

Being A MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR

OUTLINE

- I. Get Saved!
- II. Be a Man of the Word!
- III. Be a Man of Prayer!
- IV. Aspects of Valor!
- V. The Sovereign King Wants You!

REJECT THE LIES AND EXCUSES.

Reject lie/excuse #1: “Because of the sins in my past and the mistakes I have made, I could never be useful to God and I could never have a life that will please Him.”

Reject lie/excuse #2: “I am a pretty good guy; I have done a lot of good things; I am sure that my good has outweighed my bad; I am probably O.K.”

Reject lie/excuse #3: “I might be interested in Christianity or spiritual matters, if it weren’t for the fact that [name of a man] claims to be Christian, and I know that he is such a hypocrite, and if that’s the way a Christian is I don’t want anything to do with it.”

[Jesus Christ alone is perfect and sinless. There are false teachers. There are liars. There are hypocrites. God will never fail, but any man certainly can fail. The truth is true regardless of whether any man follows it correctly. You will have no excuse by pointing to some other man. The only issue will be what you have done concerning Jesus Christ. It is your life to either be invested or wasted. It is your eternal soul that will be with the Lord in total bliss for all of eternity or in anguish and separated from God for all of eternity.]

Reject lie/excuse #4: “I tried to be faithful to the Lord and I really wanted to please Him, but then I blew it. Because I blew it, I might as well forget it and just go back to living for myself and following sinful temptations.”

Reject lie/excuse #5: “I am still pretty young and I want to “enjoy” some things of this life before I settle into a more holy life style. Someday, however, I want to be different and I want to invest in eternal things. But not yet.” (Hebrews 9:27, “. . . it is appointed [by God] for men to die once, but after this the judgment”).

Reject lie/excuse #6: “Leading a Christian life the way you described it sounds like a lot of work and it sounds like life would not be fun anymore.”

[The joys, blessings, and benefits of a vibrant, exciting, and dynamic walk with the Living God cannot be understood or appreciated vicariously or by some quick-fix method. But the man who is walking with God and who knows real peace of mind, and who has overflowing joy, and who develops beautiful relationships, and who knows where he is going and why, and who has the satisfaction of being a part of something that is eternal, and who has his eyes lifted infinitely higher than this puny world, . . . looks back at his prior worldly ways and at his wasted years before he dedicated his life to Christ and at the emptiness of the world’s so-called “happiness,” . . . and that believer is now so filled with thanksgiving that he has found the Lord and that he exchanged his former lifestyle for his joyful life that has significance now and forever].

I. FIRST STEP: GET SAVED! *[If you are saved, praise the Lord, but use this in reaching out to other men. No man can be a mighty man of valor if he is not a believer.]*

A. Types of unsaved: The man who knows that he is not a true Christian; the man who is “religious” but has never really placed his faith and trust in Jesus Christ to save him; the man who thinks that by (1) going to church, or (2) by doing some good, or (3) by living in a so-called Christian nation, or (4) by growing up in a home where the parents called themselves “Christians,” then he is O.K. Each of these men needs to transact serious business with God.

B. The absolutely necessary first step to becoming a mighty man of valor is to become a member of God’s family, (you can’t ever serve in God’s army if you are not in God’s family).

(1) Romans 13:11-14 “¹¹And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

(2) Romans 5:6-11 “⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a

righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

- (3) Romans 10:9-13 “⁹ . . . that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”
- (4) 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 “³For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, . . .”
- (5) Ephesians 2:1-13 “¹And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

“⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He

might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

“¹¹Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh - who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands - ¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without god in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

C. Another reason why a man must be saved to be a mighty man of valor is that: **God does not rehabilitate our “old man,” but instead the Lord makes us a new creation.**

(1) 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

(2) Isaiah 43:18-19 “¹⁸Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. ¹⁹Behold, I will do a new thing. . .”

(3) Ephesians 4:17-24 [The Principle of replacement] “²³. . . and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

(See also Col. 2:11 and 3:8-11)

(4) Colossians 3:3 “For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

D. Another reason why a man must be saved to be a mighty man of valor is that only after you are truly regenerated (saved - you are a true Christian), do you have **the spiritual capacity to learn and understand the Bible.**

(1) 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 “¹⁰But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things

of God. ¹¹For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

“¹³These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

¹⁴But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. ¹⁶For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.”

E. Another reason why a man must be saved to be a mighty man of valor - Because **the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer**, from the instant he receives Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 12:13), and **the Holy Spirit enables the Christian to turn away from false teaching and sinful associations.**

- (1) 1 Timothy 6:3-4a “If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing. . .”
- (2) Romans 16:17 “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.”
- (3) James 4:4 “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
- (4) Proverbs 4:14, 19 “¹⁴Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. . . . ¹⁹The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.”
- (5) 2 Timothy 3:5 “. . . having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

- (6) 1 Corinthians 5:9 “I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.”

II. BE VALLIANT IN YOUR STUDY OF GOD’S WORD! YOU MUST BE A MAN OF THE BIBLE – GOD ALLOWS US TO LEARN AND KNOW HOW TO LIVE AND HOW TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:

A. The Word of God, by God’s grace and help, convicts us of sins and instructs us in true repentance, and in the attainment of God’s forgiveness.

- (1) 2 Corinthians 7:1 “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting **holiness** in the fear of God.”
- (2) 2 Timothy 2:21 “Therefore if anyone **cleanses himself** from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”
- (3) Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of His grace . . .”
- (4) 1 John 1:9 “If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to **forgive us** our sins and to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.”
- (5) Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has **He removed our transgressions from us**.

WOW! In addition to being forgiven by God (a judicial act) the believer enjoys God’s provision of **knowing he is cleansed and even feeling clean**.

- (6) Hebrews 9:14 . . . how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?
- (7) Hebrews 10:22 . . . let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having **our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.

B. Devour, diligently study, and meditate on the Work of God (with a commitment to obey and apply the truths you learn). [Note – the following verses can be used by you as personal prayers in preparation for your own study and meditation of the Bible]

- (1) John 16:13 [Jesus] “The Spirit of Truth will guide you into all truth. . . .”
- (2) Luke 24:45 “And Jesus opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures.”
- (3) Psalms 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your Law”
- (4) 2 Timothy 2:7 “consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.”
- (5) Isaiah 28:9 “Whom will He teach knowledge? And whom will He make to understand the message?”
- (6) Luke 24:27 [Jesus on the road to Emmaus] “And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”
- (7) Ephesians 1:17-18a “. . . that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know. . . .”
- (8) Psalm 119:30b, 33-35 I have chosen THE WAY OF TRUTH . . . TEACH me, O Lord, THE WAY OF YOUR STATUTES, and I shall KEEP it to the end. GIVE ME UNDERSTANDING and I shall KEEP your Law; indeed I shall OBSERVE it with my whole heart. Make me WALK in Your commandments, for I DELIGHT in it.
- (9) Psalm 119:50 This is MY COMFORT in my affliction, for YOUR WORD has given me LIFE.
- (10) Psalm 119:80 Let my heart be blameless regarding Your STATUTES, that I may not be ashamed.
- (11) 2 Timothy 3:15-16 The Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, of reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may

be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- (12) Hebrews 4:12 The Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- (13) Isaiah 42:16 I will BRING the blind by a WAY they did not KNOW; I will LEAD them in PATHS they have not KNOWN. I will MAKE darkness LIGHT before them, and NOT forsake them.
- (14) Psalm 86:11 TEACH me YOUR WAY, O Lord; I will WALK in YOUR TRUTH; UNITE my heart to fear Your name.
- (15) Colossians 1:9b-10: . . . that you may be FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING; that you may WALK worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD;
- (16) Psalm 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By TAKING HEED ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.
- (17) Psalm 119:101, 104 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may KEEP YOUR WORD . . . Therefore I hate every false way.
- (18) Psalm 119:105 YOUR WORD is a LAMP unto my feet and a LIGHT to my PATH.
- (19) Psalm 119:133: Direct my STEPS by YOUR WORD.
- (20) Revelation 1:3 “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophesy, and KEEP those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”
- (21) Luke 11:28 “But He (Jesus Christ) said, more than that, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and KEEP it!”

- (22) John 14:15, 21 (Jesus Christ) “If you love Me, KEEP My Commandments” “He who has My commandments and KEEPS them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”
- (23) James 1:22-25 “But be DOERS of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a DOER, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and CONTINUES IN IT, and is not a forgetful hearer but a DOER of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
- (24) Philippians 4:9 “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in Me, these DO, and the God of Peace will be with you.”
- (25) Psalm 19:11 “Moreover, by them [God’s Word] Your servant is warned, and in KEEPING them there is great reward.”

C. Never cease daily Bible study. It is part of God’s Protection.

- (1) Proverbs 19:27 [Warning!] “Cease listening to instruction, my son, And you will stray from the words of knowledge.”
- (2) Proverbs 5:23 He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.
- (3) Mark 12:24 Jesus answered and said to them Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God.
- (4) Psalm 119:110 the wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts.
- (5) Proverbs 7:1-5 My son keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” And call understanding

your nearest kin. That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words.

- (6) Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is “a babe.” But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

III. **BE A MAN OF PRAYER.**

The Example of David: Psalm 109:4 - David was a man who “gave himself to prayer” [NKJV] “I am a man of prayer” [NIV]; and

1 Sam. 13:14: Acts 13:22 and 16:7 – David is called “a man after God’s own heart.”

[**Section One** was written by Pastor Ivan French, Pastor Emeritus of Pleasant Veiw Bible Church, Warsaw, Indiana (Used with his permission); and **Sections Two and Three** were written by Paul D. Refior (“Rafe”).

A. **Section One – POINTERS FOR YOUR PRAYER LIFE – by Ivan H. French**

Since prayer is hard work, and since, because of its high importance, Satan opposes a serious practice of prayer with all his might, there must be a strong motivation to pray. The following are some of the reasons why a Christian must take prayer seriously.

- (1) PRAYER IS A BASIC EXPRESSION OF THE NEW LIFE OF THE REGENERATE MAN/WOMAN.

Romans 8:9, 15 – ⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*”

Galatians 4:6 – Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*”

If a person is truly saved, he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. If he is indwelt by the Spirit, he will at least want to pray.

- (2) THE SCRIPTURE ASSUMES THAT THE CHILD OF GOD WILL PRAY. THERE IS NO ARGUMENT OR RATIONALE FOR PRAYER GIVEN IN SCRIPTURE.

Genesis 18:16-33 – ¹⁶When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. ¹⁷Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham, what I am about to do? ¹⁸Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.” ²⁰Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ²¹that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

²²The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³Then Abraham approached Him and said: “Will You sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will You really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from You! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

²⁶The Lord said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Then Abraham spoke up again: [Abraham continues to intercede for Sodom, asking if there would be 45 ... 40 ... 30 ... 20 ... 10].

³³“When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, He left, and Abraham returned home.”

(How did Abraham know that he should pray?)

Matthew 6:5-7 – ⁵“And *when you pray*, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray do not keep on babbling like pagans, for

they think they will be heard because of their many words.

(Note “when you pray . . .” It is assumed that they would pray.)

Luke 18:1-8 – Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

(It is assumed that the elect will “cry out to Him.”)

- (3) CHRIST OUR LORD COMMANDED US TO PRAY. THEREFORE, TO PRAY IS A MATTER OF OBEDIENCE.

Matthew 9:38 – “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

- (4) CHRIST OUR LORD TAUGHT US HOW TO PRAY. THEREFORE, TO PRAY IS TO HEED HIS INSTRUCTION.

Matthew 6:5-18 – ⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

⁹“This, then, is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

¹⁴For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

¹⁶When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

- (5) CHRIST OUR LORD SET THE EXAMPLE IN PRAYER. THEREFORE, TO PRAY IS TO “WALK AS HE WALKED” (1 John 2:6).

Luke 3:21 – When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened . . .

Luke 5:16 – But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 6:12 – One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray and spent the night praying to God.

1 John 2:6 – Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

- (6) THE APOSTLE PAUL EXHORTED BELIEVERS TO PRAY. THEREFORE, TO PRAY IS TO HEED APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY.

Romans 12:12 – Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Ephesians 6:18 – And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

- (7) THE APOSTLE PAUL REQUESTED PRAYER FOR HIMSELF. IF THAT SPECIALLY ENDOWED APOSTLE NEEDED PRAYER ON HIS BEHALF, HOW MUCH MORE DO WE!

Romans 15:29-33 – ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ. ³⁰I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. ³¹Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, ³²so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. ³³The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

- (8) THE APOSTLE PAUL PRAYED MUCH FOR OTHERS. THEREFORE, TO PRAY IS TO HEED THE APOSTOLIC EXAMPLE.

Romans 1:9 – God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you . . .

- (9) PRAYER IS GOD’S ORDAINED WAY OF APPROPRIATING HIS OWN OMNIPOTENT RESOURCES AND GETTING HIS WORK ACCOMPLISHED. The fact that God has commanded us to pray infers that He has programmed prayer into His divine order.

- (10) PRAYER IS THE HIGHEST ACTIVITY OF SERVICE THAT A CHRISTIAN CAN RENDER. Prayer can be engaged in by every believer, the range of its influence is unlimited, and its result is nothing less than the power of God in action.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11 – ⁸We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Philippians 1:19 - . . . for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

- (11) TO PRAY IS PLEASING TO THE LORD WHO SAVED US. Surely we want to please the One who has done so much for us.

Proverbs 15:8 – The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

- (12) TO FAIL TO PRAY IS SIN. (P.T. Forsyth said that the greatest sin that a Christian can commit is to fail to pray.)

I Samuel 12:23 – As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.

- (13) ONE OF THE BY-PRODUCTS OF PRAYER IS JOY IN THE LIFE.

John 15:11 – “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

John 16:24 – “Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

John 17:13 – “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

(14) THE POWER OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH LAY IN THE FACT THAT IT WAS A PRAYING CHURCH. In the book of The Acts, prayer is mentioned 30 times in the 28 chapters.

“The church of the Acts was small, but powerful.
The church in America is large, but powerless.”

FOR A SERIOUS PRACTICE OF PRAYER . . .

- Have a determination. A serious practice of prayer usually begins with personal self-discipline, then becomes delight.
- Have a time. Find that time in your schedule when there is the smallest amount of interruption. Early morning is usually best.
- Have a place. However humble it may be, a place where you regularly pray will become sacred to you (and to others).
- Have a Bible. Communion with God usually begins with a time of listening to Him speak through His Word.
- Have a ministry. This will involve:
 - ❖ Having a person, project, or place where you regularly focus your prayers. It should be a ministry apart from the ministry in which you are directly involved.
 - ❖ Having a prayer list by which you are guided in your daily intercessions.

“A time of prayer clears the mind, warms the heart, sharpens the perspective, lifts the spirits, renews the confidence, appropriates Divine power, and establishes a conscious relationship with Almighty God.”

- Ivan H. French

Pastor French is the author of The Principles and Practice of Prayer, which is now in its second printing and is a premier resource on the subject of prayer.

B. Section Two – SOME ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ABOUT PRAYER
By Rafe Refior

(1) GOD IS SOVEREIGN . . . SO THEN WHY PRAY?

- (a) John MacArthur wrote, “The exact relationship between God’s sovereignty and our prayers *is a mystery*, but it is clear that somehow God’s Word and our prayers are co-laborers in achieving God’s will.”
- (b) Ponder about the meaning and impact of God existing from eternity past to eternity future (God’s eternititude).
- (c) God’s thoughts are higher than our thoughts and God’s ways are higher than our ways. [See below, and illustrations]

(2) **GOD IS TOO BIG!** (Being able to Pray to a sovereign, infinite God ultimately is beyond human comprehension)

- (a) We are stuck in now-time, while God is eternal (**Ps. 90:2** – “**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**” So God is at all times with us, but we cannot be at all times when God was, and will be (all at once !).
- (b) We are little. God is infinite (1 Kg. 8:27).
- (c) We are only right here. God is everywhere (Ps. 139:7-21). So wherever we are God is, but we cannot be at all the other places where God is.
- (d) We are weak. We are maxed out at one (1) man-power of strength. God’s power is unlimited. Zero power plus one (1) man-power compared to God’s all-power that is never expended and never reduced by anything. Wow!
- (e) Our thinking ability is so much lower than God’s intelligence, that it is a joke to compare the capacity of human logic, human intelligence, and human ways to those of our Creator. **Isaiah 55:8-9.** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Also Ps. 147:5; 86:11)

So... God is **too big** for us to box Him into our little brains, or for the eternal God to be crammed into our system of cause and effect logic.

(3) **GOD’S GRACIOUS PROVISIONS AND SOLUTIONS**

- (a) The transcendent God gave to us HIS REVELATION of so much as He chose to reveal of Himself. But what God revealed was PARTIAL. There is general revelation in our conscience and in the universe/nature. And Gods special revelation was revealing His ways, His thoughts, His standards and requirements in **THE BIBLE**. Even though God’s chosen revelation is partial, what God did choose to reveal to us is perfectly right, and 100% true and God decisions about what to reveal and what not to reveal were perfect. (See John 21:25; John 17:17; Hebrews 1:1; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20,21; John 17:17; Revelation 22:18,19). [Discussion of “Time-stamped Truth”].
- (b) Also the incomprehensible God spoke to us **BY HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST** (Hebrews 1:1-4). Such condescension is beyond amazing. He is our salvation.

(4) **WHICH MEANS:**

- (a) That the unknowable God can be known – but only as God chose to reveal Himself through general and special revelation.
- (b) One can have a personal relationship with God and be saved from the penalty for sins only according to God’s only way – which is by coming in faith to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and by God’s grace being regenerated (John 14:6; John 10:7-9; Acts 4:12; Luke 13:24; John 1:120).
- (c) The Bible is God’s Word ... 100% accurate and true. We must believe and apply and obey all of God’s truth in the Bible.
- (d) God will teach his children (born-again Christians) the meaning of His revealed Word. These truths are spiritually discerned. [See illustration of the LAMP].

(5) **THEREFORE, [PTL!] GOD IS NOT TOO BIG** for his children (God helping us) to:

- (a) Read His Word (the Bible)
- (b) To accept what God has revealed in His Word
- (c) To know that 100% of God’s Word is true (and not use our editing scissors on any parts of the Bible).

- (d) To obey what we do know and understand
- (e) To do what God commands and instructs even when we do not know or fully understand how God does or accomplishes something.
- (f) To exercise faith that the parts of God's being and God's truth that He chose NOT to reveal to us through general or special revelation are securely left with God, without any demand or anxiety or frustration on our part. Because God knows, it is okay. Because God chose not to answer any specific question, it is O.K. We can peacefully leave that in the "God is TOO BIG," while we rejoice, live and apply that which is in the "God is NOT too big."

(6) **SOME OF THE REASONS WHY WE PRAY.**

- (a) God commands us to pray.

Luke 18:1 – "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."

Matthew 9:38 – "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – "pray continually ..."

1 Timothy 2:1 – "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ..."

Ephesians 6:18 – "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

- (b) Prayer works! God hears and answers prayers! This is the "effectual miracle."

James 5:16b – "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

Numbers 11:2 – "When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down."

John 14:13 – "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father."

(c) Prayer is a high and holy family privilege.

Philippians 4:6 – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Hebrews 4:16 – “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

(7) Prayer is the amazing opportunity to participate in God’s outworking of His plan.

(8) Prayer is vital to Spiritual warfare.

James 4:7 – “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

1 Peter 5:9 – “Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”

Ephesians 6:12, 18 – “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ... And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and request. With this in mind, be alert, and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

(9) Through prayer we gain perspective and a spiritual compass.

Psalms 139:23-24 – “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Psalms 13:3 – “Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death ...”

(10) Prayer is a necessary preparation for events and decisions of life.

Psalms 32:8 – “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.”

(11) Prayer is a joyful and exhilarating opportunity which establishes an optimistic outlook and mindset for the day.

Psalm 68:3-4 – “But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful. Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds ...”

Psalm 16:11 – “You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

John 17:13 – “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.”

Through prayer we appropriate God’s strength, security and peace.

Psalm 16:8 – “I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”

Psalm 18:1-3 – “I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.”

Psalm 3:8 – “From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.”

- (12) During prayer our desires and will become conformed to God’s desires and will.

Matthew 6:9-10 - “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed buy your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’”

1 John 5:14-15 – “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.”

- (13) We engage in co-laboring with other believers when you pray with and for them.

Romans 15:30 – “I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.”

- (14) In prayer we open our hearts to listen to God.

1 Samuel 3:10 – “The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times. ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Then Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’”

- (15) Prayer is engaging in worship and adoration.

Psalm 42:1,2 – “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?” [Also, many other Psalms].

- (16) During prayer we open our life and conscience for the Holy Spirit to reveal sins and then through repentance and forgiveness to be clean in fact and even to feel clean.

Psalm 51:1-4 – “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.” (Also 1 John 1:9).

- (17) We can set our minds on the reality of what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us and others at the Cross of Calvary, and what the risen Lord is doing for us every minute of every day now.

Romans 8:34 – “... [Jesus Christ] who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

Hebrews 7:25 – “Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

- (18) Prayer is a part of the dynamic process of nurturing our spiritual growth and development.

- (19) Through journaling we can make a record of what God teaches us through His Word, God’s answers to prayers and His blessing, and our spiritual growth.

- (20) By praying we enter into the very Heavens and bask in the presence of the Lord.

- (21) In a mysterious way, when we meet at the throne of Grace, we increase our understanding and even relationship with people for whom we are interceding, and their needs and visions.

- (22) During prayer we learn more about our inner-being and who we are.

- (23) Because God is a living, involved, prayer-answering Father, in prayer we receive solutions and directions to our specific questions and problems.

- (24) When we intercede we are involved in the ministry of God as He works in situations and in the lives of people about which and whom we pray.
- (25) The finished work of Jesus Christ at the Cross (John 19:31) and the **race/tasks we are to finish (including the ministry of prayer).**

Acts 20:24 – However, I consider my life worth nothing to me if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.

IV. ASPECTS OF VALOR

- A. Your Primary Relationship.** No matter what else is in life, there is no relationship more important than your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Nurture that relationship . . . treasure it . . . build it . . . pray about it . . . affirmatively plan on how you can enhance it. (Matthew 22:37-38; Revelation 2:4-5)
- B. Your Quiet Time.** There is nothing more important in any day . . . NOTHING . . . than having your quality, disciplined, quiet time with the Lord (systematic Bible study, meditation on the Word of God, and organized, persistent and fervent prayer). If you have spent significant time with the Lord in any day, and have obeyed and applied God’s Truth then that day is a success regardless of what else happened. If you fail to have quality quiet time with the Lord on any day, or disobey or neglect God’s instruction then regardless of whatever achievements or accomplishments, the day is not a success.
- C. Seek to Please God.** Seek the favor of God rather than striving to please man. (Galatians 1:10)
- D. Live for Christ** rather than for yourself.
- (1) Galatians 2:19-20 ¹⁹For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- (2) 2 Corinthians 5:15 He died for all that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

E. Set your mind on God-honoring things.

- (1) Philippians 4:8-9 “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. ⁹The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

F. Elevate your life goals - You have a life that counts for eternity!

- (1) Acts 20:24 “However I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”(NIV)
- (2) John 8:29 “And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”
- (3) Galatians 1:10 “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”
- (4) Ephesians 5:10 “. . . finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”
- (5) 2 Corinthians 5:9 “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”
- (6) 1 Thessalonians 4:1 “Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; . . .”

G. Elevate Your Ambition. In your innermost being resolve that your highest AMBITION is to please God. (2 Corinthians 5:9; Proverbs 16:3) . . . contrast to pathetic worldly ambitions.

H. Prayers From on High! Take comfort that the Holy Spirit Himself is praying for you, as is our precious Lord Jesus Christ Himself praying for you. (Romans 8:26; 8:34)

- I. God's Calling - Glorifying God.** For a Christian man, it is of the highest order to be the man God wants him to be, doing what God wants him to do. Once that is in order, then he must do that for which he has been called to the glory of God. Specifically, be very sure in your heart that you are called from on high to be doing what you are doing at this time. With that calling settled and peaceful in your heart, do that to the glory of God.
- J. Holy Living.** Be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. (Romans 16:19; Jeremiah 4:22)
- K. Understand and Appropriate GOD'S PROVISION AND HIS MAGNIFICENT PROMISES,** and you receive God's unlimited blessings.
- (1) Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, . . ."
- (2) 2 Peter 1:2-4 "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."
- L. Trust in God's Promises.** Always trust in God to keep His promises. Never waiver in your faith that God will keep His promises. Never entertain even the slightest doubt about God's faithfulness and integrity to keep His promises. (1 Thessalonians 5:24; Ezekiel 36:36; 2 Peter 1:2-4)
- M. As a Victorious Warrior for the Lord, Enter the Battlefield.**
- (1) Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- (2) Romans 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
- (3) 2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
- (4) 1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.

- (5) 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- (6) Philippians 3:14 I press toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- (7) Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.
- (8) 2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

N. As a warrior for God you accept the duty to SHARE YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST, and even more, evangelism becomes YOUR JOYFUL PASSION.

- (1) 1 Corinthians 9:16-17 ¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me [i.e. duty]; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this **willingly** [i.e. your heart's-desire], I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted [i.e. duty] with a stewardship.

O. As a Man of Faith DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL.

- (1) Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- (2) 2 Timothy 1:8, 12 ⁸“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, . . .”

¹²“For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”
- (3) Mark 8:38 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of

Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

P. Humbly Accept the Exalted Position as an AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST.

- (1) 2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.

Q. As a Mighty Man of Valor Accept and Fulfill God’s Great ENTRUSTMENT.

- (1) 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 ¹Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

- (2) Luke 12:48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

- (3) 1 Corinthians 9:17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been **entrusted** with a stewardship.

- (4) 1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be **entrusted** with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

R. Have a Confident, Dependent Perspective. It will be helpful for you to realize the profound truth of this simple little saying, I can’t . . . God can. (2 Corinthians 3:5) Apart from God you can do nothing good (John 15:5). Depend on him. Give Him all of the credit. However, you are never separated from the all-powerful God, and you can do things through Christ who strengthens you. (Philippians 4:13) As God’s valiant warrior, understand that the question is **not**, “What can **I** do?” (in my strengths and my abilities). But instead the question really is, “**What can my God do?**” (Rev. Dick Woodward, “I can’t - God can!”)

- (1) 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 ⁴“And we have such trust through Christ toward God. ⁵Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶who also made us sufficient as ministers

of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

(2) John 15:5b [Jesus speaking] “For without Me you can do nothing.”

(3) Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
[See the illustration of “the elephant and the ant”]

S. Your Solid Foundation. Because God is an everlasting rock, you can have unwavering trust and confident peace. (Isaiah 26:3-7, 12)

T. Maintain Full Joy. The growing Christian is joyful. Our Christian testimony will not be effective if we are not joyful Christians. Indeed it is an insult to God and His bountiful shower of blessings upon us for us not to have joy *regardless* of the circumstances of the day. (Psalm 16:11; John 17:13; John 3:29; Psalm 21:6)

(1) Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

(2) John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

U. Be Choice. Remember that **YOU** decide by your choices and by your obedient affirmative actions whether you will be a *vessel for honor* (2 Timothy 2:20-21)

V. Live By Faith. To live on the cutting edge for God you cannot wait until you see everything in place. You must be willing to take steps forward with the eyes of faith. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

W. Remember and Live Knowing TIME is Short. This life is short. And we only get one shot at it. Life is merely a breath and it will be over. By contrast, eternity is eternity. Walk in this brief life in light of eternity and fight the good fight.

Because your life is short keep in mind that your life will be a waste unless it is invested in service for the Lord Jesus Christ.

(1) 1 Corinthians 7:29 “But this I say, brethren, **the time is short**,. . . ”

(2) James 4:14 “. . . whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

- (3) Job 7:7, 16 “Oh, remember that **my life is a breath!**¹⁶I would not live forever. Let me alone, **For my days are but a breath.**”
- (4) Psalm 39:5, 11 “⁵Indeed, **You have made my days as handbreadths**, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is **but vapor**
¹¹surely every man is vapor.”
- (5) Psalm 144:4 **Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow.**

(See also 1 Timothy 1:18 and 2 Timothy 4:7)

X. Be Strong in the Lord. If you are ever feeling a little timid or weak, read and meditate on these verses:

- (1) 2 Timothy 2:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (sound judgment)
- (2) Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- (3) Romans 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
- (4) 2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
- (5) 1 Timothy 1:18 wage the good warfare.
- (6) 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- (7) Philippians 3:14 I press toward the goal for the price of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- (8) 1 Corinthians 9:24 Run in such a way that you may obtain the prize.

(Also see Hebrews 12:1-2, 28)

Y. God Wins! You are on God’s side and God will prevail. (Isaiah 42:13b; Psalm 56:9)

Z. Be God’s Workman. Ask God to help you to be skillful in your vocation and to even provide supernatural help from above just as God called and

empowered Bezalel and the skillful workmen. (Exodus 31:1-11; 28:3,15,27,28; 35:30-35; 36:1,8,35; Ephesians 4:1)

AA. Get Counsel. Seek and obtain counsel from godly men. (Proverbs 11:14; 12:15; 13:10; 13:20; 19:20; 20:18; 27:9,17)

BB. Obey and Serve TODAY. We always live *today*. Tomorrow never comes. It is always today. That means that we must work while there is yet light and we must serve the Lord today. We dare not resign ourselves to waiting to really start serving the Lord until we are settled or we have accomplished a certain task, or we are older, or we have reached the next level. No. We live and we serve today. No exceptions.

CC. Have No Fear of Death. Heaven and eternal life are glorious beyond degree. Imagine being in the presence of our precious Savior without the fetters of this sinful flesh. For a Christian to have a morbid fear of death could be an insult to God and to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ which gave us our certain and glorious salvation and eternal life. (1 Corinthians 15:55)

DD. Your Importance. All of the hustle and striving and pressure and worry of men urgently seek to climb the ladder and to achieve some type of recognition from others is quite silly. Every Christian is given the incredibly high office of being an ambassador of Jesus Christ. Imagine that - to represent the creator of the universe, the King of kings and the Lord of lords! By contrast being President of the United States or the CEO of the largest corporation is such a puny insignificant office. Be a faithful and fruitful ambassador for our precious Savior. (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

EE. Exercise Discipline. Godliness requires discipline. See 1 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 5:11-14; Hebrews 12:1,2,11; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; Ephesians 4:22-30; 1 Timothy 3:16; Philippians 3:12-14.

FF. You are Blessed. Oh, how we are blessed! And I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder of this truth! (2 Peter 1:13)

GG. STOP WORRYING!!

(1) Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God;

(2) 1 Peter 5:7 . . . casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

- (3) Matthew 6:25 . . . For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?
- (4) Matthew 6:27 . . . And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span?
- (5) Matthew 6:31 . . . Do not be anxious, then, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or with what shall we clothe ourselves?
- (6) Matthew 6:34 . . . Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

HH. Have a Truly Peaceful Heart.

- (1) John 14:27 . . . Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let now your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.
- (2) Colossians 3:15 . . . And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.
- (3) 2 Thessalonians 3:16 . . . Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!
- (4) 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 . . . Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

II. Have CONTENTMENT in Life.

- (1) Philippians 4:11-12 . . . Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every

circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

- (2) 1 Timothy 6:6 . . . But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.

JJ. You Possess God's Every Enablement.

- (1) 2 Peter 1:2-4 . . . Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus, our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

KK. You Can Be Useful and Fruitful for God - Guaranteed!

- (1) 2 Peter 1:5-8 . . . Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith, supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LL. Security in the Face of Evil.

- (1) 1 John 4:4 . . . You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world [Satan].
- (2) James 4:7 . . . Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

V. THE SOVEREIGN KING WANTS YOU !

A. NOW . . . is the time.

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.

B. Wanted - Might Men of Valor to Serve Our Sovereign King!

- (1) Unbelievers need not apply.
- (2) Spiritual wimps need not apply.
- (3) Those who want to give to God only their “leftovers” need not apply.
- (4) Those who insist upon continuing their private “secret” sins, need not apply.
- (5) Those who are chasing worldly “success” need not apply.

You can be fruitful and useful to the Master, and you can live the rest of your life investing in eternity! and in that process you can choose to have a life worth living, have beautiful relationships, have overflowing joy, have genuine peace, and have all things that count.

HOW ABOUT YOU???

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