not profitable, often no profit will be seen. On the other hand, if one comes to the Word expecting it to be applicable, it will be found.

Finally, the purpose for this profitable doctrine is that believers become perfect and thoroughly furnished (II Tim. 3:17). Basically, Scripture can teach the student to become spiritually mature and able to deal with problems as they live in this world. (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

- *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*

Join Us For Bible Study North Chesterfield, Virginia

Family Study: Sunday, 6:30-9pm
Ladies Study: Wednesdays, 10:30-12
Call For Locations: (804) 519-1210

Fifth Annual Women’s Retreat (Plan to Join Us Next Month!)

Where: Orlando, Florida **When:** April 12-13 **Topic:** Being a Woman of Grace
Contact: Cheryl for more information: (366) 561-8112