

HOUSE to HOUSE  
HEART to HEART

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# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 9

## God's Secret TO A GOOD LIFE

Allen Webster

Christians should love God, love each other, love their families, love their enemies, and love life.

What does it mean to love life? Two New Testament words are translated "life." *Bios* (βίος) refers to existence (physical life) (Acts 17:28); figuratively it can mean the way a person lives, and the duration of earthly existence.<sup>1</sup> *Zoe* (ζωή) is higher. It is new life. It is spiritual life (Genesis 2:7). It is abundant life (John 10:10). It may be stunted or strengthened, as grace is used or abused.<sup>2</sup> It is God's best gift and should be counted as a chief treasure.

God wants all people's lives, and especially His children's, to be full of good days—days filled with goodness and good things (Psalm 36:7–8; 107:9; Proverbs 19:23; John 14:27). He even has a recipe for having a good day, every day. It reads, "He that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it" (1 Peter 3:10–11; cf. Psalm 34:12–14).

The only way to find lasting happiness—what everyone wants—is to follow

God's way. Peter gives five ideas formed as three couplets with introductory and concluding thoughts.

### INTRODUCTORY THOUGHT: CHOOSE TO LOVE LIFE

He who wants good days must choose a positive mindset. "He that will love life" means, "He who deliberately sets out to love life." This is the opposite of Solomon's pessimism: "I hated life ... all is vanity and vexation" (Ecclesiastes 2:17). We decide if *bios* is a burden to be endured, a danger to be escaped, or a journey to be enjoyed. *Zoe* makes *bios* worth living.

Scripture is largely concerned with character and conduct. Christianity is judged by outsiders by what it can do more than by what it teaches. An unbelieving world is skeptical of a preacher's words, but is impressed by a Christian's selfless behavior. Peter urged servants to submit to unfairness, looking for a reward from God (1 Peter 2:18–20). He told wives to pleasantly submit to unbelieving husbands to help convert them (3:1–7). Now Peter commands Christians to choose a positive attitude (3:10–11). All these are



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countercultural. What we are matters more than what we say—so we must work on the hidden person of the heart.

### COUPLET 1: REFRAIN THE TONGUE FROM EVIL AND THE LIPS FROM GUILE

He who wants good days must rule his speech. God requires constant watch over two things—the heart and tongue (Proverbs 4:23; 18:21; Matthew 12:35–37; James 1:26; 3:1–10)—and the latter is a window into the former. “Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips” (Psalm 141:3). Warren Weirsbe wrote, “Every Christian should read James 3:1–18 regularly and pray Psalm 141:3 daily.”

*Couplet 1a: “Refrain his tongue from evil.”* Many of life’s problems are caused by wrong words, spoken wrongly. Most of us have learned that the fastest way to a bad day is to open the mouth foolishly. Think how many misunderstandings, arguments, and hurt feelings started with hasty words. How often have we spoiled our day, and the day of another, by ill-chosen words? James wrote, “If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man” (James 3:2). Peter knew the sad consequences of hasty speech (Matthew 26:74–75).

The first step to ruling the tongue is restraint. Being “swift to speak” is a constant temptation for many (James 1:19). The psalmist pledged to heed to his ways, not sin with his tongue, and keep his mouth with a bridle (39:1–2). When it comes to words, incline to sparing. Many words tend to sin (Proverbs 10:19).

*Couplet 1b: “And his lips that they speak no guile.”* First, limit your word quantity; next, improve your word quality. Christians must guard against these words:

- Profane—dirty, blasphemous, oaths, curses (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:8–9).
- Unkind (Ephesians 4:32)—speech that defames and disgraces, spoken in public or private. The first is cruel; the second is a pestilence spreading secretly.<sup>3</sup>
- Vain—idle words, foolish jesting (Matthew 12:36; Ephesians 5:4).
- Murmured—discontent, complaint. If we take time to count God’s blessings

every day, we will not murmur (1 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:14).

- Untruthful—lies, double meanings.<sup>4</sup> Christians must not speak guile (Hebrew: *mirmah*, “deceiving; fraud: craft, feigned, treachery”<sup>5</sup>) (1 Peter 2:1, 22). A lie is no less a lie because it is printed on a resume or placed in a shop window.<sup>6</sup>

### COUPLET 2: AVOID EVIL AND DO GOOD

*Couplet 2a: Eschew evil* (Psalm 34:14; Proverbs 16:16–17; Romans 12:9; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 Peter 3:11). Removing sin precedes becoming good. The Old English word *eschew* means “to avoid something despised.” Strong repulsion accompanies removing evil. The thought of sin is unpleasant to every good person.<sup>7</sup> Since sin dishonors God (1 Samuel 15:23) and provokes His anger (Psalm 106:29); one who loves God, hates sin (Psalm 5:4).

Since God is everywhere, all people should avoid all evil at all times in all places. There is a time for all things (Ecclesiastes 3:1–8)—except for sin. Sin is never in season. Sin brought misery, shame, and confusion to humanity. It caused all this world’s suffering and eventually leads to eternal destruction (Matthew 10:28).<sup>8</sup> Harboring sin shipwrecks happiness. At first, sin gives pleasure, but then it steals happiness (Proverbs 13:15; Hebrews 11:25–27). The end of sin is never good (Luke 15:20–24; 2 Peter 2:20–22).

*Couplet 2b: Do good.* Life can be lived on three levels:

- The Devil Level: Return evil for good, as the Jews did to Jesus (Mark 15:13).
- The Human Level: Return good for good and evil for evil (Matthew 5:38–48). When Peter pulled a sword, he was on the “evil for evil” level (Luke 22:47–53). This is sowing to the flesh (Galatians 6:7). An “eye for an eye” is the basis for justice, but God wants Christians to operate on the basis of mercy, as He does with us (Luke 6:36).
- The God Level: Return good for evil, as Jesus did (1 Peter 2:21–23) and the apostles (Acts 4:23). This is sowing to the spirit (Galatians 6:7).

The Bible is a Book about doing: *Do, deed, deeds, and done* occur 589 times

in the New Testament—more than twice per chapter. God is good (Matthew 19:17; Acts 14:17), and He wants us to be like Him (1 Peter 1:15–16). Jesus is good (Matthew 20:15), is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 32) and went about doing good (Acts 10:38). One of His best-loved characters was the good Samaritan (Luke 10:33). Christ is our example (Matthew 16:24; 1 Peter 2:21). A doer of the work is blessed (James 1:25). At Judgment, Jesus will not say, “Well said,” “Well thought,” “Well supervised,” or, “Well criticized.” He will say, “Well done” (Matthew 25:21).

Christians should:

- Let others see our good works so they can glorify our Father (Matthew 5:16).
- Overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21), abound to every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8), and do good even to those that hate us (Matthew 5:44).
- Out of the good treasure of the heart, a man brings forth good things (Matthew 12:35)—with both hands and tongue (Ephesians 4:28–29).
- Do good to all, given opportunity, especially God’s family (Galatians 6:10).
- Follow that which is good (1 Peter 3:13); hold fast to it (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Women should be known for good works instead of just adornment (1 Timothy 2:9–10; Titus 2:3–5). Men desiring to be bishops must be of good behavior (1 Timothy 3:2). Those with money are to be rich in good works (1 Timothy 6:18).

Three groups in most churches include those who make things happen; those who watch things happen; and those who wonder what happened. Since it is a sin to do nothing (James 4:17), Groups 2 and 3 should move to Group 1. The Chinese say, “Be first in the field and last to the couch.” A clockmaker observed, “Even a clock passes time by keeping its hands busy.” We should do all the good we can, to as many as we can, in all the places we can, for as long as we can (Psalm 119:6; Luke 1:6; 2 Kings. 23:25).

Peter gives both positive and negative admonitions. It is not enough to avoid evil; we must do good. It is insufficient not to injure; we must heal. A person never remains neutral or empty for long (Acts 10:38; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 13:16). In Jesus’

parable, the evil spirit's house that was left "empty, swept, and garnished" (Matthew 12:44), eventually became worse than ever. When we sow nothing, weeds (sins) grow back. When we sow goodness, we reap happiness.

### COUPLET 3: SEEK AND PURSUE PEACE

*Couplet 3a: Seek peace.* He who would have good days must maintain healthy relationships. He must be gentle, considerate, and loving. If one seeks trouble, then he can find it; if he seeks peace, he will generally find it. Jesus blesses peacemakers (Matthew 5:9; cf. Psalm 34:14; 120:7; Romans 14:17; Hebrews 12:14; James 3:17–18), so be a peacemaker, not a troublemaker. Take the chip off your shoulder. Do not be bothered by every slight. Is it worth giving up your good day because somebody breaks line in front of you? Be willing to overlook many things. You will win in the long run.

*Couplet 3b: Pursue peace.* Peter uses two verbs (seek, pursue) for emphasis. Pursuit is a stronger concept than seeking. Peace does not come naturally—it is made and must be maintained. Christians must work at it (Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:2).

Since righteousness is the basis for peace (James 3:13–18), peace cannot be had at the expense of what is right. Ephesians 4:1–6 shows areas where unity is required among Christians:

- Unity of organization: one body
- Unity of purpose: one hope
- Unity of life: one Spirit
- Unity of authority: one Lord
- Unity of teaching: one faith
- Unity of practice: one baptism
- Unity of worship: one God.
- It is not always possible to be both righteous and peaceful. The psalmist learned: "I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war" (Psalm 120:7). Paul worded this carefully: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).

Pursue unity by prayer. Would your quality of life be improved if you began each morning with a request for a peaceful day and guidance into stress-free paths? Jesus sometimes—perhaps always—began days with prayer (Mark 1:35). Did He pray for peace?

### CONCLUDING THOUGHT: TRUST THE LORD

He who wants good days must trust God to watch over him (cf. Matthew 14:22–33), answer his prayers, and defeat his enemies (Romans 12:17–21).

What is meant when someone says, "Have a good day?" As we review a day, how do we know if it was good or bad? A good day is not necessarily one free from problems. In this passage, Peter quotes Psalm 34:12–15, which shows what God means by a good day. It speaks of fears (34:4), troubles (34:6, 17), afflictions (34:19), and a broken heart (34:18).<sup>9</sup> Thus, a good day is not sheltered or pampered; it simply has God in it. A good day magnifies God (34:1–3), receives His answers to prayer (34:4–7), tastes His goodness (34:8), and has God near (34:18).<sup>10</sup>

Even bad days turn out well with God's providence. Joseph had bad days—one day he was sold into slavery, another day he was falsely accused and imprisoned (Genesis 37; 39), but in retrospect they were good days because God brought blessings out of them (50:20). A mom and a little girl walked along a road after a rainstorm. At one place, someone had spilled oil on the pavement. The girl said, "Mommy, look! A smashed rainbow." Smashed rainbows and dashed hopes are stashed with blessings to be cashed in God's eternal bank.

The next time you have a bad day, be sure to read 1 Peter 3 and Psalm 34.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Richard Chenevix Trench. *Synonyms of the New Testament*.

<sup>2</sup> *The British Weekly Pulpit*, Vol. 3: A Companion Journal to the British Weekly (Classic Reprint) Paperback. Forgotten Books. 2018.

<sup>3</sup> *Biblical Illustrator*, <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/eng/tbi.html>.

<sup>4</sup> H. J. Wilmot Buxton, *A Popular Commentary on the New Testament*.

<sup>5</sup> Strong's definition.

<sup>6</sup> Leighton, *Biblical Illustrator*.

<sup>7</sup> John Rogers, *Biblical Illustrator*, E-Sword.

<sup>8</sup> John Rogers, *The Biblical Illustrator*, E-Sword.

<sup>9</sup> Weirsbe, Warren W. *Weirsbe Bible Commentary: New Testament*. David C. Cook; New edition (November 1, 2007).

<sup>10</sup> Weirsbe, Warren W. *Weirsbe's Expository Outlines*. David C. Cook; 1st edition (June 23, 1992). ISBN-13: 978-0896938489



## Plan for Worship

**Come:** Never miss a worship service unless it is necessary (Hebrews 10:25).

**Come early:** Rushing into the assembly at the last minute is not conducive to worship (Habakkuk 2:20).

**Bring the entire family:** The worship hour is not a convention where you simply send a delegate (Joshua 24:15).

**Be reverent:** We come to worship God. The worship service deserves our utmost attention (Hebrews 12:28–29).

**Be considerate of others:** (Philippians 2:3–4).

**Participate:** Don't just be a spectator (Psalm 95:1–2).

**Be thoughtful of strangers:** They are our guests (Hebrews 13:2).

**Contribute generously:** God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

—Author Unknown

"Worship God."

REVELATION 19:10

## God's Plan for Saving Man

**Divine Love:** John 3:16

**God's Grace:** Ephesians 2:8

**Christ's Blood:** Romans 5:9

**Holy Spirit's Word:** 1 Corinthians 2:12–13

**Sinner's Faith:** Acts 16:31

**Sinner's Repentance:** Luke 13:3

**Sinner's Confession:** Romans 10:10

**Sinner's Baptism:** Acts 22:16

**Christian's Love:** Matthew 22:37

**Christian's Work:** James 2:24

**Christian's Hope:** Romans 8:24

**Christian's Endurance:** Revelation 2:10

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## The Preacher and his Horse

A circuit-riding preacher trained his horse to go when he said, "Praise the Lord," and to stop when he said, "Amen." The preacher mounted the horse, said "Praise the Lord," and went for a ride in the nearby mountains.

When he wanted to stop for lunch by a mountain stream, he said, "Amen."

He took off again, saying "Praise the Lord."

The horse started heading toward the edge of a cliff on a narrow mountain trail. The preacher got excited and said, "Whoa!" Then he remembered and said, "Amen," and the horse stopped just short of the edge. The preacher was so relieved that he looked up to heaven and said, "Praise the Lord!"

*"He will yet fill your mouth with laughter."*

JOB 8:21



## From a Child's Mind

Dear Preacher, I think a lot more people would come to your church services if you moved it to Disneyland.

—Loreen, Age 9, Tacoma

*"A time to laugh."*

ECCLESIASTES 3:4



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## The Importance of Fathers

Why are fathers so important to the family? The short answer is God designed the family with the husband and father as its head (Ephesians 5:23).

However, we live in a country that has nearly 20 million fatherless children; can it be that the importance of fathers has been forgotten? We might ask, "Can't a family function well without a father?" Yes, there are cases where a father is absent, taken away by divorce or death and the family recovers, then thrives; but there is a definite, powerful influence missing. To see the importance of fathers, as well as attributes to imitate, consider our Heavenly Father. God is a Father that:

- Provides children's needs (Matthew 6:25-34)
- Is compassionate/comforting (2 Corinthians 1:3)
- Shows sacrificial love (Romans 5:8)
- Is patient (2 Peter 3:9)
- Lovingly disciplines (Hebrew 12:5-11)
- Is faithful and just to forgive (1 John 1:9)
- Does not hold sins against children (2 Corinthians 5:19)
- Grants a great inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-5)

The Lord's divine design for the family and the importance of fatherhood cannot be stressed enough. We must continue to teach our younger generations that God's way is always the best way.

—Jay Launius, Maud, Texas

## Just for Fun Noah and the Ark (Genesis 6–8)

Draw a line from the questions to the answers.

The sign of God's promise to never flood the earth again.	600
How many of each unclean animal were on the ark.	950
How many of each clean animal were on the ark.	40 days and nights
How many people were saved (1 Peter 3:20).	1 year and 10 days
The animal first released to find dry ground.	8
The animal that brought back an olive branch.	7
How long they stayed in the ark.	2, male and female
How many windows the ark had.	45 ft (30 cubits)
Noah's age when the flood started.	450 ft (300 cubits)
How long Noah lived.	75 ft (50 cubits)
Height of the ark.	1
Length of the ark.	Raven
Width of the ark.	Dove
How long it rained.	Rainbow

# New Testament Christianity

Nineteen centuries ago Christ and His apostles began a system of spiritual power that encompassed the earth and blessed the world. The pure religion of the Savior has never vanished from the human scene even though the Dark-Ages dimmed its pristine beauty. Daniel 2:44 affirmed the perpetual status of the kingdom, and Matthew 16:18 promised its glorious establishment. In spite of persecution by Rome, the jealousy of the Jews, economic poverty, and a startling message, the gospel swept the ancient world by storm.

The spiritual army of the Lord made many valiant conquests for the Captain of their salvation (Hebrews 2:10). Shining as lights in the midst of a perverse generation (Philippians 2:15), early Christians took seriously the task of "living soberly, righteously and godly" (Titus 2:12). The simple organization of Christ's church made clear its autonomous government. Adhering strictly to divine principles of self-governing procedures set forth in

Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5-6, Acts 20:28-30, and First Peter 5:1-4 there was no need for earthly headquarters or hierarchy.

In Philippians 1:1 we read simply of elders, deacons, and all the saints. Worship in the first century church was conducted in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). The body of Christ "continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine" (Acts 2:42). The first day of the week was set aside for the Lord's Supper and the contribution (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Nineteen centuries ago the church Christ established, by His shed blood, was strong in its exposure of error (2 Timothy 4:2-4), as well as its proclamation of truth (1 Timothy 3:15) and especially in ardent evangelism.

Daily teaching caused "the Word of God to grow and multiply" (Acts 5:42; 8:4; 12:24). Christians of that era prayed boldly and fervently (Hebrews 4:16; James 5:16), even as they joyously sang praises unto God (Acts 16:25; Colossians 3:16-17). Christianity was not a

church-house religion to them. It was not "a way of life"--it was life! Paul said: "For Me To Live Is Christ" (Philippians 1:21).

Today, sadly, many live beneath the standards of New Testament ideals. These coast along with a convenient facsimile of Christianity that really does not demand much. A building, a pulpit, a classroom, a teacher, and a preacher pretty well sum up the modern concept of what Jesus died for. But conversion, conviction, commitment, dedication, loyalty, and sincerity demand much more.

An enriching life awaits those who want to be New Testament Christians. When we submerge our identity into the greater cause of salvation, our songs become richer, our prayers more spiritual, our influence more meaningful, and our lives more heavenly. Men will then notice we have been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

—Author Unknown

*"Pure and undefiled religion."*

JAMES 1:27

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## Bible Quiz

VOLUME 31:9

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Chapter to Chapter - Joshua" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

### Answers to Previous Quizzes

**V. 31:7 Marriage and Family:** 1. One flesh (Genesis 2:24); 2. Christ (Ephesians 5:25); 3. Good thing (Proverbs 18:22); 4. Obey (Ephesians 6:1); 5. Understanding (1 Peter 3:7); 6. Bitter (Colossians 3:19); 7. Rubies (Proverbs 31:10); 8. Mother (Exodus 20:12); 9. Tenderhearted (Ephesians 4:32); 10. Kind (1 Corinthians 13:4); 11. Undefiled (Hebrews 13:4); 12. Divorce (Malachi 2:16); 13. Go (Proverbs 22:6); 14. Unbeliever (1 Timothy 5:8); 15. Wrath (Ephesians 6:4); 16. Need (Philippians 4:19); 17. Wife, husband (1 Corinthians 7:3); 18. Hatred (Proverbs 15:17); 19. Subdue (Genesis 1:28); 20. Separate (Matthew 19:6); 21. Children (Psalm 127:3); 22. Love (1 Peter 4:8); 23. Admonition (Ephesians 6:4).

**V. 31:8 They Saw Him Alive:** Questions from Pages 1-2: 1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. F; 5. 515, 12, 40; 6. T. Questions from Page 3: 1. Love; 2. Christ; 3. F; 4. Believe, repent, confess, be baptized, stay faithful. Questions from page 4 (7): 1. T; 2. F; 3. T.

## How Well Do You Know Noah and the Ark?

Try to answer from memory. Find the answers you do not know in Genesis 6:5-9, 13-22; 7:1-24; 8:1-22; 9:1-17, 28-29; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Matthew 24:37-39. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- Noah was a \_\_\_\_\_ man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with \_\_\_\_\_.
- Noah built an ark of \_\_\_\_\_ wood.
- It was covered in and out with \_\_\_\_\_.
- The length of the ark was \_\_\_\_\_ cubits.
- The breadth of the ark was \_\_\_\_\_ cubits.
- The height of the ark was \_\_\_\_\_ cubits.
- God said, "The earth is filled with \_\_\_\_\_."
- Noah was \_\_\_\_\_ years old when the floodwaters came upon the earth.
- Noah was to bring \_\_\_\_\_ of every unclean animal into the ark.
- Of clean animals, Noah was told to bring them by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Why did God decide to destroy the world with a flood? \_\_\_\_\_
- What covenant did God establish with Noah? \_\_\_\_\_
- How long did it rain? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many days did the waters prevail upon the earth? \_\_\_\_\_
- On what mountains did the ark come to rest? \_\_\_\_\_
- What bird did Noah first send out from the ark? \_\_\_\_\_
- What bird did Noah send out three times afterward? \_\_\_\_\_
- What sign did God give of His covenant never to flood the earth again? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who were Noah's three sons? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many were saved in the ark? \_\_\_\_\_
- What sacrifice did Noah offer after leaving the ark? \_\_\_\_\_
- Noah lived \_\_\_\_\_ years after the flood.
- According to the New Testament, what does the flood account teach us about salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

# OUTLINE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Christ came to give us abundant life (John 10:10) and this life is in the Son of God (1 John 5:11). The four accounts of His life were written that we might have eternal life in Him (John 20:31). The Old Testament, in 39 stanzas, had pointed to the coming of the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and on the Cross of Calvary peace was made through His precious blood (Colossians 1:20).

An outline of the 27 books of the New Testament helps in ascertaining its message and purpose:

- Matthew–John:** The Life of Christ
- Acts:** How to Become a Christian
- Romans–Jude:** How to Live as a Christian
- Revelation:** The Hope of a Christian

The first four books proclaim the birth, life, teachings, sufferings, and victorious resurrection of the Redeemer. The Lord's authority is stressed in Matthew; His majesty in Mark; the perfection and

loyalty of the Man of Galilee in Luke; and the personal touch of Jesus is the beautiful impression that lingers after reading John. If there is one verse in those four dynamic books to sum them up it would be John 14:6 wherein Christ is set forth as the way, truth and life that lights the world!

The tremendously powerful section known as Acts is the history book of the New Testament. It contains the background for many of the books that follow, including Galatians, Philippians, Thessalonians, Corinthians, and Ephesians (Acts 13-20). The spread of the glorious gospel of Christ is stated vividly in Acts 8:4: "They went everywhere preaching the Word."

Salvation in Christ alone is the cardinal teaching of this fifth New Testament book (Acts 4:12). Since God is glorified in the church by Christ (Ephesians 3:21) the book of Acts is a bulwark of truth in the Bible. The establishment of the Lord's

church is found in Acts 2. Cases of conversion—how men became Christians—give excitement to this book.

The next section is composed of 21 letters regarding the conduct of those who belong to the Savior (Philippians 2:5; Galatians 5:22).

Finally, the book of Revelation closes the masterful New Testament with the radiant joy of Christianity displayed in spite of intense persecution at the. Be faithful unto death is a major theme (2:10). The word *overcome* is found 17 times in 22 chapters. When saints of God do overcome the devil by God's word and the blood of Christ (Revelation 12:11) they can come over to spend eternity with the One who died to set them free (1:5).

How deeply grateful we ought to be for the clarity and challenge of the New Testament. —Author Unknown

*"I have stored your word in my heart"*

PSALM 119:11

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

## Recommended Resource



Topical Bible Studies produces online content to help you explore your Bible questions.

[topicalbiblestudies.com](http://topicalbiblestudies.com)  
[youtube.com/@TopicalBibleStudies](https://www.youtube.com/@TopicalBibleStudies)

## I want to learn more about the Bible!

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prayer requests or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

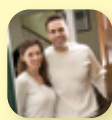
### I would like:



A Bible Correspondence Course



A DVD Bible Study



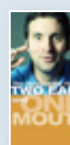
An In-Home Bible Study

## New Tracts!

- For They Shall See God
- How to Purify Your Heart
- Beatitudes—Blessed are the Bridgebuilders
- Beatitudes—Congratulations on Your Persecution



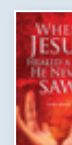
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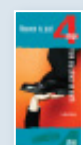
The Reason We Have Two Ears and One Mouth



You Gotta Be Dumb to Believe the Bible, Right?



When Jesus Healed the Boy He Never Saw



Heaven is Just Four Steps Away: Part 4



Love Thy Neighbor: The Story of the Good Samaritan



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How to Get Ahead Without Getting Even



Investing Time Wisely



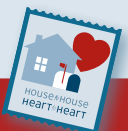
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Types and Antitypes: David



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## INFOGRAPHIC COMING SOON



### The Teachings of Jesus

Jesus taught with authority and clarity. Crowds were astonished because He spoke unlike the scribes, but like God (Matthew 7:28–29, NKJV). His teachings range from the Sermon on the Mount’s ethical demands to simple, everyday parables that reveal kingdom realities.

Central themes recur: love for God, self, and neighbor (Matthew 22:37–39), humility, forgiveness, obedience, and the coming kingdom. Jesus commanded believers to “seek first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33). Jesus taught that true religion is heart-oriented, not merely ritualistic, but that it must also be done according to truth (John 4:24)!

He called His followers to practical holiness, sacrificial service, and radical trust.

His teaching still shapes Christian discipleship: it calls for repentance, obedience, and a transformed heart. The teaching of Jesus is meant to first change us (Romans 12:1–2), and then to change those around us (Matthew 28:18–20) as we share His message. —Matt Wallin

### The Bible Saves

Ellis Cowart was an American soldier fighting in WWII. He and his comrades were in a fierce gun battle against the German army. “Bullets were flying everywhere ... we were in the middle of a crossfire,” he said. One bullet hit Ellis in the arm, another grazed his forehead, a third hit the helmet, and then one bullet hit him squarely in the chest. Ellis had a small pocket New Testament in the front of his jacket and this little Bible prevented the bullet from penetrating his chest. “The Word” had quite literally saved his life. (The bullet stopped in the middle of Revelation).

*“Receive with meekness the implanted WORD, which is able to SAVE YOUR SOULS”*

JAMES 1:21



## How Do I Study the Bible?



The Bible is no ordinary book. It is the very word of God—living, powerful, and able to transform lives (Hebrews 4:12). But many people don't know where to begin. How do you study a book written by God?

**Start with the right heart.** The psalmist prayed, "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (119:18). God reveals His truth to those who seek it humbly. "This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word" (Isaiah 66:2).

**Then, start simply.** You don't have to read the whole Bible in a week. Begin with Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John and look for what Jesus says, what He does, and how people respond to Him. Read Acts and make a list of what people did when they went from lost to saved. Write down what you learn and how it applies to your life.

**Ask questions of the text.** Notice details. Write down words, phrases, or cites you do not know. Take time to learn them. Look up definitions, background, and cross-references. It is often better to fully understand a few verses than to rush through a long passage without comprehension. Depth leads to transformation.

**Let Scripture interpret Scripture.** The Bible explains itself when we let all of it speak. "*The sum of Your word is truth*" (Psalm 119:160). No single verse stands alone; God's message is revealed in its entirety. A difficult passage can be explained by other verses that shed light on it.

**Be careful not to read the Bible only to confirm your opinions.** The goal is not to prove ourselves right but to discover God's truth (Psalm 119:105).

**Finally, study in community.** The early Christians "*continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching*" (Acts 2:42). God designed His church to help us learn together.

If you would like to understand the Bible better, we would love to open it with you. —Matt Wallin



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## COMING SOON