

should repent and turn to God, and do works **meet** for repentance.” The works are supposed to be appropriate, or meet, for repentance. The works do not save anyone. We should quit trusting our works, and trust Jesus Christ (Galatians 5:1-6). 1 Thessalonians 5:9 clarifies and affirms, “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by **our Lord Jesus Christ**,” Romans 11:6, “And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”

Clearly, salvation is based on God's grace rather than our works. Philosophy can sound better than truth; and empty, proud, and deceptive teachings are taught by men contrary to the Word of God.

God tells us what to do in Col 2:8, “**Beware** lest any man spoil you through **philosophy** and **vain deceit**, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

How do I keep from falling?

There are several things in the word of God that we need to frequently remember, and add to our lives.

1 Peter 5:8 says, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about...” 1 Corinthians 10:12 warns, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

2 Peter 1:5-9 gives these important instructions: “And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. **For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

We need to be praying one for another with love and humility, while we add to our faith these things listed in 2 Peter 1:5-9.

Basic Answers for Sincere Christians

Version 2.96



In some ways, through the passing of time, important and even obvious truths have been neglected in favor of deep, impressive doctrines and topics.

Basic Answers covers some of the important topics that Christians need to know, by showing briefly where God has already answered these topics in the Bible.

These truths are not intended to satisfy curiosity, but rather provoke; to show how much we need to live in, read, and study, the Holy Bible. If we grow tired of lacking wisdom we may seek God, obey His commands, and learn His principles.

All scriptures are from the King James Bible.

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Dedication:

Blessed be our Heavenly Father and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the wisdom and instruction He left us in His precious book, the Bible.
Also, a special *thank you* to my parents for teaching me many things by their example.

2. Some scriptures cover other things, but definitely teach or instruct concerning Christ and what He did on the cross.

Col 2:10-16 says, “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nauling it to his cross;”

Philippians 2:5-10 says, “**Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus**: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth.”

Instruction concerning Christ tells us to think the same way as He did, meek and lowly, humbling himself to die the death on the cross. But the Doctrine of Christ also teaches that name of Jesus is above every name. It teaches that Christ was IN THE FORM OF GOD, before he came to earth. Obviously, there are some religions which do not bring this doctrine!

3. Several religious groups deny parts of the doctrine of Christ, and God says they should not be received into your house.

2 John 1:9-10 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, **hath not God**. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and **bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:**”

A certain percentage of Jehovah Witnesses, if questioned closely, deny that Jesus rose physically from the dead; several religious groups also deny there exists “eternal judgment.” There are likewise many groups that do not have “Repentance from dead works,” these groups still teach “faithfulness” or “work” as part of gaining salvation, instead of teaching works because of what Christ did to save us. Act 26:20 says “...that they

Why seek God?

There are many opportunities lost to please God and be blessed. If we understood what we have already missed, we would probably weep.

Isaiah 48:17-18 says, “Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.”

What is the doctrine of Christ?

The word “doctrine” comes from a Greek word that means “instruction.” There are many purposes for scripture. Scripture can reprove sin, or exhort, but the same scripture contains instruction, or doctrine: things God wants us to understand or do.

1. We need to know what Christ's doctrine is:

Ephesians 4:14 “That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

John 7:16-17 says, “Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.”

The doctrine concerning Jesus Christ includes who He is, and what He did for us, as well as what He has promised.

The doctrine of Christ has important instruction concerning:

- 1) **Repentance from dead works**, (We are saved by grace: Eph. 2:7-8)
- 2) **Faith toward God**, (Salvation is through faith.)
- 3) **Baptisms** (Baptism into the body of Christ, and water baptism.)
- 4) **Laying on of hands** (Ordination of elders, and for healing.)
- 5) **Resurrection of the dead** (Both of Christ and also Christians.)
- 6) **Eternal judgment** (The lake of fire in Revelation 21:8.)

Heb 6:1-2 says, “Therefore leaving the principles of the **doctrine of Christ**, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

Table of Contents

Foreword.....	4
How do you know you are forgiven to go to heaven?.....	5
How do you know if God will answer your prayer?.....	6
Why is baptism important for Christians?.....	7
What makes a person just?.....	8
What will cause God to give you favor?.....	8
How do you break off iniquity and sin?.....	9
How do you know the will of God?.....	9
What are God's first two commandments?.....	10
What does God warn us to keep with all diligence?.....	10
How can you get God to guide you?.....	11
How do you discern which wisdom is from God?.....	11
How do you find God?.....	11
How do you get wisdom?.....	12
What does God require of you?.....	12
How does a person escape “the wrath to come?”.....	13
How do we show God that we love him?.....	13
What is necessary to show love to God?.....	14
What is necessary to please God?.....	14
What is necessary to understand scripture?.....	14
What are some principles that give victory over sin?.....	15
What can you do to cause God to promise you long life?.....	16
What is the secret to being a disciple?.....	17
What can separate you from God's love?.....	17
What are the sins that God hates most?.....	18
What is our reasonable service?.....	19
How should we overcome evil?.....	19
How do we raise children to do right?.....	19
Why can't we do good?.....	23
Why doesn't God give me a sign as to what to do?.....	23
How do I find the hidden will of God?.....	23
What can I do to strengthen our marriage?.....	24
How do I do good to those who do evil?.....	24
Why do I get mad?.....	25
How do I avoid conflict?.....	26
Why am I discouraged?.....	27
How do I get joy back?.....	28
Why pray if the answer is obvious?.....	28
What tools does the Devil use to get Christians to sin?.....	28
Why seek God?.....	30
What is the doctrine of Christ?.....	30
How do I keep from falling?.....	32

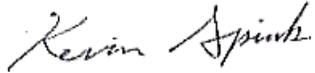
Foreword

Dear friend, it is assumed that the majority of people reading this booklet have already made sure of going to Heaven, salvation, forgiveness, and peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. However, it would be a tragic mistake to assume that all have.

Furthermore, some would like to know where are some Bible verses that can be used to explain salvation. So, there are many reasons to start this booklet with a salvation message.

It is my hope that this booklet will be a blessing to both you and your family, and create a desire to know God's Word.

Sincerely,



Your Servant Publications.

1. Lust of the flesh: this means of temptation includes laziness: after being tempted to do what we ought not (slothfulness), we at the same time sin by not doing the good that needs to be done. Then, we are also more likely to do other sins because we are in the wrong place and we become used to self-gratification (doing what pleases oneself). One example is when King David fell into adultery after becoming lazy.

2. Lust of the eyes: Through our eyes we get distraction; often times we do things at the wrong time because we took notice of something that did not need to be done right now, but we wanted to do it. **Through our eyes we see, then meditate, then desire treasures.** Matthew 6:21 says, **“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”**

The love of money is one such distraction...You can not serve God and money. 1 Timothy 6:10 says, “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” Many people who have money, either do love money or begin to love money. While having money is not sin, loving it is.

3. Pride of life: One example of the devil using our pride is when we get angry quickly--our pride causes us to say and do things hastily. **We also make bad decisions because we love ourselves, and love people respecting us.** Our pride causes us to view other people only in terms of what they can do for us, not what do they need from us.

4. Fear: Fear is like a fingerprint of the devil at work. (1 Peter 5:8 ...because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion...) The safe direction is actually **the same direction we hear the roar of the toothless lion**, because if we flee the direction he wants us to go, the young lions are waiting in the bushes. Fear is also a sign of the past sins OR sins done against us. Most of our fear is not of God. Our adversary uses fear to get us to disobey. Saul lost his right to be king through fear.

5. Lies: Probably all of the temptations we face are contain partial lies, deception, untruths that would mislead our decision making. **Eve was deceived by partial truth and an outright lie.**

We can be tempted in our strengths as well our weaknesses. But if we know our weaknesses, God says in Romans 13:14, “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.” We have a tendency to repeat the same errors over and over.

How do I get joy back?

The right kind of joy comes through **obeying** God; especially through loving others. It also comes through experiencing the salvation, deliverance, love, and mercy of God. The wicked also have joy, but it is short and produces consequences (Psalm 37:35-36).

John 15:10-12 says, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that **your joy might be full**. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Ecclesiastes 2:26, "For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and **joy**: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit."

Psalm 126:5-6 describes the joy of the Christian who loves the lost enough to weep for them, and then go and testify of God's grace and mercy: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*."

Why pray if the answer is obvious?

We do not know the future, and we can be tricked by appearances. We are commanded to trust the LORD; we need to seek his wisdom in prayer.

Joshua 9:14 "And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD." (This decision resulted in **many problems** that lasted for many years, and indirectly led to the sin of idolatry.) Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

What tools does the Devil use to get Christians to sin?

1 John 2:16 says, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." These three categories describe worldliness, which is part of what the adversary, the devil, uses against us.

How do you know you are forgiven to go to heaven?

God is love. Because of His love, He is willing to forgive and has prepared a way to forgive our sins. The first step to being forgiven by God is to humble ourselves and admit how bad we have been, by sinning against God.

1. We are all sinners--humbly admit your sin to God.

Romans 3:10, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one;" Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" The Bible says that God gives grace to the humble—will you admit your sin to God?

Jesus said in Mark 7:20-22, "...That which cometh out of a man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:"

2. The wages of sin is death...be honest with God how bad our sin is.

Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

These wages include a 2nd death, a spiritual death; (death is separation: separation of body and soul; and the second death is an eternal separation of the soul from God in a lake of fire.) Revelation 21:8 says, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

God loves us (John 3:16) and wants us to choose his mercy rather than judgment (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus preached in Mark 1:15, "...**repent ye, and believe the gospel**."

3. God has provided for our salvation through Jesus Christ, not through our merits.

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

2 Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

God has a gift for you. You can't earn it. It is **free**. (Ephesians 2:8-9) Jesus died for us (Romans 5:8), was buried (Acts 13:29), and God raised him from the dead (Acts 13:30).

Jesus suffered greatly to pay for our sins. God's prophetic description of his death says, "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels" (Psalm 22:14). God further describes His death in Isaiah 53:12, "...he hath **poured out** his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." **It is obvious that Jesus is willing to save us...**

4. Call on Jesus, with faith, for him to save you.

Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be **saved**."

Romans 10:9-11, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Since Jesus died on a cross for you, wouldn't you be willing to trust him to save you? Do you want him to forgive you?

(Example prayer)

Dear Jesus, I accept you as my Saviour forever. Forgive me of all my sins. Please take me to Heaven when I die; and save me from Hell. Thank you for dying for me. I ask you to save me forever--with all of my heart, Amen.

Ephesians 1:7 says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;" The moment you believe on Jesus Christ, you are redeemed, forgiven, and saved from hell. If you want him to forgive you, do trust His promises right now! Do not just "say a prayer," but put your faith in Him. Call on him with all your heart!

How do you know if God will answer your prayer?

Some of God's promises are conditional, and some are unconditional. Concerning salvation we have Jesus promise in John 6:37, "...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." There are also similar

4. You cannot avoid all conflict, but we should try to please others:

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 commands us, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. **Give none offence**, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."

Why am I discouraged?

1. physically weak and tired:

1 Kings 19:3-4 relates how a man of God came to a point of despair just after tremendous victory: "And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers."

The physical exhaustion was probably a major factor here, but there is also despair because God had given the overwhelming victory, but now his life was being threatened.

2. Disobedience:

Saul lost the kingdom when fear and then greed caused him to disobey. Moses failed in meekness, and was tempted to disobey. Psalms 84:11 says, "...No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

3. Not trusting in God:

Psalm 84:12 "O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee." When I am trusting in Him, I am depending on his strength.

4. Lack of control over your own spirit:

Prov 25:28 "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." A man or woman that does not have control over his spirit is easily influenced, and easily hurt. A wounded spirit may occur because there is very little protection.

5. Problems are greater than my experience and trust in God.

Psalm 142:3 says, "When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me."

1. Pride:

Proverbs 19:11 says, “The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.”

2. Lack love for God's law:

Psalms 119:165 says, “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”

3. Oppression:

Even a wise man is affected by seeing others being oppressed. Ecclesiastes 7:7 says, “Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad...”

4. Hypocrisy and injustice:

Isaiah 65:3-5a “A people that provoketh me to anger continually ... and broth of abominable things is in their vessels; Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou...”

How do I avoid conflict?

Not all conflict can be avoided, but all contention should be avoided, because pride (see point 3) is always a sin in the Bible. Most people have conflicts related to their actions, not due to their righteousness.

1. Servants: 1 Peter 2:18-19 “Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.”

2. Wives: 1 Peter 3:1-2 “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.”

3. General: Proverbs 13:10 “Only by pride cometh contention...” Humble yourself before talking to people. Proverbs 25:8 “Go not forth hastily to strive, lest lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.” Proverbs 25:9 says, “**Debate thy cause with thy neighbor** himself; and discover not a secret to another.” Proverbs 26:4 “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.” Proverbs 22:10 “Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out: yea, strife and reproach shall cease.”

promises for every Christian who has been forgiven of his sins. Matthew 21:22 says, “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matthew 7:11 says, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give **good things** to them that **ask** him?”

Matthew 7:8 affirms, “For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (asketh is in the linear tense in the Greek language: keep asking until God answers.) John 15:7 says, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be **done** unto you.”

John 15:10-12: “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” Note in verse 12 how to “**abide in me**”: we must “**love one another, as I have loved you.**”

My love or lack of love affects how God answers my prayers. But if I ask for things in his will, I can be confident he will hear me. 1 John 5:14 says, “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.”

Why is baptism important for Christians?

1. The Book of Acts shows people getting baptized right after salvation. Act 2:41, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.”

2. It is important to show our love for Jesus. Like the wedding ring shows publicly that we are married, baptism shows our faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We show Jesus our love by obeying. John 14:15 says, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

3. We are commanded to follow Jesus (John 12:26). Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus commanded us to baptized after believing on Him.

4. Faith is exercised in steps (Romans 4:12, Hebrews 6:1). If we do not obey the easy, how will we obey the harder commands?

What makes a person just?

God justifies those who put their faith in Christ. Justification is the process by which Jesus Christ makes someone righteous in God's sight.

Romans 1:17 says, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 8:33 says, "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." Galatians 3:11, "But that no man is **justified** by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith." Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be **justified** by faith." Romans 5:9, "Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Romans 2:13 "(For not the hearers of the law **are just** before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified."

Note those who decide to trust Christ also will follow him, (John 10:27) because God puts his Holy Spirit in them, a spiritual nature. They want to obey God's laws, even though they are tempted to disobey.

What will cause God to give you favor?

First of all, the favor of God is for the just; a sinner can become just through faith in the grace of God (see previous sections).

Psalms 5:12 "For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with **favour** wilt thou compass him as *with* a shield."

Proverbs 11:27 "He that diligently seeketh good procureth **favour**: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him."

Proverbs 14:35 "The king's *favour is* toward a wise servant: but his wrath is *against* him that causeth shame."

Proverbs 3:3-4 says, "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man." (keep mercy and truth)

Proverbs 8:35 "For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD." (find wisdom)

Note that if you are not forgiven and saved through his Son, there is no

Mathew 23:12, "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

2. Forgiveness: (Prepare forgiveness before people sin against you.)

Prepare your heart...we should be ready to forgive. Romans 12:19 says, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Matthew 6:15, "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 18:35 "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

3. Prayer:

Matthew 5:44, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

4. Do good: Look for a way to be a blessing!

Luke 6:33 says, "And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same." Galatians 6:10 "As we have therefore **opportunity**, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

5. Remember that God will reward the good and evil that you do:

Luke 6:35, "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."

6. Do not be envious of the foolish, because God will someday repay.

Psalms 73:2-3 says, "But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." Psalms 73:17 sums this up, "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; **then understood I their end.**"

Why do I get mad?

Remember "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." It is not God's plan for us to be mad. Pro 19:19 says, "A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver *him*, yet thou must do it again." We sometimes become angry rapidly due to:

Ezekiel 20:31 "...ye make your sons pass through the fire...and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? **As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be enquired of by you.**"

Often God does not reveal his will until people obey him, trusting him to provide a way. (Example: Moses trusted God at the red sea.)

What can I do to strengthen our marriage?

This is such a broad topic that many books are needed to cover this. However, it is well to remember some basic truths.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 says, "Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail..."

1. Marriage is an institution designed by God.

It has from the beginning been for life and it is built on love and duty not passion or desire, even though those are present in a good marriage.

2. Love is defined in Corinthians 13:1-6

Love is not the action of doing good, love is the heart decision that causes action, causes us to do good.

3. Love causes us to not repay evil, hurt, and wrong:

Proverbs 20:22, "Say not thou, I will **recompense** evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee."

4. Love causes us to think of how the spouse will feel before we act.

1 Corinthians 13:4 says, "Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind..."

5. Duty causes us to decided to love instead of being hurt.

Proverbs 10:12, "Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins."

1Peter 4:8 "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

How do I do good to those who do evil?

1. Humble yourself:

1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." Loose your rights. Do not insist that people always be fair to you.

favor with God; God sees your sins and cannot say that you are just! A righteous and wise man seeks God's favor by living in the truth: Jesus is "the truth" and the Bible is also called "the truth." If you want God's favor you must first receive Jesus in your heart and then obey the principles in the Word of God.

How do you break off iniquity and sin?

God gives help to those who are good in his sight (Ecclesiastes 2:26). As we try to please Him and obey his commandments God will help us to do what pleases Him. Having righteousness and mercy helps us to stop giving ourselves permission to sin.

Daniel 4:27 "Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity."

Psalms 119:2-3 "Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, *and that seek him with the whole heart*. **They also do no iniquity**: they walk in his ways."

How do you know the will of God?

It should be obvious that we do not always know the will of God concerning every subject. Therefore, we must seek Him. Many times we know His will by finding a scripture verse that states God's will.

Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all thy **ways acknowledge** him, and he shall **direct** thy paths." It is always God's will that we acknowledge Him. John 6:39, "And this is the Father's **will** which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." (It is God's will that Christians stay saved forever)

Proverbs 18:1 "Through **desire** a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom." It is hard to know God's will if we want to do our own will. We need to separate from our own will. "Intermeddeleth" refers to putting the Bible's wise principles in our life as to how to respond to problems. Proverbs 2:3-6 says, "Yea, if thou **criest after** knowledge, and liftest **up thy voice** for understanding; If

thou **seekest** her as silver, and **searchest** for her as *for* hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.”

James 1:5-6 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him **ask** of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”

What are God's first two commandments?

The first two commandments of all are not the first listed in the Bible nor the first of the ten, but rather the first in importance. These first commands concern how we ought to love God and our neighbor. It starts with a command to hear; and we should understand that the same God that loves me and wants my love, also wants my neighbor to be loved.

Mark 12:29-30 says, “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment. And the second is like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”

What does God warn us to keep with all diligence?

God warns us to keep our heart. What we love will affect our life.

Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.” 2 Peter 1:5-7 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” 1 Peter 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently;”

holdeth fast his **integrity**, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.” Note that because Job maintained his integrity, God later blessed him doubly. If our children learn the ways of God, **what blessings they will have from God!**

Why can't we do good?

1. We are not relying on Christ:

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

2. **We are accustomed to do evil:** Jeremiah 13:23 “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.”

3. **We have cords of sin:** Proverbs 5:22 “His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.”

Why doesn't God give me a sign as to what to do?

1. Unless God tells me to ask for a sign, I should not ask:

Mark 8:11-12 “And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.”

2. We need to ask for **wisdom in faith:**

James 1:6 says, “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” (We normally should ask for wisdom, not signs.)

How do I find the hidden will of God?

You do not find the hidden will of God while disobeying the revealed will of God. Do what God has already told you to do in the Bible while praying and trusting God for more wisdom.

6. Love -- Laying down our life for the good of our children.

Proverbs 23:26 “My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.”

It seems that most of the work is in vain unless the heart of the child is captured by the one who is training the child, whether it be mother, father, grandmother, Sunday-school teacher, etc. We need to get the heart, so we can bring a child into the land of wisdom, so we can teach the child to love and fear God.

1) Investment of life and time may start with praying for them.

God said about Job “...and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept...”

2) There are many characteristics to love that we need.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-5 says, “Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;”

3) Part of love is to make the child feel loved. Praise for doing right is often more powerful incentive than chastisement. We are trying to guide the child's heart to God, not just correct wrong actions. Sometimes a rebelling child needs your mercy and grace to encourage them. Would not we want some mercy when we make a big mistake?

7. Teaching right paths -- To show the way that God has chosen; and even better, how to make right decisions.

Proverbs 3:7 says, “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.” Proverbs 4:11 says, “I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.”

God wants children to learn integrity. God said to us in Proverbs 11:3, “The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.”

We need to teach HOW to make right choices...this integrity can be their guide later in life. The integrity of reading the Bible every day, praying every day is important to instill.

Proverbs 19:1 says, “Better *is* the poor that walketh in his **integrity**, than *he that is* perverse in his lips, and is a fool.” It is more important that children learn how to **decide**, than how to make money! Integrity is when children fear God, and do right even when it is hard. In Job 2:3 we see: “And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he

How can you get God to guide you?

Many times people wait until God is ready to judge before they want God to guide them. We should turn to God now, without delay.

Proverbs 3:6 says, “**In all thy ways** acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 1:23 “**Turn you at my reproof**: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.”

How do you discern which wisdom is from God?

God does not give us tainted wisdom. If He directs me to do something it will not cause me to sin; He leads us to good pastures, and pure waters (although temptations also are found even in the right choices).

James 3:17 “But the **wisdom that is from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

How do you find God?

God is wanting to know if we really want to find him; it is similar to finding His wisdom: Speaking of wisdom, Pro. 2:4-5 says, “If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”

Many times we pretend to want God, but we do not want to repent. Deuteronomy 4:29 says, “But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, **thou shalt find him**, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.” Do not wait until it is too late.

John 7:33-34 says, “Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and *then* I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me, and **shall not find me**: and where I am, *thither* ye cannot come.” The time to seek God, to search for God is now. Why not get thirsty for God's presence today? Psalm 119:35 says, “Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I **delight**.”

How do you get wisdom?

How we live tells God a great deal about how much we want wisdom. Specifically, how righteous we are will directly affect how much wisdom is *available* to us; as well as how diligently we pray for wisdom.

Proverbs 2:7 states, “He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.” **Our actions affect how much wisdom we receive!** Sound wisdom is a better promise than to have a buckler, and to be righteous is better than to walk uprightly.

Ecclesiastes 2:26 says, “For *God* giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy...” Proverbs 14:6 says, “A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth. Some people cannot receive wisdom because they delight in scorning.

Psalms 111:10 “The fear of the Lord is the **beginning of wisdom**: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” Proverbs 17:16 “Wherefore *is there* a price in the hand of a fool to **get wisdom**, seeing *he hath no heart to it?*”

We can not even begin to be wise until we hate pride, arrogancy, the evil way, and the froward mouth because the LORD hates these (Proverbs 8:13.) Wisdom comes from God; the fool has no place in his heart to receive wisdom.

What does God require of you?

God does require things from us; He will require us to give account of our actions, and nothing will be hid. He requires us to live a certain way, and most importantly God will require it of us if we do not hearken to all the words of Jesus Christ! (See Deuteronomy 18 below.) Jesus told us to “repent and believe the Gospel”, along with many other things.

Deuteronomy 18:19 “And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will *require it* of him.”

Micah 6:8 says, “He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD **require** of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and

hypocrisy.” Also note that it is important that we be good examples so that our discipline does not appear to be hypocrisy.

4. Care -- protecting a child from evil, wrong, sinful influence and also emotional, physical harm.

Proverbs 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.” Protecting a child includes controlling which friends are talking to your child, what computer games they play, what (or if) videos and TV are allowed.

How does bad influence affect us? In Proverbs 23:7 is a mention of why the covetous person is dangerous to be with: “For **as he thinketh in his heart, so is he**: Eat and drink, saith he...” The covetous man thinks about money. His heart dwells on using people to get more money. This verse illustrates that what we focus on affects our life. What goes in the eye, then the mind, and then the heart will eventually affect the life in general. The covetous person does not create good companionship, because his attitude is contagious; he will teach you to focus on possessions and money.

In both children and adults the result of bad companionship is always destruction. Look what the Bible says about bad companionship. Proverbs 28:7 says, “Whoso keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.” Note also Proverbs 13:20, “**He that walketh with wise men shall be wise**: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” Proverbs 28:24 says, “Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, *It is* no transgression; the same *is* the **companion of a destroyer**.”

How do children get to a point that they would rob their parents? If someone is a **companion with a destroyer**, they can get to that point. Part of caring for a child is protecting them from bad influences and the knowledge of the evil ways.

5. Provision -- Meeting spiritual, physical, emotional needs in the way that God views our needs.

1 Timothy 5:8 says, “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” (Note the balance in Luke 12:33 that we can make heavenly provisions.)

Luke 12:33 “Sell that ye have, and give alms; **provide** yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.”--God tells us to provide things in heaven for our children.

pleasing God, show diligence to do right. 1 Samuel 12:23 says, “Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will **teach you the good** and the right way.”

2. Training -- training a child to love doing right, to train a child to enjoy the taste of righteousness.

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” This is talking about training a child to savor and enjoy the ways that God wants him to go, and to enjoy the prudent and wise ways of fearing God.

Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep thy heart with **all diligence**; for out of it *are* the issues of life.” As applied to raising children, this verse teaches us that we need to **get the child's heart** so we can train them. Someday they will make their own decisions; therefore, if they do not love to obey their parents, how can the parents teach them to love and obey God? Loving obedience is not very natural--Proverbs 22:15 says, “**Foolishness is bound** in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” (Note that the “rod of correction” is for correction, not for abuse, not a rod of anger.) The correct application of discipline shows love. “In subjection with all gravity” is the example in 1 Tim 3:4.

3. Discipline -- providing the correction necessary to protect from wrong, sinful, evil and bad ways.

God corrects us so that we learn holiness—why? Because God is love.

God knows that sin will destroy us. Discipline is supposed to be an expression of love. Correction in anger is usually an expression of “I don't like you” or at best “I don't like your actions” and does little or nothing to help a child learn to love righteousness. Carefulness in discipline is necessary to show love. As they begin to understand your love, tears should not be from pain but from a heart repentant.

Discipline with anger usually **provokes anger** and God commands us twice: Ephesians 6:4 “And, ye fathers, **provoke not** your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Colossians 3:21 “Fathers, **provoke not** your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.”

It seems that the amount of love a child perceives determines how much correction and rules they can accept. James 3:17 says, “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without

to walk humbly with thy God? 1 Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” Ecclesiastes 3:15 “That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God **requireth** that which is past. Deuteronomy 10:12 “And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God **require** of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,” Ezekiel 3:18 “When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I **require** at thine hand.”

How does a person escape “the wrath to come?”

The only escape from the wrath of God is full payment for our sins. Only through Jesus Christ is there reconciliation with God. Matthew 3:7 says, “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the **wrath to come**?”

1 Thessalonians 1:10 says, “And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” The only way to escape God's wrath is if Jesus pays for our sins. Romans 5:11 states, “And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the **atonement**.” Jesus died to pay for our sin, and we must receive him as our Saviour.

How do we show God that we love him?

It is impossible to love God without obeying him. It is impossible to demonstrate deep love without much obedience.

John 14:15 says, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” 2 John 1:6 says, “And **this is love, that we walk after his commandments**. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.” Deut 11:22, “For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, **to love the LORD your God**, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;”

What is necessary to show love to God?

We show that we love God by obeying His command to **love our brother** in Christ, and our neighbors (those we know need our help.)

1 John 4:20 says, “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath **not seen**?” Matthew 22:39, “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

What is necessary to please God?

Romans 8:8 says, “So then they that are in the flesh cannot **please God**.” (God wants us to walk with him in the Spirit, not in ungodly desires.)

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith **it is impossible** to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Timothy 2:4 “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may **please him** who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” My first preoccupation has to be how to please God, if I am going to serve him.

What is necessary to understand scripture?

The Bible is a spiritual book. Many have “studied” the Bible to find support for their own views, but it is God's Holy Spirit that shows us what He intended us to understand. A humble and obedient person will receive different, or more truths than a proud person. We should study, but we should humble ourselves and pray for wisdom.

1 Peter 5:5 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth **grace to the humble**.”

Humility is necessary to obtain wisdom. Hebrews 4:16 states, “Let us therefore come **boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find **grace to help** in time of need.” Pray for wisdom and understanding.

What is our reasonable service?

It is only reasonable that we should live for Christ. We are not using reason when we live for ourselves. **It is reasonable**, if we are saved by Jesus death, that we should live for Jesus. This may not appear reasonable to someone who never was saved by Jesus.

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your* **reasonable service**.”

2Co 5:14-15 “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

How should we overcome evil?

The Christian is not to use carnal weapons. We are to use spiritual weapons. We are to pray for our enemies. We are to love our enemies.

Romans 12:21 says, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” 2 Corinthians 10:4 says, “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)“ This means we have spiritual weapons if we are Christians. Is it spiritual to do evil to those who do us evil?

Ephesians 6:7-8 talks about how servants should serve masters who are sometimes evil: “With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.”

How do we raise children to do right?

These are only some of the precepts in the Bible...remember that when Jesus walked the earth, He did not bring all sinners to himself. Similarly, even if you could be a perfect parent, still your children would not be perfect. Note that all of us parents have room for improvement!

1. Example -- showing a child how we have learned to obey God, please God, and do right.

Be an example of genuine love, humility, godliness, honesty, purity,

Father.” The book of Romans was written to the Christians at Rome. Under Roman law adopted sons could never be disinherited, but natural born sons could be disinherited. The Romans receiving this letter from the apostle Paul clearly understood they could not be separated from God's love, once they were saved. It is humbling to realize that God keeps us saved by His grace, not due to our merits. When we receive eternal life, the result is: “We love him, because he first loved us” (1John 4:19). God is love, and those who receive him, do so eternally.

What are the sins that God hates most?

The word for “abomination” is from a Hebrew root word that means disgusting (morally), an abhorrence. Some of the things listed as abomination in the Bible have been listed below.

Leviticus 20:13, “If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an **abomination**: they shall surely be put to death; their blood *shall be* upon them.” Deuteronomy 7:25 “The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold *that is* on them, nor take *it* unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it *is* an **abomination** to the LORD thy God.” Deuteronomy 22:5, “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are **abomination** unto the LORD thy God. Proverbs 3:32 “For the froward **is abomination** to the LORD: but his secret *is* with the righteous.”

Proverbs 6:16-19 “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an **abomination** unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” Proverbs 11:1 “A false balance **is abomination** to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight.”

Proverbs 17:15 “He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both **are abomination** to the LORD.” Proverbs 15:9 “The way of the wicked *is* an **abomination** unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.” Proverbs 28:9 “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be abomination*.”

What are some principles that give victory over sin?

1. Remember Christ's love.

2 Corinthians 5:14, “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:” (His love makes me do what my sinful nature does not want to do.)

Jeremiah 17:1-2, “The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars; Whilst their children remember their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills.”

(Thinking on sin prevents me from getting victory over sin.)

2. Meditate on the Bible, put it in my heart.

Psalms 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

3. Control my lips.

Proverbs 10:19 “In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.”

4. Fear God.

Psalms 4:4 “Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.”

5. Seek God's counsel, God's wisdom.

Isaiah 30:1 “Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:”

6. Do righteousness.

Daniel 4:27, “Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.” Proverbs 28:13, “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

7. Repentance and godly sorrow.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11, “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of

yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! **In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.**”

Isaiah 57:15, “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

Psalm 34:18, “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and **saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.**”

Psalm 51:17, The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

Psalm 147:3, “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.”

8. Faith.

Hebrews 11:6 states, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

1 John 5:3-4 says, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

9. Separation from temptation; walking with the wise.

Proverbs 15:31, “The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.” In order to hear the reproofs of life I must abide with the wise. The wise will offer correction, if I have a heart for it. This is two-fold help: by walking with the wise I automatically separate from some of the foolishness, and I get help to do right.

What can you do to cause God to promise you long life?

Children are supposed to be taught in the way that they should go by their parents. Children that obey, and then also honor their father and mother receive two important promises from the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-3 says, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

God promises also in Galatians 6:7, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Ephesians 6:8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.”

This means that someone who wants God to bless them with long life, should obey and honour their father and mother; because dishonoring and disobeying their father and mother causes God to not protect that person's life.

What is the secret to being a disciple?

In order to be a disciple, a “disciplined one”, we have to continue in His Word. One of the things that would stop me is having or acquiring the wrong treasures.

John 8:31 says, “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then** are ye my disciples indeed;”

Luke 14:33 “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that **forsaketh** not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

(Forsaking means that I give all to God, that He has control over everything.)

Matthew 6:21 tells us, “For where your **treasure** is, there will your heart be also.” Our problem is often that we cannot follow God because we are following our own treasures.

What can separate you from God's love?

When we are received by Christ as adopted sons and daughters, we do need to fear the discipline of our heavenly Father, but we no longer need fear separation from God in hell.

Romans 8:38-39 “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Rom 8:15 says, “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba,