

TREASURE HUNT

Grace Mercy Ministry

Treasure Hunt

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All Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Version.

We use the proper name of God the Father – YAHWEH – and also the proper name of God the Son – YAHSHUA Messiah.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to our Lord and Savior YAHSHUA of Nazareth the Messiah (Jesus Christ) who told us to seek after wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment as hidden treasure.

INVITATION

We invite all believers in YAHSHUA Messiah (Jesus Christ) to study this book with Bible in hand to see why all believers in YAHSHUA should seek after His wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment as if it is more valuable than all the gold, silver and precious gems on Earth.

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FOREWORD

The vast majority of believers in YAHSHUA Messiah do not understand that the wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment (WUKD) in the Bible is far more valuable than all the riches of the universe. Prayerfully, this book may help wake believers up to the importance of obtaining the WUKD in the Scriptures.

We encourage you to read this book carefully with your Bible in hand and diligently search for WUKD every day of the rest of your life.

YAHWEH did not save us so we can continue to live for sinful desires. He saved us to perform specific good works which He prepared before He created the world (Ephesians 2.10). One requirement for performing those good deeds for His glory is to obtain as much WUKD as possible. The only way to get WUKD is through daily study of the Bible in much prayer.

No one is given full WUKD at spiritual birth. YAHWEH only gives it to us after decades of serious, daily study coupled with prayer. He gives us wisdom when we ask Him:

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1.5)

What are you waiting for? There is a treasure right in your home more valuable than the entire universe waiting for you to find it.

Grace Mercy Ministry
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INTRODUCTION

Everyone dreams of finding hidden treasure yet there is a treasure more valuable than all the hidden treasure on the Earth! In fact the unimaginable hidden treasure that all believers are commanded to search for is far more valuable than all the minerals, oil, gas, water, gold, silver, precious gems, art, stocks, bonds, corporations, buildings, land livestock and animals on Earth! It is more valuable than the planet and even the entire universe!

What is that fantastic treasure and where can it be found? This book will show you how to find a treasure beyond your wildest dreams and what to do with it when you find it.

Do not miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity! Once you die you will not have the opportunity to earn eternal rewards through study of Scripture. When we go home to New Jerusalem (Heaven) we will not study Scripture as we do here. Instead of studying Scripture in the next life we will be rebuked for not studying It enough in this life and for not understanding It.

Start digging for eternal treasure and see how it can change your life.

ONE

SEEK AFTER REAL RICHES

All believers have the incredible privilege of spending their entire life searching for hidden treasure. That treasure is found in the Holy, Infallible, Word of YAHWEH.

What is that treasure? It is wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment (WUKD):

*My son, if you will receive my words And **treasure my commandments within you**, Make your ear attentive to **wisdom**, Incline your heart to **understanding**; For if you cry for **discernment**, Lift your voice for **understanding** (Proverbs 2.1-3)*

YAHWEH commands and exhorts believers to seek after knowledge, understanding, discernment and wisdom as though it were hidden treasure:

*If you seek her as silver And search for her as for **hidden treasures** (Proverbs 2.4)*

He promises that if we seek after knowledge, understanding and wisdom, the blessings He will bestow upon us will be far more valuable than silver, gold, precious jewels and anything you can imagine:

*How blessed is the man who **finds wisdom** And the man who **gains understanding**. For her profit is better than the profit of silver And her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her. (Proverbs 3.13-15)*

“Take my instruction and not silver, And knowledge rather than choicest gold. For wisdom is better than jewels; And all desirable things cannot compare with her. (Proverbs 8.10-11)

“My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, And my yield better than choicest silver.” (Proverbs 8.19)

How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver. (Proverbs 16.16)

When a believer seeks after knowledge, understanding, wisdom and discernment as though it is more valuable than gold, silver, precious gems and anything else one may desire YAHWEH blesses him with myriad blessings. The first blessings are learning the reverence of YAHWEH (*fear of the LORD*) and the “*knowledge of God*” along with gaining understanding, discernment and wisdom:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1.7)

Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; (Proverbs 2.5-7a)

When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasing to your soul, (Proverbs 2.10)

Discretion will keep you and understanding will watch over you. (Proverbs 2.11)

YAHWEH also blesses all treasure hunters by being a shield for them – guarding the path of justice and preserving them:

He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. (Proverbs 2.7b-8)

Notice that YAHWEH promises to be a shield to those who walk in integrity, He guards the paths of justice and preserves His holy ones. This means that you can search for knowledge, understanding and wisdom, but if you do not live a holy life He will not bless you. There have been millions of men and women who has searched after spiritual truths, but they did not live holy lives or they sought truth outside the Scriptures. They have been men and women of the numerous false religions. There have also been millions of people who have sought truth in the Word of YAHWEH, but they have sought it through cults within Protestantism. YAHSUA gave a warning about people who will claim to serve YAHWEH, but were not His children:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’ (Matthew 7.21-23)

Sadly, there have been and will be millions of people who sincerely sought to enter the kingdom of Heaven and thought they were faithfully serving God, but were not. This truth was revealed by YAHSUA:

“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.” (Luke 13.24)

The millions of people who have sought to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven through the narrow door are and were members of the numerous cults.

More blessings for you who search after true treasure is you will:

*“Discern righteousness and justice and equity and every good course. **Wisdom** will enter your heart and **knowledge** will be pleasant to your soul. **Discretion** will guard you, **Understanding** will watch over you (Proverbs 2.9-11).*

Once you are given wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discretion (WUKD) by seeking after them with all of your heart, soul, mind and body (Matthew 6.33) they will *“deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things; From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness (Proverbs 2.12-13).*

Other promises for those who find hidden treasure

To understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. (Proverbs 1.6)

Then you will discern righteousness and justice and equity and every good course. For wisdom will enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will guard you, understanding will watch over you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things. (Proverbs 2.9-12)

To deliver you from the strange woman, from the adulteress who flatters with her words. (Proverbs 2.16)

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for **length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.** Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will*

find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man. (Proverbs 3.1-4)

Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast. (Proverbs 3.16-18)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you. (Proverbs 9-10)

He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good. (Proverbs 19.8)

My son, eat honey, for it is good, yes, the honey from the comb is sweet to your taste; know that wisdom is thus for your soul; If you find it, then there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off. (Proverbs 24.13-14)

He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered. (Proverbs 28.26)

Wisdom is a precious treasure that everyone should seek after with greater zeal than worldly riches or anything else. Wisdom is more valuable than gold, silver, precious jewels or anything one can lust after.

Wisdom is found in the Bible. All wisdom outside the Bible comes from the Bible or YAHWEH. If you want wisdom directly from the Creator of the universe study the Bible. Study Scripture daily and study It diligently. When you think you have studied the Bible enough start all over and study It more than before. Never stop studying Scripture because no one can plumb the depths of the Holy, Infallible Word of YAHWEH even if one had a trillion lifetimes to study It.



PROVERBS TO LIVE BY

Proverbs is filled with practical advice on how to live a holy life that is pleasing to YAHWEH and will bring glory to Him. We encourage every believer in YAHSHUA Messiah to study Proverbs daily. This book is an aid to assist you in that great privilege.

To order your copy of *Proverbs to Live By* email – dovbooks@yahoo.com

TWO

WORLDLY RICHES ARE TEMPORARY

Everyone understands they will die some day and they will not take anything with them:

For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. (1 Timothy 6.7)

Worldly riches are temporary. They last as long as we live. Once we die they are gone forever. Why should any true believer in YAHSHUA Messiah of Nazareth spend time trying to accumulate as much wealth as he can?

“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8.36-37)

Even if you could own the entire world what good would it do you after you die It may give you great pleasure and enjoyment to own the world for 100 or so years, but when you die you will have nothing.

Is the temporary enjoyment of sin for a lifetime worth your immortal soul? If you could live your life exactly how you wanted to with no problems, tragedies, heartache or anything bad would it be worth your soul?

Moses was in line to inherit the wealthiest and most powerful empire of his day. He chose to serve YAHWEH rather than become the most powerful man in the world:

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the **passing pleasures of sin**, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. (Hebrews 11.24-26)*

Moses understood that the riches, power, glory, fame and pleasures of this world are temporary while the riches, power, glory, fame and pleasures of the life to come are eternal. He devoted his life to serving YAHWEH seeking the eternal rewards that YAHWEH promises to everyone who seeks to please Him:

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a **rewarder of those who seek Him**. (Hebrews 11.6)*

Moses was just one of many heroes of faith who spurned the riches and pleasures of the world for eternal rewards. Here are the heroes of faith that Paul honored in his letter to the Hebrews:

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, parents of Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

Here are other heroes of faith of the Old Testament dispensation:

Job, Judah, Joseph, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah, Dinah, Aaron, Miryam, Ezra, Nehemiah, Naomi, Ruth, Baruch, Asa,

Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, Josiah and Joseph.

The twelve apostles – Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Nathaniel, Matthew, Thomas, James the less, Simon, Judas (Thaddaeus) and Paul – were the highest ranking heroes of faith of all dispensations. Other heroes of faith of the New Testament dispensation are:

Mary of Nazareth, Mary Magdalene, Salome, Mary, Joanna, Luke, James, Judas Barsabbas, Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, Stephen, Philip, Barnabas, Apollos, Prisca, Aquila, Silas, Timothy, Lois, Eunice, Titus, Phoebe, Agabus, Philemon, Epaphroditus, Epaphras, Tychius, Archippus, Apphia, Urbanus, Clement, Aristarchus, Andronichus, Euodia, Syntyche, Demas, Sothenes, Chloe, Lucius, Jason, Sosispater, Tertius, Gaius, Erastus, and Quartus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, Eubulus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, Philologus, Julia, Nereus, Olympas, Stachys, Apelles, Aristobulus, Herodion, Narcissus, Tryphaena, Tryphosa, Persis and Rufus.

These are some of the heroes of faith of the Post-Apostolic Era:

Polycarp, Ignatius, Clement of Rome, Papias, Justin Martyr, Iranaeus, Theophilus of Antioch, Tatian, Melito of Sardis, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Cyprian, Athanasius, Victorinus, Cyril of Jerusalem, John Chrysostom, Cyril of Alexandria, Hilary of Poitiers, John Wycliffe, John Huss, John Clark, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Jan de Bakker, Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, Anthony Ricetti, Francis Spinola, Peter Chapot, Felix Manz, Patrick Hamilton, William Tyndale, John Knox, Anne Askew, George Wishart, Rowland Taylor, John Hooper, John Rogers, William Hunter, John Bunyan, Lawrence Saunders, Thomas Cranmer, William Gurnall, John Calas, Increase

Mather, Cotton Mather, John Gill, Isaac Newton, Morgan Edwards, Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, John Wesley, William Carey, William Wilberforce, William Gardiner, William Lithgow, Adoniram Judson, Dr. Constantine, Dr. Aegidio, George Lisle, Isaac McCoy, John Birch, Joseph Booth, Robert Morrison, George Muller, Jim Elliot, David Livingstone, Hudson Taylor, Charles Spurgeon, D.L. Moody, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dawson Trotman, Lewis Sperry Chafer, Peter Fleming and Herbert Lockyer.

All of these heroes of faith were treasure hunters who found treasures beyond their wildest dreams. What are you waiting for? Start your treasure hunt right now!

Examine your faith

If you do not have a daily desire to seek after WUKD there is something wrong with you. You are either living in a backslidden state or you are not born from above. Either way you need to examine your faith:

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you – unless indeed you fail the test? (2 Corinthians 13.5)

You examine your faith by looking at your daily life. If you love YAHWEH you will obey Him which means you will daily or regularly:

Pray
Be in the Word
Worship YAHWEH
Live a holy life
Walk by the SPIRIT
Fellowship with the brethren

Love the brethren
Love the lost
Give to the poor and needy
Be disciplined and then disciple others
Share the Gospel.

If you rarely or never:

Pray
Read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture
Worship YAHWEH
Live a holy life
Walk in the SPIRIT
Fellowship with the brethren
Love the brethren
Love the lost
Give to the poor and needy
Share the Gospel
And have not been disciplined

Something is wrong with you!

You are spiritually dead, in a coma or on life support.
James made it perfectly clear:

*What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he **has no works**? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so **faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.***
(James 2.14-17)

To learn more about how to examine your faith read ***Faith Test*** from Grace Mercy Ministry. Also take the Faith Check:

Faith Check

The Spiritual Man versus the Natural Man

Take a few minutes out of your busy schedule and examine your daily walk with Jesus.

Spiritual activities	Average time spent weekly
Prayer	_____
Reading and studying the Bible	_____
Memorization & Meditation	_____
Worship & family devotions	_____
Fellowshipping with believers	_____
Giving to and helping others	_____
Sharing the Gospel	_____
Being discipled	_____
Discipling others	_____
Total time serving YAHSHUA	_____

Worldly activities	Average time spent weekly
Watching TV & movies	_____
Internet	_____
Reading (secular books/magazines)	_____
Hobbies	_____
Recreation	_____
Attending sporting events	_____
Socializing (in person or by phone)	_____
Shopping	_____
Other non-spiritual activities	_____
Total time serving yourself	_____

If you spend more time in worldly activities than you do in spiritual ones you have a problem. You need to reset your priorities. Set aside a specific amount of time each day to pray, read the Bible, study the Bible, and memorize and meditate on Scripture.

Fellowship with the brethren is also important. Attending church services on Sunday and Wednesday is not enough fellowship to keep a believer spiritually healthy. Everyone needs fellowship more frequently. Seek out a home Bible study or start one yourself. The first believers of the Church Age fellowshiped every day:

Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2.46-47)

If you fail the Faith Test it could mean your confession of faith was not real. You may have made a profession of faith to please a loved one or because of an emotional high.

Saying a prayer does not save. Most people who recite a prayer that a televangelist or pastor leads them to say are not born again because they were not sincere. If there is no change in one's life their confession was not real.

A people who are truly born from above see a dramatic change in their life. They suddenly have a change in likes and dislikes. They have a desire to read and study the Bible. They desire to pray and fellowship with other believers. They also develop a love for the lost and share the Gospel with them as the Holy Spirit leads.

If you failed the Faith Test and you have a desire to know for certain that you are saved you should make a public profession of faith. Tell the pastor of the church you attend that you want to make a profession of faith before the brethren. Explain to the pastor that you thought you were saved, but realized there was no change in your life. Tell him you want to make certain that you are saved and you desire to make a public profession.

Once you have declared your trust in Jesus Christ before others set up a spiritual fitness program. Go back to Chapter Three.

We must remember that there will be billions of people come judgment day who thought they were saved, but were not:

*“Enter through the **narrow gate**; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the **gate is small** and the way is **narrow that leads to life**, and there are **few who find it.**”* (Matthew 7.13-14)

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**’”* (Matthew 7.21-23)

Some of the people who will be cast into the Lake of Fire will have truly sought to be saved, but they searched for salvation through the wrong door:

*“Strive to enter through the **narrow door**; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will **not be able.**”* (Luke 13.24)

Come judgment day there will be millions of Roman Catholics, Orthodox Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Seventh-day Adventists and Armstrongites who will be cast into the Lake of Fire. The overwhelming majority of them will think they were saved. They sought salvation through a false gospel (Galatians 1.6, 9).

There will also be millions of Protestants of all denominations who will join them. The vast majority of them will also think they were saved because they were a member of a church, they attended services regularly, they tithed and

pitched in whenever the church needed help. Yet they never had a personal relationship with Jesus and they never fellowshiped with them.

Judas was a disciple who looked like he was a very dedicated follower of Jesus. He was entrusted with the money bag and sat next to Jesus at the Last Supper (John 13.26). He also cast out demons, raised the dead and healed people when the twelve were sent out (Matthew 10.1, 7-8). Yet he betrayed Jesus for money and later hung himself (Matthew 27.3-5). He was never saved. He was a false believer and there have one of millions throughout the Church Age who departed from the faith for he never had faith (1 John 2.19).

A person can say a prayer, live a holy life, fall away and come back and always have been saved. Yet if one falls away and does not have a desire to come back that is strong evidence they never were truly saved. So-called “Christians” who live like the wicked are fooling themselves. No one can serve God and mammon (Matthew 6.24).

When a person trusts Jesus to save them from eternal punishment they become a new person:

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.** (2 Corinthians 5.17).*

Christians who claim to be born again, but live a life of sin are in grave danger of hellfire. If you have a besetting sin you need to overcome it by the power of the Holy Spirit:

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also **lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.** (Hebrews 12.1)*

If you overcome it that is a strong proof that you are born from above. If you do not overcome it that could be evidence that you are not saved.

THREE

HOW TO HUNT FOR HIDDEN TREASURE

The treasure that all believers should seek after every day of their lives is found in only one place – the Infallible, Holy Word of YAHWEH. If you truly want to find the greatest hidden treasure in the Cosmos spend as much time as you can in the Word every day. Look up every verse cited in this book and study it carefully.

Every believer should set up a Spiritual Fitness Program. Here the basic things a believer in must do to find the hidden treasure:

1. **Pray** (Deuteronomy 9.25-26; 1 Samuel 15.11; 1 Chronicles 16.11; Psalm 88.9; Proverbs 15.29; Isaiah 56.7; Matthew 5.44; 6.5-6; 7.7-11; 26.41; Luke 11.5-10; 18.1-8; John 14.13-14; 15.16; 16.24; Acts 1.14; 2.42; 4.31; 6.4; 1 Corinthians 7.5; Ephesians 6.18; Philippians 4.6; Colossians 4.2; 1 Thessalonians 5.17; 1 Timothy 2.1-2; 5.5; 2 Timothy 2.8; James 1.5; 1 Peter 3.7).
2. **Listen** to Scripture (Deuteronomy 4.10; Proverbs 8.34; 22.17; 23.12; Luke 8.15, 21; 11.28; James 1.22; Revelation 1.3).
3. **Read** Scripture (Deuteronomy 17.19; Isaiah 34.16; Revelation 1.3).

4. **Study** Scripture (Proverbs 2.1-5; 8.34; John 5.39; Acts 17.11; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 2.15).
5. **Memorize** Scripture (Deuteronomy 6.6; 11.18; 30.14; Psalm 37.31; 40.8; 119.11; Proverbs 2.1; 3.1, 3; 4.1, 21; 6.21; 22.18; Isaiah 51.7; Ezekiel 3.10; Romans 10.8; Colossians 3.16).
6. **Meditate** on Scripture (Joshua 1.8; Job 22.22; 23.12; Psalm 1.2; 4.4; 19.14; 63.6; 77.12; 104.34; 119.15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; 143.5; Colossians 3.16).
7. **Fellowship** with the brethren (Psalm 22.22; 119.63; Proverbs 13.20; Acts 2.42, 46-47; 5.42; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25; 1 John 1.7).
8. **Worship** YAHWEH with the brethren and privately (Deuteronomy 6.13; 26.10; 1 Chronicles 16.29; Psalm 2.11; 29.2; 96.9; 99.5, 9; 132.7; Jeremiah 7.2; Matthew 4.10; John 4.23-24; Romans 12.1; Philippians 3.3; Revelation 4.10; 14.17; 19.10; 22.9)
9. **Share the Gospel** (Psalm 9.1; 26.7; 35.28; 96.2; Proverbs 11.30; Mark 16.15; Acts 2.47; 1 Peter 3.15).
10. **Be disciplined** (Proverbs 1.8; 4.1; 6.20; Eph. 4.11-13).
11. **Make disciples** (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; 6.5-7; 11.18-19; 31.13; 32.46; Psalm 78.3-7; Proverbs 1.8; 4.1; 6.20; 22.6; Joel 1.3; Matt. 28.19-20; Ephesians 4.11-13; 6.4; 2 Timothy 2.2).

1. **PRAY:** Pray often for your family, friends, fellow employees, employer, church members, pastors, and city, state and federal politicians. Pray with your family daily and with church members on a regular basis. Begin and end each day in

prayer, and pray throughout the day. Pray that YAHWEH teach you each day as you study His word.

2. **LISTEN TO SCRIPTURE:** Play recordings of the Bible and listen to sermons and Bible studies every day.

3. **READ SCRIPTURE:** Make a reading program and stay with it. If you read three chapters a day in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament you will read the Bible through in one year. It is also important to read one chapter of Proverbs each day. It does not take more than a half-hour a day to read five chapters. If you watch TV have your Bible handy and read a chapter during commercial breaks. Anyone could read ten chapters a day by just taking a Bible break during commercials.

4. **STUDY SCRIPTURE:** Choose a book of the Bible or a topic to study, and stay with it until you finish it. Not every believer can study the Bible and understand it fully. This is why YAHWEH gave us teachers (Ephesians 4.11). Find a good Bible teacher and study under him.

5. **MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE:** Memorize key verses from both the Old and New Testaments.

6. **MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE:** Once you have a few verses memorized you can meditate on them any time of the day and wherever you are. Until then keep a pocket Bible or pocket New Testament handy. Keep a Bible and a few New Testaments in your car at all times for yourself and others. Get into the habit of giving out Bibles and pocket New Testaments.

7. **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE BRETHREN:** Become an active member of a church. Support the church with your time, talents, treasure and spiritual gifts. If you cannot find a real church meet with believers in a home.

8. **WORSHIP:** It is so important that there are more commands to worship YAHWEH than to pray, study the

Bible, memorize Scripture or meditate on the Word. Every believer should spend time each day worshipping YAHWEH. We worship Him by being silent and meditating on the blessings He has given you; by thanking and praising Him by rejoicing and singing.

9. **SHARE THE GOSPEL:** Once you learn how to share the Gospel be ready to do so 24/7. Be sensitive to the leading of the HOLY SPIRIT to share the Gospel. Carry tracts with you and hand them out as you are prompted by the HOLY SPIRIT. If the person(s) wants to talk – speak with them, but if they do not want to talk ask them to read the tract, and pray as you walk away. Keep a diary of your witnessing. When you lead someone to the Lord invite them to church and make sure they become an active member. If you are not mature enough to disciple them ask your pastor(s) to find someone to disciple them. YAHWEH will give you insights when you are in the field, insights He will never give you with your nose in the Word. Every believer should learn how to share the Gospel and then share it.

10. **BE DISCIPLED:** Find someone to disciple you or find a good book on discipleship such as *Make Disciples of all the Nations*. A believer who has been properly disciple will be given far more WUKD than one who has not.

11. **MAKE DISCIPLES:** Once you have been disciplined, start to disciple others. If you are a husband disciple your wife. If you are a father disciple your children. If you are a mother disciple your children with your husband. If you are single lead a person to the Lord and disciple him/her. Never disciple a person of the opposite sex unless you are engaged.

Prayer is a must when you search for hidden treasure. Only YAHWEH Elohim can give you wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment. A person can study the Bible for 100 years and not be given the WUKD if they are not saved or seeking it for their own glory. A true disciple wants WUKD so

he can bring more glory to YAHWEH not to himself (1 Corinthians 10.31).

True disciples do not obtain WUKD overnight. It takes many decades to absorb it and have the wisdom to know how to use it.

Pray in the morning, throughout the day and before you go to sleep. Set up a daily Bible reading program. Buy an audio copy of the Bible, and listen to it at home and in the car. Buy DVDs of accurate movies about the Bible and watch them often (*The Gospel of John, Peter and Paul, The Greatest Story Ever Told, King of Kings*, etc.). Memorize Scripture. If you memorize one verse a week you will have 52 verses memorized in one year. Meditate on Scripture and let the HOLY SPIRIT teach you. Learn how to share the gospel. Ask your pastor to train you, and then share your personal testimony and the gospel as the Lord leads.

Prayer program

Daily prayer is essential just as daily time in the Word is. Set aside three times each day to pray. Pray when you wake up during the middle of your day and before you go to sleep. Even if you set aside five minutes of prayer for these three times that is a good start. Add to that time as your needs and the needs of others grow.

Also pray throughout the day. Short prayers a few seconds long are vital to keeping your mind on the things above and not on the things of this world:

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*** (Colossians 3.1-2)

It is good to make a prayer list. List your needs, the needs of your family, friends, church members, pastors and others. Make a list of unsaved people to pray for their salvation. Keep the list with you and have it handy wherever you go.

Eventually you will memorize your prayer list, but keep it because you will need to update it from time-to-time. Keep a prayer journal listing the prayers that YAHWEH answered. Note the date of each answered prayer whether it was answered yes, no or wait.

Listening to Scripture program

Find pastors or Bible teachers who know the Scriptures and listen to their sermons or lessons weekly. Take time out of your busy day each day to listen to at least one message. If you can watch one or more television shows you can listen to one or more messages each day. The key to spiritual growth is putting more of the transforming Word of God in you than the philosophy of the world. All secular television shows and movies present philosophies of the world of Satan. Remember what Paul said about living for YAHWEH and not being conformed to the world:

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.** (Romans 12.1-2)*

If you can find decent movies about the Bible they are good to watch. Some of the best are: *The Gospel of John, Peter and Paul, The Greatest Story Ever Told, King of King, St. Paul.*

Scripture reading programs

There are dozens of reading programs that a believer can use to read through the Bible once a year. Here are just a few programs that will help you choose which program is right for you or help you make your own customized reading program.

Basic reading program

The most basic reading program that even a backslidden believer should follow daily is three chapters in the Old Testament and one chapter in the New Testament. Anything less than that is rebellion against God.

Wisdom reading program

Read one chapter a day in Proverbs and one in Psalms along with three other chapters in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament.

Advanced wisdom reading program

Read five chapters in Psalms each day plus one chapter in Proverbs and one chapter in Ecclesiastes along with three other chapters in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament.

Super advanced reading program

Read one chapter of Proverbs and chapter each day from the following divisions of the Bible:

1. Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy).
2. Historical books (Joshua – Esther).
3. Poetical books (Job – Song of Solomon).
4. Major prophets (Isaiah – Ezekiel).
5. Minor prophets (Daniel – Malachi).
6. Gospels & Acts.
7. Pauline Epistles (Romans – Hebrews).
8. General Epistles & Revelation (James – Revelation).

This reading program is 9 chapters per day. It may seem like it is a lot of reading, but it is well worth it. Since there are 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 in the New

Testament you will read the OT through twice, the New Testament about four times and Proverbs 12 times each year.

Grace Mercy Discipleship Institute reading program

Read one chapter of Proverbs and two chapters each day from the following divisions of the Bible:

1. Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy).
2. Historical books (Joshua – Esther).
3. Poetical books (Job – Song of Solomon).
4. Major prophets (Isaiah – Ezekiel).
5. Minor prophets (Daniel – Malachi).
6. Gospels & Acts.
7. Pauline Epistles (Romans – Hebrews).
8. General Epistles & Revelation (James – Revelation).

This reading program is 17 chapters per day. It may seem like it is a lot of reading, but it is necessary. Since there are 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 in the New Testament you will read the OT through about four times, the New Testament more than 8.4 times and Proverbs 12 times each year.

Grace Mercy Discipleship Institute advanced reading program

Read five chapters of Psalms, one chapter of Proverbs, one chapter in Ecclesiastes and two chapters each day from the following divisions of the Bible:

1. Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy).
2. Historical/poetical books (Joshua – Esther plus Job and Song of Solomon).
3. Major prophets (Isaiah – Ezekiel).
4. Minor prophets (Daniel – Malachi).

5. Gospels & Acts.
6. Pauline Epistles (Romans – Hebrews).
7. General Epistles & Revelation (James – Revelation).

This reading program is 17 chapters per day. You will read the OT through about four times, the New Testament more than 8.4 times, Psalms 12 times and Proverbs 12 times each year.

Grace Mercy Discipleship Institute super advanced reading program

Read five chapters of Psalms, one chapter of Proverbs, one chapter in Ecclesiastes and three chapters each day from the following divisions of the Bible:

1. Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy).
2. Historical/poetical books (Joshua – Esther plus Job and Song of Solomon).
3. Major prophets (Isaiah – Ezekiel).
4. Minor prophets (Daniel – Malachi).
5. Gospels & Acts.
6. Pauline Epistles (Romans – Hebrews).
7. General Epistles & Revelation (James – Revelation).

This reading program is 28 chapters per day. You will read the OT through about 6 times, the New Testament nearly 13 times, Psalms and Proverbs 12 times and Ecclesiastes 30 times each year.

Bible study program

Very few believers systematically study through the Bible. Most pastors do not bother to. Instead they do topical studies for sermons.

It is extremely important for every believer to study through the Bible book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter and

verse-by-verse. If you do not know how to study a book learn how or find a study book on that book of the Bible.

Here are some sample study programs that you will want to give consideration to.

Basic study program

Study the following books in the order listed:

1. General Letters (James-Jude).
2. Gospels and Acts (Matthew-Acts).
3. Letters of Paul.
4. Revelation.
5. Proverbs.
6. Ecclesiastes.
7. Psalms.
8. Historical books (Joshua-Esther).
9. Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy).
10. Minor prophets (Hosea-Malachi).
11. Major prophets (Isaiah –Daniel).
12. Song of Solomon.

You may not finish all the books of the Bible, but keep studying through them until the Rapture or until you are called home.

Advanced study program

In this program you study one book in the O.T. and one in the N.T. at the same time:

1. General Letters (James-Jude) & Proverbs, Ecclesiastes.
2. Gospels-Acts & Psalms, Song Solomon.
3. Letters of Paul & Historical books (Joshua-Esther).
4. Revelation & Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy).
5. Minor prophets (Hosea-Malachi) & Major prophets (Isaiah –Daniel).

Since there are 12 more books in the O.T. as the N.T. you will study through the minor and major prophets at the same time. For a crash course on studying the Bible go to Appendix D.

Scripture memorization program

There are numerous Scripture memory programs. We will list just a few to give you some ideas.

Gospel presentation

Every believer should be able to share the Gospel by quoting the basic Gospel verses. Here are those verses in the order you should use them when sharing the Gospel:

Romans 3.23, Hebrews 9.27; Matthew 25.46; Mark 8.36-37; Romans 6.23; Romans 5.8; John 14.6; Acts 4.12; Ephesians 2.8-9; Romans 10.9-10; Romans 10.13; John 1.12.

Topical program

Memorizing Scriptures that focus on specific topics is always edifying. Pick the topics and verses you think will help you the most in your spiritual walk. Just choose a few verses from each topic. Here are some topics to consider:

1. Eternal security – John 5.24; 6.37; 10.27-29; 20.31; 1 John 5.10-13.
2. Love – Romans 12.9; 1 Cor. 13.1-13; 1 John 3.16-18
3. Peace – Philippians 4.7.
4. Humility – Romans 12.16; Philippians 2.1-5; James 4.6-10.

5. Holiness/Sanctification – Psalm 119.11; Proverbs 8.13; Romans 3.3-5; 12.1-2; 1 Corinthians 10.31; 2 Corinthians 6.14-18; Galatians 5.13-26; Philippians 3.7-10; James 1.2-5; 1.12-17; 2.1-8; 4.1-10; 1 Peter 1 Peter 1.13-19; 2.15-16; 1 Peter 2.11-21; 1 Peter 4.1-4; 2 Peter 1.5-11; 1 John 2.15-17.
6. Prayer – Matthew 7.7; John 14.13-14; 1 John 3.22; 5.14.
7. Blessed hope – 1 Thessalonians 4.16-18; Titus 2.13; 1 John 3.2-3.
8. Prosperity – Psalm 1.
9. Protection – Psalm 23.
10. Spiritual warfare – Ephesians 6.10-18.
11. Strength – Isaiah 40.29-31; Eph. 3.16; Phil. 4.13.
12. Sufficiency – Philippians 4.19.
13. Temptation – 1 Corinthians 10.13.
14. Tongue – James 3.1-18.

Chapter program

Once you have memorized the Gospel verses and a few dozen topical verses you may want to try to memorize entire chapters. Here are some key chapters you should consider memorizing:

1. Psalm 1.
2. Psalm 23.
3. Isaiah 53 (begin with 52.13).
4. Matthew 5-7.
5. John 14-17.
6. 1 Corinthians 13.
7. James 3.
8. 1 John 1.
9. Revelation 21-22.

Book program

Once you have mastered the Gospel passages, key topical verses and a few chapters you can start with memorizing entire books. Here are some books to consider memorizing:

1. James.
2. 1 Peter.
3. 2 Peter.
4. 1 John.
5. 2 John.
6. 3 John.
7. Jude.

Fellowship with the brethren

Daily fellowship with fellow believers is important for spiritual growth and regular fellowship is essential. In today's fast-paced world it is extremely hard to have daily fellowship with the brethren, but it is possible.

Couples fellowship

If you are a husband married to a sister in the Lord it is your spiritual duty to have daily worship, devotions, prayer and Bible study with your wife:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the

church, because we are members of His body.
(Ephesians 5.25-30)

YAHSHUA is working to sanctify His Bride (true believers). Sanctification means to set apart, purify and consecrate. He is doing this through His Word. It is the Word of YAHWEH that cleanses believers for service. No true believer can be prepared for service to YAHWEH without spending thousands of hours in serious Bible reading, study, memorization and meditation. Every believer can serve YAHWEH the day he is saved, but one's spiritual abilities are not 1 given to him at the moment he is saved. Spiritual growth takes time.

Joseph was 17 when he was sold into slavery (Genesis 37.2). He was a slave of Potiphar for about **11 years and then 2 years in prison** (Genesis 41.1, 46) before he began his work of preserving the Hebrew people

Moses spent 40 years in the land of Midian before he led the Hebrew people out of bondage to the Promised Land (Acts 7.30).

David spent about 8 years running from King Saul before he became king.

Paul served YAHWEH for the first four years after being saved on the road to Damascus (Acts 9.1-19). Yet he **spent 3 years in Arabia** (Galatians 1.17) before going to Jerusalem (Acts 9.26-29; Galatians 1.18) and then returning to his home in Tarsus. He **stayed there for 8 years before** beginning his first missionary journey traveling with Barnabas to Antioch (Acts 9.30). He had 11 years of training before setting off on his missionary journeys which turned the world upside down.

The more time you spend in prayer and in the Word the sooner YAHWEH will use you for His glory. If you spend very little time in prayer and the Word He will use you in a very limited way.

Family fellowship

If you are a father married to a sister in the Lord it is your spiritual duty to have daily worship, devotions, prayer and Bible study with your wife and children:

*“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall **teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.**” (Deuteronomy 6.5-7)*

*“You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall **teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.**” (Deuteronomy 11.18-19)*

*He said to them, “Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, **which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law.**” (Deuteronomy 32.46)*

*“Which we have heard and known, And **our fathers have told us. We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children, That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children, That they should***

put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments.” (Psalm 78.3-7)

Tell your sons about it, And let your sons tell their sons, And their sons the next generation. (Joel 1.3)

Any husband or father who does not have daily worship, devotions, prayer, Bible study with his family is living in an extreme backslidden condition. All fathers are commanded to teach their children Scripture every day of their lives as we just saw.

Singles fellowship

Without regular fellowship all believers will eventually stray from the Lord. This is why we must seek out fellowship in church and at home.

It is difficult for single believers who do not live in a home with other believers to have daily fellowship. If they can find a few brothers or sisters who are dedicated to daily fellowship that is what they should seek out. If they cannot fellowship daily they should try to fellowship as often as possible.

Every believer who can invite the brethren to the home he or she lives in to pray, worship and study the Bible should do so as often as possible. Do not have them over so often that the unsaved people you live with grow weary of it. Use some discretion.

Every church should have a ministry in which it provides rooms for single men in houses and the same for single women. One of the first things every church should do is buy houses for the pastors, singles and widows. It is a serious sin for a church to not buy homes for members to rent out at the lowest rent possible. Every excess penny that is given to the church should go to purchasing homes to rent to members.

Single men and women in the Lord, remember that you should spend as much time with dedicated brothers and sisters as possible:

*I am a companion of all those who fear You, And of those who **keep Your precepts.** (Psalm 119.63)*

***He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.** (Proverbs 13.20)*

Corporate fellowship

Corporate fellowship is also extremely important for spiritual growth. Every church should have prayer meetings, Bible studies, worship services every day of the week – not just on Sunday and Wednesday. Small churches may not be able to do this, but they should work toward that goal. Meditate on these passages:

*I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the **midst of the assembly** I will praise You. (Psalm 22.22)*

*Then those who feared the LORD **spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.** (Malachi 3.16)*

***They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.** (Acts 2.42)*

***Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.** (Acts 2.46-47)*

*And **every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.** (Acts 5.42)*

On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. (Acts 20.7-11)

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3.13)

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10.24-25)

But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1.7)

Worship

Private and family worship of YAHWEH is an aspect of a believer's walk that few know about and fewer still practice. Most believers go to church services and worship YAHWEH (corporate worship), but virtually none worship Him in the privacy of their home or alone in the outdoors.

David knew how important it was to worship YAHWEH every day and he did:

My mouth is filled with Your praise And with Your glory all day long. (Psalm 71.8)

Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. (Psalm 145.2)

Worship is important to spiritual health and growth. Believers who do not spend time in worship of their Lord and Savior each day become unloving, cold, mechanical and arrogant. They eventually believe they are more important than the average believer and stand aloof from them rarely fellowshiping with them. In America today this is true of most pastors, evangelists, teachers in Bible colleges and seminaries, and theologians. It is true of all mega-pastors, televangelists and mega-ministry CEOs.

Every believer should spend time each day worshipping YAHWEH. How do we do that? Here are some things you can do to worship YAHWEH:

1. **Be silent and meditate on the blessings He has given you** (Psalm 4.4).
2. **Thank Him** (Leviticus 7.12; 1 Chronicles 16.8; Nehemiah 12.8; Psalm 9.1; 50.14, 23; 116.17; 118.1; Isaiah 12.1; 25.1; Jeremiah 17.26; Jonah 2.9; Philippians 4.6; Colossians 4.2).
3. **Praise Him** (Judges 5.3; Psalm 30.1; 95.2; 2 Chron. 7.3; Psalm 22.23; 30.4; 34.1; 66.8; 67.3; 74.21; 99.3; 100.4; 106.1; 112.1; 113.1; 117.1; 119.164; 117.1; 135.1, 3; 145.2; 147.12; 148.1-7, 13; 150.1-6; Matt. 11.25; Rom. 15.11; Heb. 13.15; Rev. 19.5).
4. **Rejoice** (Leviticus 23.40; Deuteronomy 12.7, 12, 18; 14.26; 16.11; 32.43; Psalm 2.11; 32.11; 89.16; Matthew 5.12; Luke 10.20; John 4.36; Romans 12.15; 15.10; 2 Corinthians 13.11; Philippians 3.1; 4.4; 1 Thessalonians 5.16).
5. **Sing** (1 Chronicles 16.9, 23; Nehemiah 12.8, 27, 46; Psalm 9.11; 18.49; 30.4; 33.1-3; 47.6-7; 66.2; 68.4, 32; 69.30; 81.1; 96.1-2; 98.1, 4-5; 105.2; 107.22;

- 135.3; 138.1; 147.1, 7; 149.1, 3; Isaiah 12.5; 42.10; Jeremiah 20.13; 31.7; Romans 15.9; James 5.13).
6. **Read Scripture** (Deuteronomy 17.19; Isaiah 34.16; Revelation 1.3).
 7. **Serve YAHWEH** (Exodus 23.25; Deuteronomy 10.12; Romans 12.1; Hebrews 12.28)
 8. **Serve others** (Mark 10.43-45; Luke 10.27-37; John 13.14; Galatians 6.2, 10;)

Study these passages concerning worship and see for yourself how important it is for every believer to worship YAHWEH privately and with the brethren:

Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling. (Psalm 2.11)

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in holy array. (Psalm 29.2)

Worship the LORD in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth. (Psalm 96.9)

Exalt the LORD our God And worship at His footstool; Holy is He. (Psalm 99.5)

Exalt the LORD our God And worship at His holy hill, For holy is the LORD our God. (Psalm 99.9)

Let us go into His dwelling place; Let us worship at His footstool. (Psalm 132.7)

“Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house and proclaim there this word and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah, who enter by these gates to worship the LORD!’” (Jeremiah 7.2)

Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’” (Matthew 4.10)

*“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for such people the Father seeks to be **His worshipers**. God is spirit, and **those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth**.”* (John 4.23-24)

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is **your spiritual service of worship**.* (Romans 12.1)

*For we are the true circumcision, **who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh**.* (Philippians 3.3)

*The twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and **will worship Him** who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”* (Revelation 4.10)

*And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; **worship Him** who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.”* (Revelation 14.7)

*Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; **worship God**. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”* (Revelation 19.10)

FOUR

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR TREASURE

Wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment from YAHWEH is worth more than the entire Cosmos. Once YAHWEH Elohim begin to download Their infinite WKUD into your soul you are to use that infinite treasure for Their glory.

Grow in wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment

We always grow in WUKD because we are finite. No one can ever have all the WUKD of YAHWEH. Therefore we must continue to pray for WUKD and study the Word until we are beamed up to New Jerusalem.

1.5 The wise hears and increases learning and understanding, and he gets wise counsel.

7.1 My son, keep my words and treasure my commandments.

7.2 Keep my commandments and live, and my teaching as the pupil of your eyes.

7.3 **Tie them on your fingers, and write them on the tablet of your heart.**

7.4 **Say to wisdom you are my sister, and call understanding a kinsman**

8.33 **Hear instruction and be wise and do not ignore it.**

9.6 **“Forsake the simple and live and walk in the way of understanding.”**

10.14 The **wise store up knowledge**, but *with* the fool’s mouth ruin is near.

13.1 **A wise son hears his father’s instruction**, but a scorner does not hear rebuke.

12.15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but the **one who listens to counsel is wise.**

13.1 **A wise son hears his father’s instruction**, but a scorner does not hear rebuke.

18.15 The heart of the prudent gets knowledge, and the ear of the **wise** seeks knowledge.

22.17 Stretch your ear and hear the **words of the wise** and apply your heart to my knowledge.

23.12 Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to the words of **knowledge.**

Benefits of receiving WUKD

1.3 In so doing he **will be able to understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles**

3.1 My son, do not forget my teaching. Let your heart guard my commands,

3.2 For they will **add long life and peace to you.**

3.4 You will **find good favor and wisdom** in the sight of Elohim and man.

3.21 My son, do not let them depart from your eyes. Keep sound wisdom and discretion,

3.22 For they **will be life to your soul and grace to your neck.**

3.23 Then you **will walk in safety along your way, and you will not stumble.**

3.24 When you sleep you **will not fear and it will be sweet.**

4.5 “Get wisdom and get understanding. Do not forget and do not stray away from the words of my mouth.

4.6 “Do not forsake her and **she will keep you.** Love her and **she will guard you.**

4.7 “The first thing is wisdom. Get wisdom, and with all of your getting get understanding.

4.8 “Exalt her and **she will lift you up. She will honor you when you embrace her.**

4.9 “She will be like a wreath of grace on your head, a crown of glory and a shield.”

4.10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings for it will **lengthen the days of your life.**

4.11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom. I have made you walk in the paths of uprightness.

4.12 As you go **your steps will not be narrowed,** and when you run you **will not stumble.**

4.13 Take hold of instruction and do not let go. Keep her for **she is your life.**

13.14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life to **depart from the snares of life.**

13.20 **He who walks with the wise will be wise**, but a friend of fools suffers evil.

14.8 The **wisdom of the astute guides his way**, but the folly of fools is deceit.

14.16 The **wise fears and turns from evil**, but the foolish passes over and is bold.

19.8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul, and he who keeps **understanding** finds good.

19.20 **Listen to counsel and accept discipline that you may be wise in your later years.**

19.27 Cease, my son, to listen to discipline and you will **stray from the words of knowledge.**

24.5 A wise warrior has strength, and **a man of knowledge increases his strength.**

28.7 He **who keeps the law** *is* a wise son, but a friend of gluttons shames his father.

What we should do with our WUKD

9.8 Do not reprove a scorner lest he hate you. **Reprove a wise man and he will love you.**

9.9 **Give to a wise man and he will be wiser. Teach a just man, and he will add to his learning.**

11.30 The fruit of the just is a tree of life, and one who **wins souls** is wise.

12.18 There is rash speaking like the thrusts of a sword,
but the **tongue of the wise is healing.**

15.7 The **lips of the wise scatter knowledge**, but the
heart of fools is not so.

21.22 A **wise man** scales the city of the mighty, and
conquers the force that it trusts in.

24.6 You will **make war for yourself** with wise advice,
and **deliverance is by great counselors.**

28.11 A rich man *is* wise in his own eyes, but **the
discerning weak examines him.**

29.8 Men of scorn rage against a city, but **the wise turn
away anger.**

29.11 A fool reveals everything about himself, but the
wise is quiet and holds back.

The reason YAHWEH Elohim give any of us WUKD is so
we can use it to lead others to a saving knowledge of
YAHSHUA Messiah and then help them grow in grace so
they can lead others to the Lord. This is called discipleship.

Take the WUKD that you have been given and use it to
bring glory to YAHWEH.



MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS

This book is designed to assist believer's grow in grace from a newborn baby in the Lord to a pastor. Not every believer will need to be discipled to be a pastor, but that training is available in this book. It is not a study book designed to indoctrinate the reader into the dogmas of a specific denomination or church. It only helps the reader study the Bible inside and out and to burn the Scriptures into his soul. This workbook can be used by any and all denominations and churches.

To order your copy of *Make Disciples of all the Nations* email – dovbooks@yahoo.com

FIVE

HELP OTHERS SEEK AFTER HIDDEN TREASURE

Now that you see the importance of daily searching for the most valuable treasure in the universe start digging. After you have been digging for a few months or so start sharing the truth you have found and teach others how to dig for hidden treasure.

Evangelism

If you have not been blessed with ready available disciples – children, grandchildren, roommates, neighbors, etc. – you need to lead others to the Lord and then disciple them. One of the most important parts of discipleship is learning how to present the Gospel and then doing it.

Every believer is commanded to know how to share the Gospel and to do so when someone asks them about their faith:

But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. (1 Peter 3.15)

If you do not know how to present the Gospel go to Appendix A. Study the presentation of the Gospel and memorize all of the verses. Practice sharing the Gospel with a brother or sister until you can do it in a clear and concise manner. Once you can quote all of the Gospel verses and know how to present the Gospel go out with a brother or sister who has street experience. If the church you attend does not have a evangelism training program beg your pastors to start one. If they refuse you may pray about finding a church that has solid discipleship and evangelism programs.

Discipleship

Helping others search for hidden treasure is discipleship. Yet before you can disciple others you must be discipled. Whether you are married, have children or are single every believer needs to be discipled so you can disciple others.

Be discipled

Every believer should be discipled whether it is by their parents, through a church program, by a brother or sister, by completing a discipleship workbook or through your own study of Scripture. One of the most important duties of pastors is to disciple all members:

*And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for **the equipping of the saints for the work of service**, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4.11-13)*

If your church does not have a discipleship program beg the pastors to start one. If they refuse for whatever reason you may want to consider becoming a member of a church that has a discipleship program.

Parents

All fathers are commanded to disciple their children (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; 6.5-7; 11.18-19; 32.46; Psalm 78.3-7; Joel 1.3) and mothers should assist fathers in discipling their children:

*Hear, my son, your father's instruction **And do not forsake your mother's teaching.*** (Proverbs 1.8)

*My son, observe the commandment of your father **And do not forsake the teaching of your mother.*** (Proverbs 6.20)

. Fathers and mothers need to be disciplined so they can disciple their children. If the church you attend does not have a discipleship program and if you cannot find someone to disciple you, you must be disciplined by the HOLY SPIRIT (1 John 2.27). A good discipleship book can help you in that endeavor.

Couples and singles

All couples should be disciple so they will be able to disciple their children if the Lord blesses them. Singles should also be disciplined because they most likely will marry and have children. Even if you are an avowed bachelor or bachelorette you should be disciplined so you can disciple other singles. Every believer has been commissioned to make disciples not just the apostles (Matthew 28.19-20).

Before, while and after you are disciplined you should be recruiting brothers and sisters in the Lord to join you. Once you have been trained to lead a Bible study start one and let the Lord minister through you.

Recruiting others to become disciples can be difficult since we are living in the apostasy of the last days (2 Timothy 4.3-4). Be an example and when the Lord leads you to someone or someone to you who wants to grow in the Lord help him. Be ready at all times to help others grow.

Make disciples

All parents should disciple their children. Their most important spiritual duty is discipling their children:

*“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but **make them known to your sons and your grandsons**. Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, ‘Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’” (Deuteronomy 4.9-10)*

*“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall **teach them diligently to your sons** and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” (Deuteronomy 6.5-7)*

*“You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You **shall teach them to your sons**,*

talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.” (Deuteronomy 11.18-19)

*He said to them, “Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, **which you shall command your sons to observe carefully**, even all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 32.46)*

“Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children, That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children, That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments.” (Psalm 78.3-7)

Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22.6)

Tell your sons about it, And let your sons tell their sons, And their sons the next generation. (Joel 1.3)

Single believers or married couples without children should also know how to disciple others and then do it. As previously noted all believers have been commissioned to make disciples:

*“Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28.19-20)*

If you have not been discipled or know how to disciple others get your copy of ***Make Disciples of All the Nations***.



JAMES: BIBLE SENSE TO LIVE BY

This commentary and workbook on James is designed to stimulate the reader's desire to study the book of James and apply the myriad truths on holy living to their life.

To order your copy of *James: Bible Sense to Live By* email – dovbooks@yahoo.com

AFTERWORD

Start digging for eternal treasure and see how it can change your life. Remember this vitally important truth:

Everything you do for yourself will be forgotten forever and you will have no rewards for those works.

Everything you do for the glory of YAHWEH will be remembered forever and you will have eternal rewards for those works.

What is more important to you?

Spending your life grabbing all you can for yourself and have nothing in the eternal life to come.

Or

Spending your life giving to the Lord and everyone else and have untold eternal rewards.

Consider these truths:

If you desire to be great in this life you will most likely be poor in the life to come.

If you desire to be great in the life to come you must be poor in spirit in this life.

Study these verses carefully and then make your decision:

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34.18)

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. (Psalm 51.17)

For though the LORD is exalted, Yet He regards the lowly, But the haughty He knows from afar. (Psalm 138.6)

“For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being,” declares the LORD. “But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.” (Isaiah 66.2)

For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite. (Isaiah 57.15)

He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6.8)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5.3)

Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did

not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10.42-45)

*But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “**GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**” (James 4.6)*

***Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.** (James 4.10)*

*“You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**” (1 Peter 5.5)*

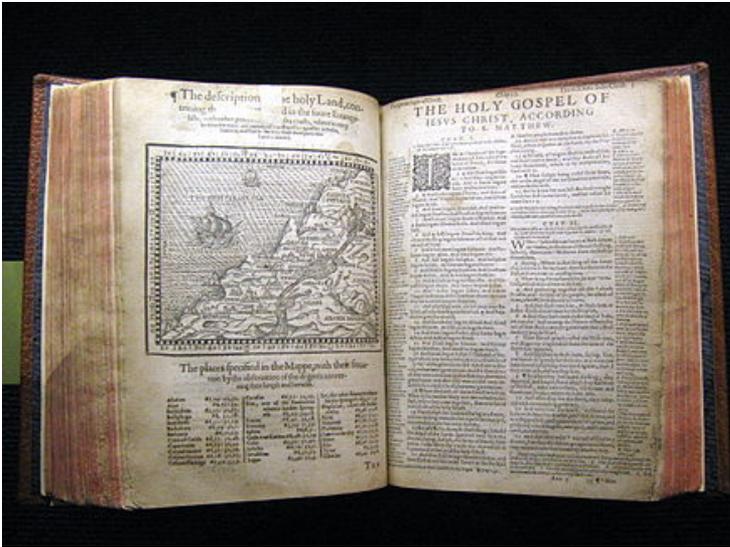
Those who are “*poor in spirit*” are humble. Humility is one of the most important qualities a believer can have along with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, giving, loyalty, endurance, inner peace (1 Corinthians 13.13; Galatians 5.22-23).

James and Peter both quoted from Proverbs 3.34:

Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.

The Hebrews actually reads, “*He scorns the scorers, yet He gives grace to the lowly.*” The New American Standard translation is not very far off for most poor people and those who are poor in spirit (humble) are afflicted by the rich.

Once you find the hidden treasure that is worth more than the entire universe – wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment – the key to using it is humility. Until you are truly humble YAHWEH will not use you for His glory. Study Appendix E carefully and then read the book, *How to be Humble*, from Grace Mercy Ministry.



BELIEVER'S SOAP

Believer's Soap is a book for believers in YAHSHUA Messiah who want to be spiritually clean when they go out into the world.

What is a believer's soap? Believers stay clean by daily prayer, study of the Scriptures, fellowship with the brethren, worship of YAHWEH and discipleship.

To learn how to get spiritually clean and stay clean order your copy of *Believer's Soap*. Email the DOV Book Shoppe – dovbooks@yahoo.com

GLOSSARY

Angels – Created beings who serve YAHWEH and believers (Hebrews 1.14). One-third of them joined Satan in his rebellion (Revelation 12.4). They are called “fallen angels.”

Apostasy – The turning away by the Church from the faith and biblical doctrines to a false faith and false doctrines (2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 4.3-4). It started in the first half of the 19th Century with the rise of the American cults – Seventh-Day Adventism, Mormon Corporation, Watch Tower Society, and it will continue until the Rapture.

Apostles – The eleven Disciples (Judas Iscariot not included) plus Paul, who YAHSHUA chose to preach the Gospel (Matthew 28.19-20; Acts 1.8) to the world and to build His Church (Ephesians 4.11-13). There are no apostles today.

Believers – Those who believe in YAHSHUA of Nazareth as the Messiah and the Savior of mankind. They trust in Him alone and His work on the cross to save them. They live a holy life for YAHSHUA. All believers are Christians, but not all Christians are believers.

Bible – The infallible, holy word of YAHWEH. It contains all the information that every believer needs to live his life for the Lord YAHSHUA Messiah (2 Timothy 3.16). It contains hundreds of prophecies that have been fulfilled in a literal manner. It also contains more prophecies which will be fulfilled prior to the Rapture. Those prophecies are the warning signs that we must all look for.

Christians – Those who claim to be followers of YAHSHUA. Not everyone who calls himself a Christian is truly born from above. YAHSHUA said that come judgment day some people who thought they were saved and serving Him will be turned away into Hell (Matthew 7.21-23).

Church – The body of YAHSHUA Messiah which consists of all true believers in YAHSHUA (1 Corinthians 12.27; Ephesians 4.12).

Demons – They are the spirits of the angelmen who died in the universal flood of Noah's day. Several hundred years before the universal flood that destroyed all air breathing life on Earth, a select group of fallen angels mated with women who gave birth to angelmen. They were far superior to man and dominated them leading them into every evil imaginable. YAHWEH created the universal flood to specifically destroy them. Once they were killed in the flood their spirits were permitted to roam the planet and take possession of people who were not chosen to be saved. They can also possess animals (Matthew 8.28-32).

Devil – See **Satan**.

Disciples – The 12 men that YAHSHUA chose (Luke 6.14-16) to train so they could build His Church after His ascension. They became the Apostles except for Judas Iscariot, who betrayed YAHSHUA and committed suicide. Paul was chosen by YAHSHUA (Acts 9.1-16) to replace him as the twelfth Apostle.

Gospel – The “good news” that YAHSHUA Messiah, the Son of YAHWEH, died to save mankind.

Great White Throne Judgment – It is a final judgment in which those who are waiting in Hell to be judged are brought before YAHWEH and YAHSHUA. They are judged for every sin they committed in their life from birth until death. They

are forced to give an account of every sin they committed by thought (Romans 2.16), word (Matthew 12.36), deed (Proverbs 24.12; Romans 2.6; Revelation 20.12) and motive (Proverbs 24.12; Romans 2.16). They will be found guilty of every sin they committed and a level of pain will be assigned to them. The pain receptors of their immortal body will be set at a specific level. They will endure that level of pain for ALL ETERNITY!

Hell – The place, in the heart of the Earth (Matthew 12.40), where people who die in their sins go (Luke 19.16-31), to await judgment at the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20.13-14).

HOLY SPIRIT – He is the Third Person of the Trinity who is fully God by Himself. He is equal to the Father and the Son in all ways.

Jesus Christ – See **YAHSHUA Messiah**.

Lamb of YAHWEH – The Lamb of YAHWEH and the Lamb are names and descriptions of YAHSHUA Messiah. Yochanan the Baptizer called YAHSHUA the Lamb of YAHWEH (John 1.29, 36). The Apostle of John also called YAHSHUA the Lamb (Revelation 6.16). YAHSHUA died for the sins of the elect. He is the Passover Lamb who died for the elect, cleansing them of their sins by His blood (Romans 3.25; 1 Corinthians 6.20; Ephesians 1.7; Colossians 1.20; Hebrews 9.12, 14; 10.19, 29; 13.20; 1 John 1.7; Revelation 1.5; 5.9).

Lake of Fire – The final abode of Satan and the fallen angels (Matthew 25.41; Revelation 20.10). The demons (Genesis 6.4) and genetically engineered demonic creatures (Revelation 9.3, 17) will also be punished there through all eternity. It is also the final abode of everyone who dies in their sins without trusting YAHSHUA Messiah to save them (Revelation 20.11-15). Everyone who is cast into that place of punishment (Proverbs 10.16; Matthew 25.46) has NO hope of parole,

pardon or escape for ALL ETERNITY! They will be punished with fire (Psalm 11.6; 140.10; Revelation 14.10), burning sulfur (brimstone) (Psalm 11.6; Revelation 14.10), burning coals (Psalm 11.6; 140.10; Proverbs 25.22; Romans 12.20), burning wind (Psalm 11.6), smoke (Revelation 14.11), extreme heat (Luke 16.24), unquenchable thirst (Luke 16.24), immortal maggots (Mark 9.44, 46, 48), deafening screams of billions of other damned people, and eternally fighting with each other, the demons, the genetically engineered demonic creatures, the fallen angels and Satan.

Millennial Kingdom – The period of time that begins with the Second Coming of YAHSHUA Messiah and ends after 1,000 years (Revelation 20.1-10). It is also called the Millennium. The major passages describing that age are – Isaiah 4.1-6; 11.6-10; 25.6-7; 60.1-9; 61.3-11; 62.1-9; 65.17-25; 66.22-24; Jeremiah 23.3-8; 30.18-22; 33.6-18; Ezekiel 40-48; Joel 3, 18-21; Micah 4.1-8; Zephaniah 3.9-13; Zechariah 14.9-11, 16-21.

Pentecost – The official day that the Church began (Acts 2.1). On that day 120 believers in YAHSHUA Messiah gathered to pray (Acts 1.12-15). The HOLY SPIRIT came and took up residence inside of them (Acts 2.1-4). The Disciples then went out and preached the Gospel (Acts 2.5-13). Peter gave the concluding sermon (Acts 2.14-40) and about three thousand people were saved on that glorious day (Acts 2.41).

Rapture – The taking away of all believers in YAHSHUA Messiah from Earth (1 Thessalonians 4.16-17).

Satan – He was the highest-ranking angel who led a rebellion among the angels of Heaven taking one-third of them with him (Revelation 12.4). He is the ruler (John 12.31) and the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4.4). He is also the leader of all the forces of darkness (Ephesians 6.12). He has been and will be defeated by YAHSHUA Messiah and eventually be cast into the Lake of Fire where he will be tortured through ALL eternity

along with the angels he led astray, the demons (Genesis 6.4), his genetically engineered demonic creatures (Revelation 9.3, 17) and the billions of people he led astray.

Second Advent – The physical return of YAHSHUA Messiah to judge the wicked and reward the righteous (Revelation 19.11-21). After He judges the wicked and rewards the righteous (Matthew 25.31-46) He will establish the Millennial Kingdom. It is also referred to as the Second Coming and the Glorious Appearing.

Sin – It is any thought, word, deed or motive that violates a command of YAHWEH. Very young children commit sins on a daily basis even though they do not know what sin is. When a child reaches the age of understanding what sin is they continue to commit sins because they have a sin nature. ALL babies are conceived in sin and born in sin (Psalm 51.5) and they ALL go astray from birth (Psalm 58.3). Everyone sins on a daily basis until death (1 John 1.8-10). EVERYONE who dies in their sins goes to Hell and at the end of the Millennial Kingdom they are judge at the Great White Throne Judgment, they are found guilty and they are cast into the Lake of Fire where they are punished for ALL ETERNITY for their sins!

Trinity – It consists of God the Father, God the Son and God the HOLY SPIRIT. Each God is fully God and equal to each other in all ways. Each is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all-knowing) and omnipresent (present everywhere). Together They created and rule the Cosmos. They are ALWAYS in full agreement with each other in ALL things – in thought, word, deed and motive. They are THREE Gods who think, speak and act as if They are ONE God.

The TRUTH that each member of the Trinity is fully God apart from each other is PROVEN by the declaration Moses made, “*Hear, O Yisrael, YAHWEH our Elohim. YAHWEH united*” (Deuteronomy 6.4). Elohim is the plural form of God (3 or more) and is translated Gods. If we insert verbs it would read, “*Hear, O Yisrael, YAHWEH [are] our Gods. YAHWEH*

[are] *united*.” The Hebrew word *echad* means unity or united. One God or one person cannot be united! Only two or more can be united as YAHSHUA said about a man and a woman (Genesis 2.24; Ephesians 5.31). The truth of the Trinity is: Three Gods who are equal in all ways with each other who are always united in thought, word, deed and motive and are in all practical ways one God!

YAHSHUA Messiah – The Son of YAHWEH and the Messiah who died for the sins of the elect. He will return to Earth sometime in the 21st Century to slay the wicked, reward the righteous and establish His Millennial Kingdom.

YAHWEH – God the Father who created the Cosmos along with YAHSHUA Messiah (God the Son) and God the HOLY SPIRIT. He is equal in ALL aspects with God the Son and God the HOLY SPIRIT.

YAHWEH Elohim – God the Father, God the Son and God the HOLY SPIRIT are YAHWEH Elohim. These three separate Gods are equal in ALL aspects with each other. They are THREE Gods who think, speak and act as if They are ONE God.

APPENDIX A

THE GLAD TIDINGS

The most important question any person can ever ask is, “Where will I spend eternity.” The Creator of the universe said there are only two places where a person can go when he dies – Heaven or Hell.

Everyone is a sinner in need of salvation:

For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.
(Romans 3.23)

Those who die in their sins will be judged and suffer punishment in the Lake of Fire for all eternity:

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. (Hebrews 9.27)

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal. (Matthew 25.46)

All the riches and pleasures of the world are not worth eternal punishment:

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8.36-37)

Yet even though all have sinned, one can escape eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire, and have eternal life through YAHSHUA Messiah:

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6.23)

Salvation is available to all because:

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5.8)

Belief in YAHSHUA Messiah is the only way to be saved:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14.6)

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4.12)

Salvation is by grace through faith in YAHSHUA Messiah alone:

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. (Ephesians 2.8-9)

What must one do to be saved?

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved: for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Romans 10.9-10)

If you believe God the Father raised YAHSHUA from the dead, call upon YAHSHUA to save you right now:

For “WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” (Romans 10.13)

Receive YAHSHUA today for you do not know what tomorrow may bring:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. (John 1.12)



PETER AND JUDE

This book gives the reader the keys for living a holy life and how to bring glory to YAHWEH our Father. It also gives you an insight into the realm of angels.

To order your copy of *Peter and Jude* email – dovbooks@yahoo.com

APPENDIX B

FAITH CHECK

Are you being conformed to the image of YAHSHUA Messiah?

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

Are you being conformed to the image of YAHSHUA Messiah? Has there been a noticeable change in your likes and dislikes since you trusted YAHSHUA to save you?

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)

Everyone who is truly born from above will change. You will stop doing certain things and start doing things you did not do previously. Your thought life will also change.

To determine whether something is good (honoring to YAHWEH) pray, read the Bible and ask yourself if YAHSHUA would join you.

There are a few things we know are not of YAHWEH, and must be avoided at all costs – illegal drugs and getting drunk.

And be not drunk with wine in which is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5.18)

The next time you listen to secular music, watch television and movies ask yourself if you think YAHSHUA would enjoy spending the day listening to that music and watching those shows and movies. Not all movies and television shows are bad. Exercise great discernment in watching them. Stick to news and documentaries. The next time you watch a Hollywood production imagine YAHSHUA is sitting next to you. Do you think He would sit through a Hollywood trash movie or television show? By the way, YAHSHUA is with you at all times.

Sleeping, eating, moderate exercise and working are not on this list because they are pursuits of the flesh that are necessary for survival. It is your free time that you are to examine. All believers should spend more of their free time each day feeding their soul than feeding their flesh. Sadly, few do that. Worse yet, few believers spend more time feeding their souls than they do eating.

If you are not spending more time in spiritual activities (feeding your soul) than you do in eating (feeding your flesh) you are backslidden. Since most people take time to feed their flesh should you take an equal amount of time in feeding your soul?

If you spend more time each day exercising the flesh than you do exercising your soul which is more important to you – your sinful body or your eternal soul?

Take this faith check once a month for the first year and then take it every few months or so. This will help you see your progress of maturing in the Lord.

Make several copies for your use and for others. You can go to www.gracemercyministry.com and print out the “Faith Check.”

The Spiritual Man versus the Natural Man

Take a few minutes out of your busy schedule and examine your daily walk with YAHSHUA.

Spiritual activities	Average time spent weekly
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Prayer	_____
--------	-------

Reading and studying the Bible	_____
--------------------------------	-------

Memorization & Meditation	_____
---------------------------	-------

Worship & family devotions	_____
----------------------------	-------

Fellowshipping with believers	_____
-------------------------------	-------

Giving to and helping others	_____
------------------------------	-------

Sharing the Gospel	_____
--------------------	-------

Being discipled or discipling others	_____
--------------------------------------	-------

Total time serving YAHSHUA	_____
----------------------------	-------

Worldly activities **Average time spent weekly**

Watching TV & movies _____

Internet _____

Reading (secular books/magazines) _____

Hobbies _____

Recreation _____

Attending sporting events _____

Socializing (in person or by phone) _____

Shopping _____

Other non-spiritual activities _____

Total time serving yourself _____

If you spend more time in worldly activities than you do in spiritual ones you have a problem. You need to reset your priorities. Set aside a specific amount of time each day to pray, read the Bible, study the Bible, and memorize and meditate on Scripture.

Fellowship with the brethren is also important. Attending church services on Sunday and Wednesday is not enough fellowship to keep a believer spiritually healthy. Everyone needs fellowship more frequently. Seek out a home Bible

study or start one yourself. The first believers of the Church Age fellowshiped every day:

Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2.46-47)



FAITH TEST

Faith Test is a book that every believer needs to read. Paul exhorted the believers in Corinth to examine themselves to see if they were in the faith:

Try yourselves if you are in the faith; prove yourselves! Or do you not recognize yourselves that YAHSHUA Messiah is in you, unless you are rejected. (2 Corinthians 13.5)

To see if you pass the faith test order your copy of *Faith Test*. Email – dovbooks@yahoo.com

APPENDIX C

SPIRITUAL FITNESS PROGRAM

YAHWEH commands every child of His to be spiritually fit. This includes denying oneself of the pleasures of the world, living a holy and disciplined life, daily study of Scripture, living by every Word that proceeds from His mouth and then teaching others:

Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. (1 Peter 4.1-2)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2.15)

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. (Acts 17.11)

But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’” (Matthew 4.4)

“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” (Deuteronomy 6.6-7)

There are a few basic things that a believer in YAHSHUA Messiah must do to become a faithful *disciple*:

1. **Pray** (Matthew 7.7-11; Luke 18.1-8; John 14.13-14; 16.24; Ephesians 6.18; Philippians 4.6; Colossians 4.2; 1 Thessalonians 5.17; James 1.5).
2. **Listen** to Scripture (Deuteronomy 4.10; Proverbs 8.34; 22.17; 23.12; Luke 8.15, 21; 11.28; James 1.22; Revelation 1.3).
3. **Read** Scripture (Deuteronomy 17.19; Isaiah 34.16; Revelation 1.3).
4. **Study** Scripture (Proverbs 2.1-5; 8.34; John 5.39; Acts 17.11; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 2.15).
5. **Memorize** Scripture (Deuteronomy 6.6; 11.18; 30.14; Psalm 37.31; 40.8; 119.11; Proverbs 2.1; 3.1, 3; 4.1, 21; 6.21; 22.18; Isaiah 51.7; Ezekiel 3.10; Romans 10.8; Colossians 3.16).
6. **Meditate** on Scripture (Joshua 1.8; Job 22.22; 23.12; Psalm 1.2; 4.4; 19.14; 63.6; 77.12; 104.34; 119.15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; 143.5; Colossians 3.16).
7. **Fellowship** with the brethren (Psalm 22.22; 119.63; Proverbs 13.20; Acts 2.42, 46-47; 5.42; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25; 1 John 1.7).

8. **Worship** with the brethren and privately (Deuteronomy 6.13; 26.10; 1 Chronicles 16.29; Psalm 2.11; 29.2; 96.9; 99.5, 9; 132.7; Jeremiah 7.2; Matthew 4.10; John 4.23-24; Romans 12.1; Philippians 3.3; Revelation 4.10; 14.17; 19.10; 22.9)
9. **Share the Gospel** (Psalm 9.1; 26.7; 35.28; 96.2; Proverbs 11.30; Mark 16.15; Acts 2.47; 1 Peter 3.15).
10. **Be disciplined** (Proverbs 1.8; 4.1; 6.20; Ephesians 4.11-13).
11. **Make disciples** (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; 6.5-7; 11.18-19; 31.13; 32.46; Psalm 78.3-7; Proverbs 1.8; 4.1; 6.20; 6.22; Joel 1.3; Matt. 28.19-20; Ephesians 4.11-13; 6.4; 2 Timothy 2.2).

1. **PRAY:** Pray often for your family, friends, fellow employees, employer, church members, pastors, and city, state and federal politicians. Pray with your family daily and with church members on a regular basis. Begin and end each day in prayer, and pray throughout the day. Pray that YAHWEH teach you each day as you study His word.

2. **LISTEN TO SCRIPTURE:** Play recordings of the Bible and listen to sermons and Bible studies.

3. **READ SCRIPTURE:** Make a reading program and stay with it. If you read three chapters a day in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament you will read the Bible through in one year. It is also important to read one chapter of Proverbs each day. It does not take more than a half-hour a day to read five chapters. If you watch TV have your Bible handy and read a chapter during commercial breaks. Anyone could read ten chapters a day by just taking a Bible break during commercials.

4. **STUDY SCRIPTURE:** Choose a book of the Bible or a topic to study, and stay with it until you finish it.

5. **MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE:** Memorize key verses from both the Old and New Testaments.

6. **MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE:** Once you have a few verses memorized you can meditate on them any time of the day, and wherever you are. Until then keep a pocket Bible or pocket New Testament handy. Keep a Bible and a few New Testaments in your car at all times for yourself and others. Get into the habit of giving out Bibles and pocket New Testaments.

7. **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE BRETHREN:** Become an active member of a church. Support the church with your time, talents, treasure and spiritual gifts. If you cannot find a real church meet with believers in a home.

8. **WORSHIP:** It is so important that there are more commands to worship YAHWEH than to pray, study the Bible, memorize Scripture or meditate on the Word. Every believer should spend time each day worshipping YAHWEH. We worship YAHWEH by being silent and meditating on the blessings He has given you; by thanking and praising Him by rejoicing and singing.

9. **SHARE THE GOSPEL:** Once you learn how to share the Gospel be ready to do so 24/7. Be sensitive to the leading of the HOLY SPIRIT to share the Gospel. Carry tracts with you and hand them out as you are prompted by the HOLY SPIRIT. If the person(s) wants to talk – speak with them, but if they do not want to talk ask them to read the tract, and pray as you walk away. Keep a diary of your witnessing. When you lead someone to the Lord invite them to church and make sure they become an active member. If you are not mature enough to disciple them ask your pastor(s) to find someone to disciple them.

10. **BE DISCIPLED:** Find someone to disciple you or find a good book on discipleship such as *Make Disciples of all the Nations*.

11. **MAKE DISCIPLES:** Once you have been discipled, start to disciple others. If you are a husband disciple your wife. If you are a father disciple your children. If you are a mother disciple your children with your husband. If you are single lead a person to the Lord and disciple him/her. Never disciple a person of the opposite sex unless you are engaged.

If one develops a discipline in these basics of holy living he will become a *disciple* of YAHSHUA. It does not happen overnight. It takes many years to become a mature *disciple*, but it starts with the daily discipline of being in prayer, in the Word and in regular fellowship with other believers.

Pray in the morning, throughout the day and before you go to sleep. Set up a daily Bible reading program. If you read 4 chapters a day you will read through the Bible in a year. Read 3 chapters in the Old Testament each day and 1 chapter in the New Testament. Buy an audio copy of the Bible, and listen to it at home and in the car. Buy DVDs of movies about the Bible and watch them often (*The Gospel of John, Peter and Paul, The Greatest Story Ever Told, King of Kings*, etc.). Memorize Scripture. If you memorize one verse a week you will have 52 verses memorized in one year. Meditate on Scripture and let the HOLY SPIRIT teach you. Learn how to share the gospel. Ask your pastor to train you, and then share your personal testimony and the gospel as the Lord leads.

Verses that every believer should have memorized are those dealing with the Gospel and evangelism:

All have sinned – Romans 3.23

The wages of sin is death – Romans 6.23

Judgment – Mark 8.36-37; Hebrews 9.27

Jesus is the only way – John 14.6; Acts 4.12; Romans 5.12

The gift of eternal life – John 1.12; John 3.16; Rom. 6.23

Faith in Jesus – Romans 10.9-10, 13; Ephesians 2.8-9

Evangelism - Matthew 28.19-20; Acts 1.8

Choose verses on specific topics that help you in your daily walk. Here are some examples:

Eternal security – John 5.24; 6.37; 10.27-29; 20.31; 1 John 5.10-13.

Holiness/Sanctification – Psalm 119.11; Proverbs 8.13; Romans 12.1-2; 1 Cor. 10.31; 2 Corinthians 5.17; 6.14-18; Galatians 5.13-26; Colossians 3.16; James 4.1-10; 1 Peter 1.15-17; 1 John 2.15-17.

Love – Matthew 5.43-48; 1 Corinthians 13.1-13.

Blessed hope – 1 Thess. 4.16-18; Titus 2.13; 1 John 3.2-3.

Brotherly love – John 13.34-35; 1 John 3.16-18

Peace – Philippians 4.7.

Prayer – Matthew 7.7; John 14.13-14; 1 John 3.22; 5.14.

Prosperity – Psalm 1.

Protection – Psalm 23.

Spiritual warfare – Ephesians 6.10-18.

Strength – Isaiah 40.29-31; Ephesians 3.16; Phil. 4.13.

Sufficiency – Philippians 4.19.

Temptation – 1 Corinthians 10.13.

Tongue – James 3.1-18.

As you grow in the Lord you will pray more, and listen to, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture more and more. You will share your gospel more often, and spend more time in fellowship with other believers.

APPENDIX D

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5.18)

Believers in YAHSHUA Messiah are not to be intoxicated (drunk) with wine and in like manner to not get “high” with drugs (legal or illegal). Instead we are to “*be filled with the SPIRIT.*” What does it mean to “*be filled with the SPIRIT*”? Does it mean we must have a “second blessing” in which the HOLY SPIRIT empowers us to do the work of the Lord?

Scripture does not say that before we can be “*filled*” or empowered with and by the HOLY SPIRIT we must have a special “second blessing.” Instead it is a daily activity. It is something we must do when we first awake and then throughout the day.

The first thing we should do when we wake up is ask the HOLY SPIRIT to fill us and lead us that day. Prayer at the beginning of a day makes it go by much more smoothly. Prayer gets us in the proper attitude so we can let our light shine throughout the entire day. The second thing one should consider is spending time in the Word. A quiet time in the Word when one first gets up fills us with the Word. Being filled with the Word and the HOLY SPIRIT is the same thing because the words that YAHSHUA spoke are “*spirit*” and “*life*” (John 6.63). Not only are the words that He spoke “*spirit*” and “*life*” but all Scripture is:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.. (2 Timothy 3.16-17)

Prayer throughout the day (1 Thessalonians 5.17) is a spiritual habit that keeps our mind set on the things above and not the things of this sin-filled world (Colossians 3.2). Being filled with the Word several times throughout the day is another habit that will conform us to the image of YAHSHUA (Romans 8.29). Taking Bible breaks is vital to be continually “filled” with the HOLY SPIRIT. If you can take a Bible or New Testament with you when you leave home try reading a few chapters during the day. If you cannot take a Bible with you to work or when you are out you can meditate on Scripture that you have memorized. When you hide the Word in your heart you always have it with you to meditate on.

By praying several times throughout the day and taking Bible breaks one can continually be “filled” with the HOLY SPIRIT. The more often one feeds on Scripture and prays the more he will grow. Babies would die within a few days if they were not given food. The same is true of newborn believers. If they are not given spiritual food they quickly die spiritually. The more spiritual food they receive the faster and stronger they grow. One or two twenty minute sermons each week may keep a believer alive spiritually, but that is life-support nourishment. To grow into a strong, mature and vital disciple one must feed on Scripture several times each day. All believers need to listen to, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture daily and wash the Word down with prayer. If you do that faithfully every day YAHWEH will bless you with myriad spiritual blessings, not physical blessings.

If you want to be a disciplined and dedicated disciple of YAHSHUA you must be a spiritual glutton, feeding on the holy Word of YAHWEH throughout each day and praying always. Instead of being a glutton of physical food and pleasures of the world be a glutton of spiritual food.

APPENDIX E

HUMILITY

Humility is a spiritual trait that few believers in YAHSHUA Messiah have because it is impossible to obtain it through the flesh. Humility only comes when a believer surrenders his life to the Lord every day. Surrender is daily obedience to YAHWEH and dying to oneself, the flesh and the world.

One obeys YAHWEH by praying throughout the day from morning to night (1 Thessalonians 5.17); by daily reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on Scripture; by regular fellowship with the brethren (Acts 2.42, 46-47; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25); by continual sharing of the Gospel (Psalm 96.2; Acts 2.47; 1 Peter 3.15) and by making disciples (Matthew 28.19-20; 1 Timothy 2.15).

One dies daily to self by not doing things that feed the ego. Instead of spending time seeking to have your ego built up by the approval, attention, love, respect and honor from others, and seeking fame, glory and riches we need to seek how we can build others up by giving approval to their good deeds, and by giving them attention, love, respect and honor (Philippians 2.1-9). The road to humility is travelled by building others up in the faith, not demanding others build us up in the faith or build up our egos.

A believer also dies to the flesh daily by not engaging in things that the sinful flesh desires and which are sins. Two of the most prevalent sins of the flesh are gluttony and intoxication (by alcohol or drugs). Excessive indulgence in some other activities of the flesh that most believers should

consider reducing, are: sex (with spouse), partying, sports, hobbies, vacationing and chit-chatting.

The way to die to yourself is to spend more time in spiritual activities than of the flesh which are not necessary for survival. Everyone must eat to live, but gluttony is a sin. Everyone needs bodily exercise, but excessive exercise is a misuse of the Lord's time. The same is true of partying, sports, hobbies, vacationing and chit-chatting. These things are not sins, but excessive indulgence in them is.

A believer dies to the world by reducing his involvement in worldly activities or by cutting them out altogether. Some other worldly activities that most believers spend far too much time in are: television, movies, music, Internet, politics, non-spiritual books and magazines, and seeking after wealth and possessions. Every believer who desires to die to himself and live a holy life for the glory of YAHWEH will spend more time each day in prayer, Scripture, fellowship and soul-winning than in activities of the world.

We know we are growing in the Lord and dying to ourselves, the flesh and the world when our self love, our love of the flesh and our love of the world diminishes as it should:

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2.15-17)

The more these sinful desires diminish the more humble one will be. Pride is the opposite of humility. Pride is the root of every sin. There is no sin a person can commit that does not spring from pride. That is why the key to holy living is humility which replaces pride, and when pride is vanquished so is sin. No one can ever eliminate all traces of pride and sin, but it should be the goal of every true believer.

Humility is a spiritual trait that every believer should not only desire, but actively seek after. YAHWEH does not use His children to bring Him glory until they are humble. A believer who humbles himself before YAHWEH will be looked upon by YAHWEH with grace (Isaiah 66.2; Proverbs 3.34; James 4.6) and He will have regard for him (Psalm 138.6). When we humble ourselves before YAHWEH and those around us He will exalt us (James 4.10). We must never forget that all believers are commanded to “*humble*” themselves before YAHWEH (1 Peter 5.6), “*walk humbly with*” YAHWEH (Micah 6.8), be “*humble in spirit*” (1 Peter 3.8), clothe themselves “*with humility*” (1 Peter 5.5) and to not be proud (Romans 12.16).

Humility is always better than pride (Proverbs 16.19) and it is the only way to obtain true riches, honor and life (Proverbs 22.4). Pride will bring a person down while humility will bring him honor (Proverbs 11.2; 16.18; 29.23). We must also remember that there are numerous warnings against pride (Psalm 10.2; 40.4; 73.6; 119.78; Proverbs 3.7; 26.12; 28.25; Isaiah 5.21; 13.11; John 9.41; Revelation 3.17). Pride is a sin (Proverbs 21.4), one of the seven things that YAHWEH hates and that is an abomination to Him (Proverbs 6.17; 8.13).

Humility is one of the most difficult traits for anyone to obtain. No one can be humble in his own power. We must rely on the power of the HOLY SPIRIT to impart humility to us. Yet there are specific things we must do on a daily and regular basis before He will give us humility. The daily things we should do as noted previously are pray, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture. The things one should do on a regular basis are fellowship with the brethren and share the Gospel with the lost as the HOLY SPIRIT leads. These are the basics, but there are many other things a dedicated believer should do on a daily basis:

Seek first the kingdom of YAHWEH (Matthew 6.33)
Put on the armor of YAHWEH (Ephesians 6.10-18)
Fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6.12)
Transform your mind (Romans 12.2)

Take up your cross (Matthew 10.38-39; 16.24-26)
Deny yourself (Romans 12.1)
Be content in your circumstances (Phil. 4.3; 1 Tim. 6.6-8;
Hebrews 13.5)
Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5.18)
Continually offer praise to YAHWEH (Hebrews 13.15)
Forsake the world and all that is in it (Romans 12.2;
Galatians 6.14; 1 Peter 1.14; 1 John 2.15-17)
Flee from seeking after riches (1 Timothy 6.9-11)
Submit to others (Ephesians 5.21)
Obey your spiritual leaders (Hebrews 13.17)
Love the brethren (John 13.34-35; James 2.15-16; 1 John
3.16-18)
Love the lost and your enemies (Prov. 25.21; Matthew
5.43-48)
Be rich in good works (1 Timothy 6.18; Galatians 6.10;
Ephesians 2.10; 2 Timothy 3.17; Hebrews 13.16)
Do not grow weary in doing good works (2 Thess. 3.13)
Give to those in need (Leviticus 25.35; Deuteronomy 15.4-
11; Job 31.16-23; Proverbs 11.24-25; 14.21, 31; 19.17;
21.13; 22.9; 28.27; 31.20; Isaiah 58.7; Ezekiel 16.49; Luke
6.38; 12.33; Acts 2.44-45; 11.29; Romans 12.13; 2
Corinthians 8.13-15; Galatians 2.10; 1 Timothy 6.18;
Hebrews 13.1-2, 16; 1 Peter 4.9)
Lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity
(1 Timothy 2.1).

As we do these things day-by-day we will grow more humble and be used by YAHWEH for His glory (1 Corinthians 10.31) more each day. Others will see the Lord working through us and may be encouraged to follow our example. Pastors must set an example for the flock (1 Peter 5.3) by engaging in the spiritual activities above and they should also encourage others to do the same. They and all believers should be the servant of all (Matthew 20.26-27; Mark 9.35; Luke 22.26).

Negativity Factor

Very few believers understand the Negativity Factor. Understanding of this is the key to gaining humility and ridding oneself of pride.

Everyone is conceived and born in sin and goes astray from birth (Psalm 51.5; 58.3). We struggle with sin our entire lives even after we are born from above (Galatians 5.17). It is our sin nature and our submission to it that hinders the work that God seeks to do through us. This is the Negativity Factor. We do not add to the work of God in any way, we only hinder it. God performs great works through us in spite of us. We hinder His work we do not help it. The only thing we can do is lessen our Negativity Factor by obeying God every second of every day of our lives.

Christians who think they help God perform good deeds or great works are delusional. We can never help God. All we can do is empty ourselves of all of our desires and make ourselves available to Him every day. We must daily do what John the Baptist said about Jesus the Messiah, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3.30). The more we rid ourselves of us the more God can work through us for His glory.

The way to diminish ourselves is to spend every spare moment we have in prayer, worshipping God, Bible reading, study, memorization and meditation, fellowship with the brethren, sharing the Gospel and making disciples. Every minute we spend enjoying the pleasures of the world – watching TV, movies and sports, shopping, partying, reading meaningless fiction books, eating pleasure foods, hobbies, worrying over investments – is a minute wasted forever. Everyone needs down time, recreation and relaxation, but there are good ways of getting R&R and bad ways. Make sure your methods of R&R are honoring to the Lord and do not over do it. Three of the best forms of relaxation are praying, reading the Bible and listening to hymns. When you need to chill out pray, read the Bible and or listen to hymns. If these activities do not relax and energize you something is wrong.

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