

Virtues of the Christian Faith

8/8/2020

1. **Love:** Unconditional/sacrificial concern/loyalty for the well-being of others.
2. **Joy:** Deep, internal godly gladness often externally expressed by rejoicing.
3. **Peace:** Absence of tension/conflict, and deep assurance of God's presence.
4. **Patience:** Longsuffering within trials without complaining or getting angry.
5. **Kindness:** Compassion in action. Benevolent friendliness in words/deeds.
6. **Goodness:** Righteousness in action. Choosing and following moral good, including doing what is right—this is a summation of His divine nature and character.
7. **Faithfulness:** Reliable, steadfast, unwavering, remaining true to God's Word and calling-- keeping promises and persevering in the midst of trials; can be trusted.
8. **Gentleness:** Calm and non-threatening; sensitivity and tenderness with others. Humility and thankfulness toward God, and polite, restrained behavior toward others. Meekness (not weakness)—strength under God's control.

9. **Self-Control:** Surrendering control of our lives to the Holy Spirit in order to overcome wrong desires and behaviors, being in the world not of the world. Getting the boat into the water without getting the water into the boat.

10. **Forgiveness:** To pardon or remove guilt, removing our need to get revenge. It means graciously and generously canceling a debt.

11. **Perseverance:** A continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. To **follow Jesus**, even when **He leads us** to and through harrowing times. We **cling to God** because **He holds us** firmly in His hands. John 10:28; Deut 33:27

Working it Out:

1. Which Fruit of the Spirit do you feel you need to work on the most? Explain.
2. What steps are you going to take to see it fulfilled in your life? Review message
3. Being a disciple is knowing Jesus, growing more like Jesus, and going for Jesus, serving others and making disciples. How does improving your character help you become better and doing any or all of these? Be specific.
4. What would you say to someone who really wants to grow in their faith, but doesn't know where to start? What advice would you give them?
5. Kindness challenge: Do one kind thing for someone every day for the next 40 days. For example: Text a word of encouragement; have a meal; Pray with them; offer to babysit free of charge; run an errand...; witness to a friend, etc.
6. Do you agree or disagree with this: "The hardest part about being a Christian is succeeding at living out your theology." Truth shows through character.
7. What does it take to walk by the Spirit of God? Three things. See James 4:6-8

RGD Topic #13 Love: The Hallmark of a Follower of Jesus 11/24/2019

"Love" in the Bible

The primary Old Testament Hebrew words translated "love" are *ahab* and *chesed*. In the New Testament, the Greek words *agape* and *phileo* are used to speak of both human and divine love.

AHAB—"to desire, delight in" someone or something—a longing for
(Gen 22:2; Ruth 4:15; Ex 21:5; Deut 7:13; 2 Sam 1:26)

CHESED—"loving kindness, loyalty" God's faithful, covenant love for
His people—His commitment to show them goodness and
favor. (Psalm 17:7; 63:3; Gen 24:49; 2 Sam 2:5)

Biblical Truths About Love

1) Love originates in God because he is love.

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. (1 John 4:7–11)

God's love is an exercise of His goodness towards individual sinners whereby, having identified Himself with their welfare, He has given His son to be their Savior, knowing and enjoying Him in a covenant relationship. *J.I. Packer "Knowing God"*

2) The spiritual life can be boiled down to one word: love.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28–31)

Seven areas we can love the Lord in:

- 1) Our desires: "Be careful little eyes what you see..."
- 2) Our affections: Love what God Loves—people, His word, Him!
- 3) Our purposes: S.H.A.P.E. missional/occupational(student) callings
- 4) Our will: Make the right choices, follow through, walk humbly
- 5) Our feelings: Be lead by the Truth not your feelings
- 6) Our character: Pursue holiness, love; draw near, resist Satan
- 7) Our thoughts/attitudes—Rom 12/ Phil 2—Renew mind/heart

3) Love is more an action than an emotion.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

Six essentials for special relationship success:

- 1) Self-discipline—Are you mature enough to begin a SR? Prov 25:28
- 2) Lust is not love—Are you feeding your forbidden desire(s)? Gal 5:24
- 3) Listen to wise counsel—Do you seek/follow trusted advice? Prov 11:14
- 4) Believe when their true colors are seen—Do you have keen discernment?
Are you a good judge of character? Are you afraid to leave the relationship?
- 5) Looks can be deceiving—Are you controlled by what only looks good on the outside? "The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Sam 16:7
- 6) God never fails to reveal red flags: Are you ignoring them? Compromising?
Flags: 1. Not a person of the same faith: "Do not become unequally yoked together with unbelievers." 2 Cor 6:14 It's not good for you or them!
2. Intensity, jealousy, manipulation, isolation, rude, making fun of you, guilt, volatility, blaming you for their actions, betrayal—lying/not loyal, emotionally unstable.
3. Don't keep their promise—lack of respect for you Mt 5:37; Mt 7:7
4. Don't admit their mistakes—lack of humility James 4:6; Prov 28:13

NOTE: "Love" is **not enough of a reason** to get married. It requires... (see above)

4) God's love is Unconditional and Sacrificial. (US)

"For this is how God loved the **world**: He gave his one and only Son, so that **everyone** who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. Jn 3:16

"But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"Whoever shall **call upon** the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom 10:13

Lessons from the Parable of the Good Samaritan

- 1) Set aside prejudice and show love.
- 2) Our neighbor is anyone we encounter in need.
- 3) We cannot save ourselves.

Pride is Putting our Rights, Riches, Respect as our goal Instead of Depending on our Eternal God—worshipping Him (not ourselves by acquiring possessions and attaining achievements), thinking we are more important than others.

1. How did God's truth speak to you this morning?
2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result?

Life application questions in order of the points on page 1 and the chart:

Love in the Bible: Do you have that committed, loyal, faithful love to show people goodness in spite of their behavior? Why or why not?

- 1) How do we become better at loving others? Where does this source of love come from and how do we get it?
- 2) What does it mean to love the Lord with all your soul?
- 3) Why do we need to follow up our loving words with actions? What does it mean, "in truth?" Hint: Eph 4:15
- 4) Why do we put restrictions on the extent of our love? Why is it dependent on a condition, i.e. a) "If you do this or act a certain way... then I will love you." b) "Because you are so.... I love you!" ?
- 5) Which ones on the list on the left do you have the most difficulty with? Pray for one another. **Do you struggle with prejudice? Why?**
- 6) The Bible says, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." Matt 5:44 Do it now by name.
- 7) What can you do to serve others more sacrificially this week? Jesus says, "Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too." Phil 2:4 **What kind of love do you struggle with? see chart at bottom right**

TO LOVE:

Our neighbor

Leviticus 19:18

The strangers and foreigners who reside in our midst

Leviticus 19:34; Deut 10:19

The Lord our God

Deuteronomy 6:5; 10:12

God's salvation

Psalms 18:1-2

Justice

Psalms 99:4

God's law and commandments

Psalms 119:47, 97, 113, 127, 140

The name of God

Psalms 119:132

Wisdom

Proverbs 4:5-6

Discipline

Proverbs 12:1

Those who reprove or correct us

Proverbs 15:12

Good

Amos 5:15

Kindness

Micah 6:8

Our enemies

Matthew 5:44

Fellow disciples

John 13:34

All God's people

Ephesians 1:15

Your wife Eph 5:25; Col 3:19

The Lord Jesus Christ Eph 6:24

Our brothers and sisters in Christ

1 Thes 4:9; Heb 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22

The second coming of Christ

2 Timothy 4:8

(To young wives and mothers) **Your husband and children** Titus 2:4

NOT TO LOVE:

Violence

Psalms 11:5

Cursing others

Psalms 109:17

Being simple-minded

Proverbs 1:22

Transgression

Proverbs 17:19

Sleep

Proverbs 20:13

Pleasure

Proverbs

21:17

Wine

Proverbs 21:17

Money

Ecclesiastes 5:10; 1 Timothy 3:3; 6:10;

Hebrews 13:5

Evil

Amos 5:15

Perjury

Zechariah 8:17

The approval of others more than the approval of God

John 12:43

This present world

2 Timothy 4:10; 1 John 2:15

Conditional "love"

Romans 5:8

Convenient "love"

Luke 6:33

Conceited "love"

Phil 2:3-8; 1 Cor 13:4-7; Rom 15:1-3

"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Tim 1:5

1. Joy comes from the Holy Spirit and obeying the word of God I Thes 1:6
2. We cultivate joy by accepting Christ, praying, and depending on Him Heb 12:2
3. We can maintain joy when we understand that God tests us, not tempts us.
4. Joy: Deep internal gladness that things are the way they should because a loving and wise God is in control, then expresses itself externally by laughing, sing...

In life, T.E.S.T.S. happen. When they do, our loving God is asking us these questions:

- T**rust-- Will you turn to, trust and love me—Jesus as Lord? (Ro 10:9, 10)
Evangelize—Will you share my Gospel and make disciples? (Mt 28:19, 20)
Sanctification—Will you be separate from sin and obey me? (1 Pt 1:13-16)
Talents—Will your spiritual gifts/skills for my purposes? (1 Pt 4:10,11)
Satisfied—Will you understand how much I love you? (1 Jn 3:1)

How well you pass these tests in this life will determine the kinds of responsibilities and rewards you will receive in eternity. "His master said to him, 'Well done, **good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.**'" (Mt 25:21) Psalm 67:1-2;7 says, "God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. **God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.**" Our loving Father often tests us to give us opportunity to grow. **Eternity is a _____ to be wrong!**

QUESTIONS:

- 1) How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word?
- 2) What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result?
- 3) How do you remain in God's love? What causes you ignore/reject it?
- 4) What is the difference between Jesus as Savior and as Lord? Example(s)...
- 5) How do we stay motivated to keep our focus on Him? Be specific.
- 6) When trials come your way, how do you usually respond? Why?
- 7) What steps are you going to take to pass each test? For example:
 1. The **Trust Test**: I admit that I haven't trusted you with...
 2. The **Evangelism Test**: I'm going to get mentored by.... to learn how to...
 3. The **Talent Test**: I'm going start developing and using my gift of...

What is peace? Tranquility, rest, wholeness, stability; not only the absence of tension, conflict and anxiety, but also the right/joyous relationship with God.

Eternal Peace: Right relationship with God in salvation, sanctification and service. Luke 2:14 *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Interpersonal Peace: Having peace with others—getting along with those that will let you and being patient, kind and understanding with those that won't. Ro 12:18 *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

Internal Peace: Freedom from worry, anxiety, and anger and having an honest, open, and transparent relationship with God as your loving Father. **(Purpose)** *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. Isa 26:3*

Phil 4:6-9; Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With **thankful** hearts offer up your **prayers** and **requests** to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel. Finally, my friends, **keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper.** Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise. You know the teachings I gave you, and you know what you heard me say and saw me do. So follow my example. And God, who gives peace, will be with you.

Adoration—"Our Father who is in Heaven holy is your name," Relationship
Confession—"Forgive us our sins as we forgive others." Repentance/humility
Thanksgiving—"In everything give thanks: for this is the **will of God** in Christ." Jesus concerning you. I Thes 1:18 Appreciation for His blessings to us!
Supplication—"Give us this day our daily bread." Dependence on Him

Peace Equation: Prayer + Supplication + Meditation = Peace

Questions for Homework:

1. Do you have an assurance that you are right with God? How do you know?
2. What steps to reconciliation do you need to take with another? Be specific.
3. How is your prayer and meditation life? Try praying every day using A.C.T.S.
4. Share what you do to renew your mind with what is true, pure, and holy.
5. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His word?
6. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result?

The Patience of God Part 1 & 2

2/23/2020 and 3/8/2020

Patience : The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, and suffering without complaining or getting angry. Longsuffering, putting up with others/not provoked

I. How do we become more patient?

1. See the delay, trouble, and suffering as an opportunity to build your godliness.
2. Ask God to give wisdom, love, and grace to solve the problem—not passive! Ja 1:2
3. Make your **primary** goal in life to be like Jesus, not to solve the problem.
(See Eph 4:11-15; Rom 8:29; Gal 2:20; 2 Cor 5:17)

II. Skills for Patient Communication: _ Read John 14: 5-11

- 1) Reflective Response: answering by using some of the same words
- 2) Name Recognition: saying the person's name as a sign of value
- 3) Believing in the Best: using questions for encouraging and challenging
- 4) Answer Theo-logically: responding from God's perspective not yours
- 5) Be concise and polite: get to the point—don't ramble on or interrupt; listen

III. More Communication Skills: Read Mark 4: 35-41

- 1) Be at peace and create a peaceful environment—Jesus calmed the storm first
- 2) Seek to understand BEFORE trying to be understood—"Why are you afraid?"
- 3) Don't be afraid to challenge- "Do you still have no faith?" Raise the bar!

Conclusion:

- 1) Patience while relating isn't passive or aggressive, but proactive, speaking the truth in love, communicating encouragement and realistic expectations.
- 2) Look past the fault and see the need. Prov. 14:29 ; 1 Cor. 13:4-5
- 3) Perspective + Attitude + Goal = Proactive Patience

Questions for Homework:

1. Memorize James 1:2-5. Recite this while you are going through the trial.
2. Next time you pray, ask God about your: a) character b) needs c) witness
3. How are you at listening? What will it take for you to be a better listener?
4. Are you **QTD** (Quick To Disagree?) Practice agreeing BEFORE disagreeing.
5. How can you show others that you value them as God would? Be specific.
6. Who do you need to encourage? Who can you challenge to be more like Christ?
7. Are you being too passive in your patience with others? Why do you think so?
8. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word?
9. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result?

Kindness: Compassion in Action:

3/15/2020

Review of the Fruits:

1. **Love**: Unconditional & sacrificial concern & loyalty for the well-being of others.
2. **Joy**: Deep, internal godly gladness. often externally expressed by rejoicing.
3. **Peace**: Absence of tension/conflict, and deep assurance of God's presence.
4. **Patience**: Longsuffering in trials without complaining or getting angry.
5. **Kindness**: Compassion in action. Benevolent friendliness in word and deed.

I. Five characteristics of a kind person:

- 1) **Be Sensitive.** Phil 2:4 "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Ask the Lord who you should help. Be proactive.
- 2) **Be Supportive.** Eph 4:29 "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Use Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous..."
- 3) **Be Sympathetic.** Rom 12:15 "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. God is not indifferent to pain. Jesus wept over Jerusalem and then..."
- 4) **Be Lovingly Truthful.** Eph 4:15 "Instead, we will **speak the truth in love**, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.
1) Loving the truth—Do you spend time in His word and in prayer seeking Him?
2) Speaking the Truth—Do you care enough to confront in a spirit of humility?
3) Truthful—Do you always tell the truth? White lies are still lies. Be accurate.
- 5) **Be Courageous.** Prov 3:27 "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. James 4:17 "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

Reasons for being too cautious:

- 1) Too busy : "If you're too busy, then you are too busy!" Review your time.
- 2) Indifferent: "If it is not about me, I will let it be!" "It's not my problem!"
- 3) I'm afraid: "I don't have the ability to do this." Feeling of inadequacy
- 4) I'm a failure: "I tried something similar before and it didn't work."
- 5) Wrong priorities: We act according to what is most valuable to us. Gen 1:27

Questions for Homework:

1. How can you look out for the "interest of others" better? Be specific.
2. Ask the Lord's forgiveness for times you have discouraged others.
3. Do you consider yourself a sympathetic person? Why or why not?
4. What keeps you from "speaking the truth in love"? Pray for His help.
5. Ask the Lord to help you be courageous with "compassion in action".
6. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word?
7. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result?

I. Def of Procrastination: To avoid or put off needlessly an action that needs to be taken. "Those too lazy to plow in the right season will have no food at the harvest." Prov 20:4

II. How to break the power of procrastination:

- 1) **Perfectionist:** "I must perform perfectly or I won't be accepted by others." God says: "My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor 12:9 Don't make excellence your God. Depend on Him!
- 2) **Poor Self-Worth:** "I don't have what it takes to succeed." God Says: "We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph 2:10
- 3) **Fear-Based:** "I don't want to get criticized and get them mad at me." God says: "In God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?" Ps 56:11
- 4) **Lack of Goals:** "I don't know how to get started! I'm stuck!" God Says: "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." Prov 16:9
- 5) **Overwhelmed:** "I don't have time to do everything, so I don't do it." God says: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Mat 11:29

Eph 5:16 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Psalms 90:12 "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

John 17:4 "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."

Homework:

1. Confess and eliminate your "all-or-nothing" thinking—perfectionism.
2. Memorize: Gen 1:27; Jer. 31:3; Phil 4:13—"I can do all things through..."
3. What fears are you struggling with right now? Give them to the Lord.
4. Pray and fast seeking direction for goals in your life. See Psalm 37:4
5. What priorities do you have to rearrange in your life? To-do lists!
6. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word?
7. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result?

I. Def. of Goodness: Righteousness in action. Choosing and following moral good. It involves doing what is right and is a summation of His nature and character.

II. What does this virtue of Goodness look like?

"The Lord replied, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show **mercy** to anyone I choose, and I will show **compassion** to anyone I choose.'" Ex 33: 19 "Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The Lord, the Lord, the **compassionate** and **gracious** God, **slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness**... Ex 34: 5- 6

- 1) **Mercy:** Patience in action. Kindness and grace to those who do not deserve it." Choosing not to bring justice-- Genesis 3:21
- 2) **Compassion:** Sympathy with action. To empathize with someone who is suffering, and to feel compelled to reduce the suffering. 1 John 3:18; Good Samaritan
- 3) **Gracious:** Favor, forgiveness and kindness in action. Isaiah 30:18; Eph 1:7
- 4) **Longsuffering:** Patiently enduring a lasting offense or hardship Rom 2:4
- 5) **Love:** Unconditional/sacrificial concern/loyalty for the well-being of others.
- 6) **Faithfulness:** To be reliable, steadfast and unwavering-- keeping promises "But as for me, the **nearness of God is my good**; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Thy works." Psalm 73:28

III. How to have an effective and consistent prayer life: Matthew 6:9-13

- 1) Find a quiet and consistent place to pray. Jesus went to the mountain/garden.
- 2) Read God's Word/One Year Bible. Pray the scriptures, A.C.T.S., Lord's Prayer...
- 3) Keep a journal— write what the Lord is speaking to you; write out your prayers
- 4) Find a prayer partner and pray together one hour a week—Jesus did. Mt 26:36
- 5) Remember: You are never closer to Jesus than when you pray. Read John 17

IV. God is not only good, but also sovereign—He has and will remove evil in His way and in His time. God will **redeem** whatever He **allows**. Trust Him. Rom 8:28

Homework:

1. Why is it hard for you to regularly persist in your resistance to evil? Be specific.
2. What can you do to make it easier for yourself to choose and follow moral good?
3. How would you summarize God's goodness in your own words? Be creative!
4. How is your prayer life? What can you do to help make it better? See above.
5. How does God's goodness influence your understanding of God's Sovereignty?

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5. **Kindness:** Compassion in action. Benevolent friendliness in words/deeds.
6. **Goodness:** Righteousness in action. Choosing and following moral good. It involves doing what is right and is a summation of His nature and character.
7. **Faithfulness:** Reliable, steadfast, unwavering, remaining true to God's Word and calling-- keeping promises and persevering in the midst of trials; can be trusted.

1. **God's faithfulness seen through His eight promises: Discovering God's will**

- 1) Edenic—**Rule**—*Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. ...I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat.* Gen 1:26-29; 2:18
- 2) Adamic—**Redemption** Christ will **overcome and destroy** the Evil one *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel."* Genesis 3:15
- 3) Noahic—**Restraint**— *"Never again will I curse the ground because of humans,* Genesis 8:21
- 4) Abrahamic—**Restore** ... *"And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* Gen 12:3 *"The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him."* Ps 67:7 **Through one man!**
- 5) Mosaic—**Reveal** *'If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit...'* Lev 26:1-4; (see 5-46) **Up to God, now conditions>man**
- 6) Palestine—**Return** *He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it... if you obey the Lord your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.* Dt 30:1-10
- 7) Davidic—**Reign** *"When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever"*
- 8) New Covenant—**Regenerate** *"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah..."I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.* Jer 31:27-34; Ezek 36: 26,27; John 1:29; Luke 22:20; Matthew 5:17; Ephesians 2:8,9

II. What areas does God expect us to be **faithful** to in our daily lives? In addition to our love *for* and devotion *to* God in Bible study, prayer and fasting, here are nine more areas:

Finances— "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matt 6:21 How's your tithing, saving, and spending going? Are you consistent? Are you generous? "...for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor 9:6-7

Abilities— Develop your natural talents, acquired skills, and spiritual gifts. Do you know your spiritual gift(s)? I Peter 4:10, 11 (See *The Spiritual Gifts Survey -- Lifeway*) "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware... But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." I Corinthians 12: 1-7

Inter-personal relationships: "But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken." Mt 12:36; Eph 4:32 How can you better control your attitude, temper, etc.?

Time-- Psalm 90:12-17 says, "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Do you make lists and follow a daily plan? Are you diligent to work hard? What distractions are keeping you from God's best?

Health—"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." I Cor 6: 19, 20 How is your eating, sleeping, and exercising going? Do you have regular medical checkups? See a godly counselor for help!

Family—Deut 6 Gen 18:19— For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children..." Are you being diligent in leading those whom God has given you?

Unsaved—Matt 18 & Mark 16 Go and preach the Gospel. Go and make disciples. Be strong, be courageous and do not fear or be discouraged the Lord is with you. Josh 1:9 Use Truelife.org, The GPS Guide: 4 Spiritual Laws

Leisure—recreation, entertainment— Have a take it or leave it attitude with media. "I will set no worthless thing before my eyes" Psalm 101:3 WWJW-- What would Jesus watch? "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman." Job 31:1 **Have you** made this kind of covenant?

(L)ivelihood-- "Now David, after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, died." Acts 13:36 Our careers may end but not our calling. What is your calling? "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5, 6 How God made you is how He wants to use you. How has He made you? What is your **S.H.A.P.E.**? (Read the *Purpose Driven Life* and do the *SHAPE Assessment*.) Psalm 37:4

Review the above and take a spiritual inventory of yourself in each category.

Goodness: The Faithfulness of God

4/19/2020

1. **Love:** Unconditional/sacrificial concern/loyalty for the well-being of others.
2. **Joy:** Deep, internal godly gladness often externally expressed by rejoicing.
3. **Peace:** Absence of tension/conflict and deep assurance of God's presence.
4. **Patience:** Longsuffering within trials without complaining or getting angry.
5. **Kindness:** Compassion in action. Benevolent friendliness in words/deeds.
6. **Goodness:** Righteousness in action. Choosing and following moral good. It involves doing what is right and is a summation of His nature and character.
7. **Faithfulness:** Reliable, steadfast, unwavering, remaining true to God's Word and calling-- keeping promises and persevering in the midst of trials; can be trusted.

Gentleness: Strength under control

5/17/2020

- I. **Gentleness:** Calm and non-threatening; sensitivity and tenderness in treating others. Humility and thankfulness toward God, and polite, restrained behavior toward others. Meekness (not weakness)—strength under God's control.

II. The Importance of meekness

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me [following Me as My disciple], for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest (renewal, blessed quiet) for your souls. Mt 11:29

III. Some of the benefits of meekness:

1. Meek People get saved.

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the meek" (Isaiah 61:1). The Psalmist wrote, "The LORD takes pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with **salvation**" (Psalm 149:4). He will "save all the meek of the earth" (Psalm 76:9).

2. Meek people get sanctified.

"Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." (James 1:21).

3. Meek people get direction and serve Him.

"He guides the meek in what is right and teaches them his way. (Psalm 25:9)

IV. What it is not: Not an excuse to be passive or soft without any expectations.

- V. **What it is:** It describes Jesus and the way His spirit creates fruit in our lives by transforming us into His image. Constrains and channels power.

"The greatness of man's power is the measure of his surrender." —William Booth

VI. Gentle people are...

1. **Not Fighters, but Forgivers.** Gentle people are good at forgiving even when they don't feel like it because they understand what it means to be crucified with Christ Gal 2:20. If you don't forgive others not only is God not going to forgive you, but also you make a mockery of the cross—Jesus said he died for ALL sins.

2. **Not Fearful, but prayerful .** Prayer don't panic! God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Tim 1:7; Phil 4: 5,6

3. **Not Demanding, but Understanding.** Disciples were driven often by condemnation not compassion. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10
Gentleness is wisdom—doing what God wants to do in the way God wants to do it. Be like a thermostat not a thermometer—influence your surroundings!

4. **Not Impatient, but Patient.** Gentle people are good at longsuffering. They look **past the fault and see the need, asking why and then asking God how to fix it.**

5. **Not Selfish, but Unselfish.** It is concerned about how others feel and will take it.

It's like an antibody that keeps you from destroying yourself and others, sound wisdom, calm, and humble ready to resist pride.

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter **envy and selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have **envy and selfish ambition**, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3

There are two ways of meeting difficulties: You alter the difficulty, or you alter yourself to meet them by the power of God.

Homework questions: Do you pass this test on gentleness or meekness?

- Have you dedicated yourself to God and yielded all your rights to Him?
- Do you have full confidence that God controls all that happens to you?
- Is it your goal to become more like the Lord Jesus Christ?

Understanding Humility

5/31/2020

Humility: When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs 11:2 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (Proverbs 3:34, 1Peter 5:5, James 4:6.) The Bible describes humility as meekness, lowliness, and absence of self. The Greek word translated "humility" literally means "lowliness of mind." Humility is a heart attitude, not merely an outward demeanor.

Humble yourself in the sight of God. Deflate your inflated pride. Don't think less of yourself (it's okay to have a healthy "pride" for yourself and your loved ones), but think of yourself less—not too high or low. Here is the difference:

Putting yourself first. Saying, "I'm number one." will ascend above..."Isa 14:12-14

Relational superiority—thinking that you are better than everyone else-- arrogant.

Independence from God – Leaning on your own understanding—no help needed!

Dependence on self—"I know what's best for me & how to get it to please myself."

Exalting self—"What's best is what's best for me. I look out for my own interest. I love me!"

Hatred of evil = *the fear of God*. Proverbs 8:13-- HATE evil-- don't even tolerate it!

Understanding your origins—"I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Ps 119:114

Modest view of oneself—"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Being thankful to God for His mercy—"O God be merciful to me. I'm a sinner."

Leaning not on your own understanding. "In all your ways acknowledge Him."

Exalting our eternal God—understanding our destiny. "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalm 73:25-26

Five biblical motivational influences for becoming humble.

Faithful gathering and study of the word of God-- "Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and **fear** the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to **fear** the LORD your God, as long as you live on the land."(Deut.31:12,13) "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (2 Tim 3:16)

Examine God's creation-- "When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with **fear**. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."(Exodus 20:18,19) "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

Apply your heart to understanding-- "...turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding...then you will understand the **fear** of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." (Prov 2:2) Pray. "Confess Jesus as Lord." (Phil 2:10)

Recognize the wrath of God-- "There is no **fear** of God before their eyes." Romans 3:18 "For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay, and again, "The Lord will judge his people." "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:30, 31) (W) Righteous Anger Towards Humans See John 3: 21-36

Strong hatred towards sin-- "To **fear** the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech." (Proverbs 8:13)

Questions to consider:

1. What aspect of PRIDE do you struggle with the most? Why do you think this is?
2. Do you have a too high or low of a view of yourself? Do you love/respect God?
3. What do you most enjoy about your time studying His word? Be specific.
4. Have you grown in your obedience to God's will? In what way recently?
5. Do you have a healthy respect for God? Do you think about the consequences?
6. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
7. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?

9. **Self-Control:** Surrendering control of our lives to the Holy Spirit in order to overcome wrong desires and behaviors, being in the world not of the world. Getting the boat into the water without getting the water into the boat.

"To resist extreme behavior and restore one to thinking straight and being sane by helping them to resist their desires and impulses in order to keep them safe and sound, rescuing them from danger." [so-fro-ne-smo's

I. Some reasons for the lack of self-control:

- 1) Satanic Involvement, such as fear, jealousy, gossip, prejudice (I Peter 5:8)
- 2) Wrong attitudes and actions-- not positive and encouraging--contentious
- 3) Cultural influence/values—un/underemployment; daily issues, materialism...
- 4) Communication failure-- misunderstandings, wrong assumptions, mind-reading, not listening carefully, not paying attention, taking too much, etc.
- 5) Laziness or self-centered values-Not keeping your promises or admit mistakes

All of these reasons or influences play a major role in shaping who we are and what we do. They create an infrastructure that turns into bad habit patterns, which make us use a default mode of impatience, impulsiveness, and impropriety.

II. Example of Daniel and Solomon Daniel 2:20-23 ; I Kings 8:22-53; 9:3

1. Quick to give credit to God-- Daniel prayed three times a day.
2. Quick to understand who is really in control
3. Quick to show his appreciation

III. How do you rid yourself of the evil that is controlling you?

1. **Admit it**—"Do you want to get well?", Jesus asked. John 5:6
2. **Confess it**—"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, to forgive us our sins cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I Jn 1:9
3. **Replace it**—"Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Gal 5:16

IV. How to fully surrender to the Holy Spirit:

1. **S**cripture—"I have hidden your word in my heart that I may not sin...Ps119:11
2. **E**xercise—it relieves stress, worry & anxiety; develop a daily routine: (YMCA)
3. **L**imits: food, hobbies, internet/media—use internet safety control software
4. **F**ellowship--join a small group Bible-study and pray, sing, discuss, have fun, laugh, etc., together

5. **C**ommit your life to Christ and walk by the Spirit instead of by the flesh
"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." Gal 5:16

Word of God—study every day, meditate, journal, create "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night..." (Josh 1:8; Rom 12:1,2)

Adoration—salvation, praying, worshipping, fasting, repent "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts..." (Jeremiah 31:33; Phil 4: 6,7)

Learning with others—church, small group, prayer retreats "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship..." (Acts 2:42; Pr 27:17)

Kick out the devil—resist, rebuke, and run away!-- lock/limit/leave. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (Ja 4:7)

Serve others in word and deed—preach, teach, give, go. "Go into all the world and make disciples/preach the Gospel to all creation." Mt 28:19, 20; Mk 16:15)

6. **O**bey His commandments; walk according to truth, not your feelings
*"If you love me, you will **keep** my commandments."* John 14:15

7. **N**urture your mind with the word of God morning, afternoon, and at night
*"**Study this Book of Instruction** continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do."* Josh 1:8

8. **T**rust the Lord God to solve your problems; don't be discouraged and sin
*"Trust in the **Lord** with **all your heart**; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek **his will** in all you do, and he will show you which path to take"*
Prov 3:5,6

Three means of making a moral decision: **READ II KINGS 19:14-19**

- 1) Physiologically: based on meeting basic human needs: hunger, thirst...
- 2) Sociologically: based on getting security, significance, love, and respect
- 3) Theologically: based on satisfying God's agenda for humankind Luke 22:42

9. **R**emove all distractions; *"So **flee** youthful passions and **pursue** righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."* 2 Tim 2:22

10. **O**pen your heart about your struggle to someone you trust. *"Confess your faults **one to another**, and pray one for another, that ye may **be healed.**"*
James 5:16

11. **L**earn to pray continually for self-discipline; sing to your God!
*"**Never stop praying.** Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. Do not **stifle** the Holy Spirit."* I Thes 5:17

V. Applying the Truth:

1. What wrong desire or behavior do you find most difficult to avoid? Why?
2. From the above list on self-control, which ones are you succeeding at the most?
3. From the same list, which ones do you need the most help with? **Be honest.**
4. Which areas of your life is it hard to trust God with? Why do you think that is?
5. Do you have someone you can trust and be honest with? Contact them today!
6. Spend time creating **actions steps** based on the suggestions above on S.C.
7. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
8. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?

Forgiveness: to pardon or remove guilt, removing our need to get revenge. It means graciously and generously canceling a debt.

Jesus wants us to forgive like He forgives—without limit or conditions.

1. What if we don't feel like forgiving others? How do we change our thinking and feeling?

Step 1—Confess your pain first—Psalm 62: 8 —Psalm 5:1-3 -- Gal 2:20

Step 2—Consider your purpose —"I want to know Christ--yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death..." Phil 2:10-- In good times and bad.

Step 3—Consent to His will- OR REAP THE CONSEQUENCES

- The Lord's goal for our lives is not to make us happy, but holy, and others holy as well through us! We become happy when we're holy.
- It is easier to act our way into feeling than to feel our way into acting.
- Maturity is doing what you need to do regardless of the environment, because you are fulfilling God's call in your life and doing it for His glory.

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." Col 3:23

2. What does God say about forgiveness?

1. We forgive because we have been forgiven by God.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Eph 4:32

2. We forgive in obedience to God (Matthew 6:14-15; Romans 12:18).

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." [For entire message notes see 7/12]

Perseverance: It's a continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. To follow Jesus, even when He leads us to and through harrowing times. We cling to God because He holds us firmly in His hands. John 10:28; Deut 33:27

1. In what ways are we supposed to persevere as **followers of Jesus**?

- "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Rom 12:12
- "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Gal 6:9
- "But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you."

2 Tim 3:14

2. What does God do to help us persevere?

- "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand " Jn 10: 28-29
- "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." Ro 11:29
- "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Phil 1:6
- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to **an inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pe1: 3-5

3. Through what can we cultivate perseverance in our lives?

1. His Word—2 Tim 3: 16-17 – Equip yourself with the right biblical tools
2. His Spirit—John 14: 26-27—Learn from the right spirit—the Holy one!
3. His People—Philippians 1: 3-5—Partner with the right people
4. His Mission—I Cor 15: 57-58—Work for the right purpose

1. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?

2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?

3. What steps do you need to take to develop #3 (1-4) above? Be specific.

Perseverance: Clinging to God

7/26/2020

Perseverance: It's a continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. To **follow Jesus**, even when **He leads us** to and through harrowing times. We **cling to God** because **He holds us** firmly in His hands. John 10:28; Deut 33:27

1. In what ways are **we supposed to** persevere as **followers of Jesus**?

- *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* Rom 12:12
- *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* Gal 6:9
- *"But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you."* 2 Tim 3:14
- Causes for experiencing doubt; (Helpful in understanding self and others)
 - 1) Personality causes—skeptical nature (DNA); hard to trust; socially reclusive
 - 2) Historical causes—traumatic experiences in the past: mental, physical, etc.
 - 3) Medical causes—Chemical imbalances; (doesn't define your identity)
 - 4) Physical causes—Unhealthy eating/lack of exercise—moodiness/depression
 - 5) Stressful causes—too many responsibilities + lack of sleep has a tremendous effect on the way we think and how we judge reality
 - 6) Theological causes—Believing promises God hasn't made—painlessness
 - 7) Sinful causes—Find temporary satisfaction—belief replaced with doubt
- As real and painful as the causes may be, they are not stronger than God's love, power, and truth to bring healing and restoration to the human soul.

2. What does **God do** to help us persevere?

- 1) He reassures you that **He is stronger** than any opposition, to protect us!
"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand" Jn 10: 28-29
- 2) He reassures you that not **even you** can deny yourself His blessings and callings. You can't un-earn something you never earned!
"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." Ro 11:29
- 3) He reassures you that it doesn't **only** depend on you
"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Phil 1:6

4) He reassure you that you've got a **living hope/ inheritance** coming—it's worth waiting for!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet.1: 3-5

- He has given His promises, provision, and guidance-- **everything we need** to be motivated and encouraged to keep on keeping on. 2 Peter 1:3

3. Through what can **we cultivate** perseverance in our lives?

1) His Word—2 Tim 3: 16-17 – **Equip yourself with the right biblical tools**

"Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work."

2) His Spirit—John 14: 26-27—**Learn from the right spirit—the Holy One!**

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will cause you to remember everything I said to you."

3) His People—Philippians 1: 3-5—**Partner with the right people**

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

4) His Mission—I Cor 15: 57-58—**Work for the right purpose**

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

1. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?
3. What steps do you need to take to develop #3 (1-4) above? Be specific.

The Nature and Work of the H.O.L.Y. S.P.I.R.I.T.

He is God!-- Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God... I Cor 2:10-12 (see 2 Peter 1:21; Ps 139:7, 8)

Q: Have you surrendered your life to the Lordship of Christ? Are you serving two masters?

Offers gifts-- All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Cor 12: 4, 7,11

Q: Do you know your spiritual gifts? How can you better use them for God's glory? Pray! Act!

Leads us-- Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness. Luke 4:1... because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Romans 8:14

Q: Ask God to lead you in His direction. What keeps you from stepping out in faith? Give it to Him.

Your counselor-- When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. John 15:26 (see Jn 14:16-Comforter; Romans 5:5)

Q: Do you regularly study the word of God to hear from the Spirit?

Sends us-- While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Ac 13:2; Sealed in Him w/the Holy Spirit Eph 1:13

Q: Where is God leading you? Spend time in prayer and fasting seeking God's will for your life.

Powers us-- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (by my Spirit Zech 4:6)

Q: To whom are you sharing your faith with? How are you preaching the Gospel and making disciples?

Inspires us-- The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... Gen 1:26. (see Gen 1:2; Exodus 31:1-5)

Q: What creative ministry does God want to do in your life? Ask him to "breathe" new life on you!

Redeems us—sanctification-- When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. Jn 16:8, being transformed into His image, from the Spirit 2 Cor 3:18; 5:17

Q: Are there any specific areas of your life that are NOT submitted to the Holy Spirit? Confess them!

Indwells us-- Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 1 Cor 3:16; Jn 14:17; Romans 8:16

Q: Are there any bad habits in your life that are poisoning your body? Physical? Mental (media)?

Teaches us--But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Jn 14:26 All Scripture 2Tim 3:16

Q: Do you have a regular time to memorize Scripture? To meditate on it so He can remind you of it.

Reflection: Spend time answering and/or discussing these questions.

1. How is God's truth speaking to your heart from the above as you meditate on it?
2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?
3. Ask God to help you as you work through these adjustments.
4. What steps do you need to take to implement the plan?
5. Who can you ask to help you be accountable to this action?