

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 1



How to be a  
Follower of  
Jesus

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## How to be a Follower of Jesus 2



Next verse: Hebrews 11:6

Welcome to our study on How to Be a Follower of Jesus! Our Heavenly Father is the source of all life, joy, and wisdom. In the beginning, He made us happy and holy, and made a perfect world. In spite of the effects of sin, His goodness and handiwork are still shown in the beauty of nature. We do not worship nature, but its Author and Creator, Lord of heaven and earth.

What does our faith lead us to believe about God?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 3

### Hebrews 11:6

But 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 diligently seek Him.

### Hebrews 11:6

But 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 diligently seek Him.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 4

Next verse: 1 John 4:8, 3:3



"...God has dealt to each one a measure of faith", and by that faith we know that God exists, and that He cares about us. The Word of God reveals what He is like. Jesus came to our earth "to preach the gospel to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed."<sup>2</sup> His goal was our complete recovery from sin. The price He was willing to pay for us showed our true value in His estimation.

How great is His love for us?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 5

### 1 John 4:8

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

### 1 John 3:3

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

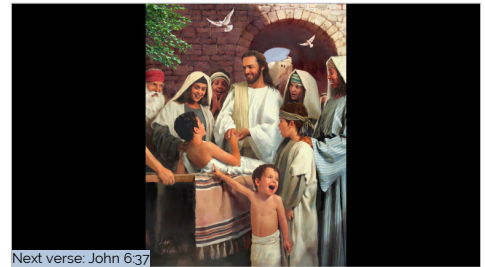
### 1 John 4:8

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Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children** of God!

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 6



Next verse: John 6:37

He identified with our interests and needs. He is not ashamed to call us His own brothers and sisters<sup>3</sup>. Through this connection we become sons and daughters of God! Because Jesus gave His life for us, we go from being subjects of Satan—the ruler of this earth—to being children of the King of the Universe! That is amazing love—unmatched, unparalleled, unexplainable.

How can I accept this offer?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 7

### John 6:37

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

### John 6:37

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who **comes** to Me I will by no means cast out.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 8



Next verse: Psalm 144:15

Jesus accepts all who come to Him. He will never turn away from anyone who realizes their need of a Savior. He loves to have us come to Him just as we are. We don't have to make ourselves better before we come. He throws His arms of love around us, washes us clean from the effects of sin, and exchanges our failures and deficiencies for His grace, love, and strength. He inspires us with hope and courage.

Are followers of Jesus really happy?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 9

### Psalm 144:15

Happy are the people who are in such a state; happy are the people whose God is the Lord!

### Psalm 144:15

Happy are the people who are in such a state; **happy** are the people whose **God** is the **Lord**!

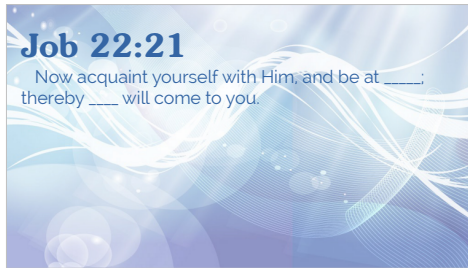
## How to be a Follower of Jesus 10



People make gods of money and power and many different things, but those whose God is the Lord find true happiness. In harmony with Him, there is real satisfaction and contentment.

**Is this the actual way to peace?**

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 11



### Job 22:21

Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at **peace**; thereby **good** will come to you.

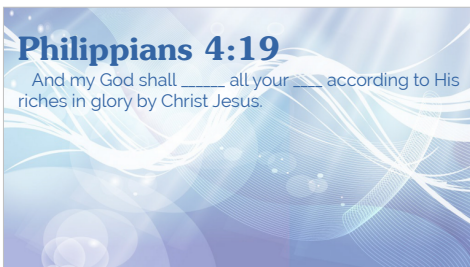
## How to be a Follower of Jesus 12



Isaiah calls Jesus the *"Prince of Peace"*<sup>4</sup> In following Him, we find true peace, the kind of peace that lifts us above the clamor of the world, into a heavenly atmosphere. Even in the middle of chaos, persecution, or trouble, the Christian can have this peace—unexplainable, but real.

**Does God care about our temporal needs?**

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 13



### Philippians 4:19

And my God shall **supply** all your **need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

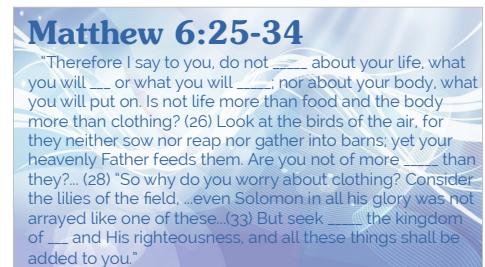
## How to be a Follower of Jesus 14



The God that gave us life knows that we need food. The One who created our bodies knows we need clothes.

**Instead of worrying about things like this, what does He want us to do?**

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 15



### Matthew 6:25-34

"Therefore I say to you, do not **worry** about your life, what you will **eat** or what you will **drink**; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? (26) Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more **value** than they?... (28) "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, ...even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these...(33) But seek **first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

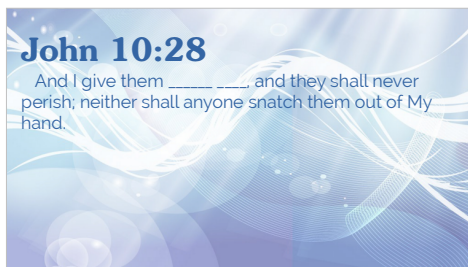
## How to be a Follower of Jesus 16



The simple beauty of the natural flowers God has created has a lesson for us. If He paints flowers, that can quickly fade, with such delicate and varied hues, how much more does He care for us, who are made *"in His own image"*.<sup>5</sup> As our Father, He sympathizes with us and is concerned about our needs. When we put Him first in our lives, His commitment is to care for us.

**What is the most valuable thing He promises to give us?**

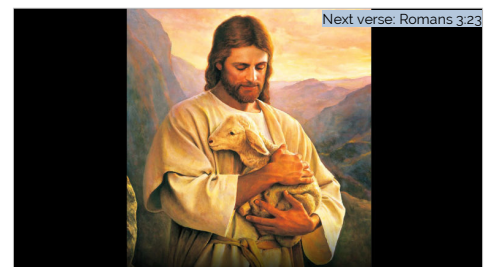
## How to be a Follower of Jesus 17



### John 10:28

And I give them **eternal life**, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 18



His unceasing care for us on this earth will be followed with eternal life with Him in the earth made new. We are not even capable of fully understanding or appreciating the magnitude of this love. But to God, we have infinite value, because of what we can become through Jesus. His plans for us are so exalted and far-reaching. They include a re-claiming of everything sin has taken away from us.

**How has sin affected us?**



## How to be a Follower of Jesus 19

### Romans 3:23

for all have \_\_\_\_\_ and fall short of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

### Romans 3:23

for all have **sinned** and fall short of the **glory** of God.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 20



Next verse: Job 14:4, Romans 8:7

God created our first parents, Adam and Eve in His own image. They were perfect, unselfish, and pure, with well-balanced minds. After Adam and Eve distrusted and disobeyed God, the human race became increasingly weakened by sin. Selfishness took the place of love. It became more and more difficult for people to resist the power of evil. We would have remained Satan's captives forever if God had not stepped in.

Can we change the evil that exists in our hearts?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 21

### Job 14:4

Who can bring a \_\_\_\_\_ thing out of an \_\_\_\_\_? No one!

### Romans 8:7

The carnal mind is \_\_\_\_\_ against God; for it is not subject to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, nor indeed can be.

### Job 14:4

Who can bring a **clean** thing out of an **unclean**? No one!

### Romans 8:7

The carnal mind is **enmity** against God; for it is not subject to the **law** of God, nor indeed can be.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 22

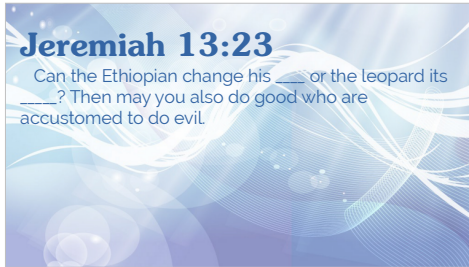


Next verse: Jeremiah 13:23

Effort, education, or willpower, may produce behavior that appears correct; but these disciplines are powerless to change the thoughts and character deep within us. Our heart can only be changed through the power of Christ. Paul described the human condition as being "*carnal, sold under sin*".<sup>6</sup>

So deep down, our human nature is sinful?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 23



### Jeremiah 13:23

Can the Ethiopian change his \_\_\_\_\_ or the leopard its \_\_\_\_\_? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

### Jeremiah 13:23

Can the Ethiopian change his **skin** or the leopard its **spots**? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 24



Next verse: Ezekiel 36:26

No, the leopard cannot change his spots; the Ethiopian cannot change his skin, and we cannot change our sinful human nature.

It is a fatal deception to think that we are inherently good and that we just need to develop what already exists in us. That is why Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be "*born again*"<sup>7</sup> before he could see the kingdom of God.

How does this happen?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 25

### Ezekiel 36:26

I will \_\_\_\_\_ you a new \_\_\_\_\_ and put a new \_\_\_\_\_ within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

### Ezekiel 36:26

I will **give** you a new **heart** and put a new **spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 26



Next verse: Psalm 51:10,11

God promises that He will give us a **NEW HEART!!** What an amazing promise this is! **How do we get it?**

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 27

### Psalms 51:10,11

Create in me a clean \_\_\_\_\_. O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (11) Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your \_\_\_\_\_ from me.

### Psalms 51:10,11

Create in me a clean **heart**, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (11) Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your **Holy Spirit** from me.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 28

Next verse: Psalm 40:8



King David's prayer after his fall is an example of genuine repentance. He didn't try to excuse his sin or escape the results. He wanted forgiveness, but also a pure heart. He wanted to get back in harmony and connection with God. A new heart isn't just an emotional experience. When Jesus becomes the center of a person's life, they have new thoughts, goals, and motives. God changes them from the inside out. Pride and selfishness die.

What does this new life look like?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 29

### Psalm 40:8

I \_\_\_\_\_ to do Your will, O my God, and Your \_\_\_\_ is within my heart."

### Psalm 40:8

"I **delight** to do Your will, O my God, and Your **law** is within my heart."

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 30



Next verse: Romans 2:4

The amazing thing about God writing His law on our hearts is that it changes us so that we WANT to obey Him! We find DELIGHT in walking in God's ways, being in His will! Instead of trying to *force* ourselves to do the right thing, it becomes our own thought and desire. Sin becomes distasteful and even hateful to us. As we allow God to change us, we realize that we are becoming different from the inside out!

Where does this kind of repentance come from?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 31

### Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God leads you to \_\_\_\_\_?

### Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the **goodness** of God leads you to **repentance**?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 32



Next verse: Acts 3:19

When we think about the cross, it becomes a little window into the pain and grief that sin has brought to the heart of God since its beginning. God feels all the misery that sin has brought. We start to realize what our sins have cost Jesus, and the enormity of His sacrifice for us. He risked everything—put it all on the line—for us. We can't even wrap our minds around the magnitude of His sacrifice. The more we think about the plan that He put into operation for our redemption, the more we are drawn to Him.

What happens to our sins when we repent?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 33

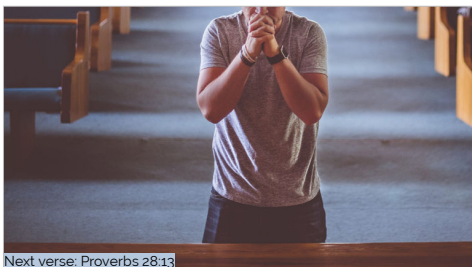
### Acts 3:19

\_\_\_\_\_ therefore and be \_\_\_\_\_, that your sins may be \_\_\_\_\_, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

### Acts 3:19

**Repent** therefore and be **converted**, that your sins may be **blotted** out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 34



Next verse: Proverbs 28:13

This is when the miracle happens! When a person completely gives themselves up to Jesus, a supernatural transformation happens—something we could never do for ourselves. We become connected to the life and power of God. We have chosen Jesus, and by the power of faith He lives in us as He has promised to do. This is our protection against evil. Those who don't choose Jesus remain in the kingdom of darkness. Jesus is the Light, given to all who will receive Him.<sup>8</sup>

What do we have to do in order for our sins to be forgiven?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 35

### Proverbs 28:13

He who \_\_\_\_\_ his sins will not prosper, but whoever \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ them will have mercy.

### Proverbs 28:13

He who **covers** his sins will not prosper, but whoever **confesses** and **forsakes** them will have mercy.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 36



Next verse: 1 John 1:9

No painful penance or long pilgrimage is required to atone for sin. The conditions are simply confessing and forsaking our sin. Confession must be voluntary and to the point, without making any excuse. We take responsibility for the specific offense. Sin should be confessed to God and to the individual who has suffered injury (if that is the case), or just to God. Some sins may be of a public nature and should be confessed publicly.

Confession is not acceptable to God unless one also turns away from the sin. Reformation shows the reality of repentance.

What does Jesus do for us when we confess our sins?



1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to \_\_\_\_\_ us our sins and to \_\_\_\_\_ us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

Next verse: James 4:7



Jesus is able *“to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”*<sup>9</sup> Satan is always trying to discourage and destroy us, but Jesus throws our sins into the deepest sea and says He will never remember them again. He washes us clean, lifts us up and gives us a song of praise to sing. We can let go of guilt and shame, and be free and happy because we are children of God. We are secure in His love and protection.

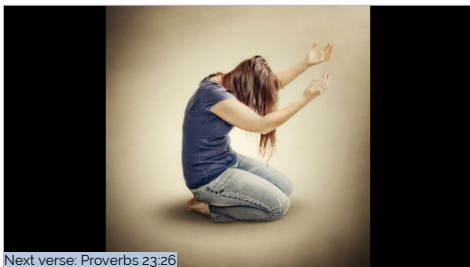
How do we stay in this condition?

James 4:7

Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

Therefore **submit** to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.



Next verse: Proverbs 23:26

In submitting to God, we align ourselves with Him in a way that lets Him transform our life. *Willing, intelligent, and complete surrender* is the key. In doing this, we are choosing to be set free from the chains of sin that bind us, and enter the glorious liberty that God’s children enjoy. We can’t hang on to anything that would separate us from God. We are either totally His—*all in*—or not His at all. He doesn’t want a divided heart, or lipservice without genuine love.

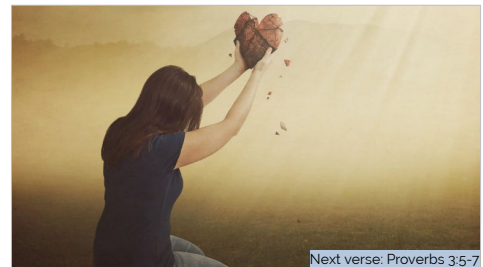
So what do we give up when we do this?

Proverbs 23:26

My son, give me your \_\_\_\_\_, and let your eyes observe my ways.

Proverbs 23:26

My son, give me your **heart**, and let your eyes observe my ways.



Next verse: Proverbs 3:5-7

Jesus gave up everything for us. All we have to give Him in return is our heart, polluted with sin, for Him to cleanse and give back to us, clean and pure. He doesn’t ask us to give up anything that is in our best interest to hang onto. No real joy is found in walking down forbidden paths. Sin only leads to misery and destruction. All heaven is interested in our **happiness**, for now and eternity. Jesus came to give us genuine joy and peace, to free us from guilt and worry.

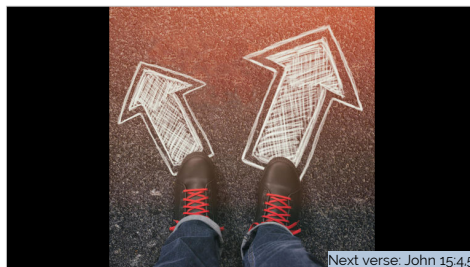
How do we make this surrender?

Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the Lord with \_\_\_\_\_ your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; (6) In \_\_\_\_\_ your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall \_\_\_\_\_ your paths. (7) Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ from evil.

Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the Lord with **all** your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; (6) In **all** your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall **direct** your paths. (7) Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and **depart** from evil.



Next verse: John 15:4,5

Life consists of a series of choices. As we recall our history of broken promises and failed resolutions, we feel weak. Satan tempts us to think God might not accept us. Nothing is farther than the truth. God has given us the **power of choice**. At every step, we can put our **will** on His side. With every known choice, we can say “Yes” to God, and **He will keep His promise to work in us**, bringing the things we **choose** and the things we **do** into alignment with His will for us.<sup>10</sup>

How does He actually do this?

John 15:4,5

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you \_\_\_\_\_ in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much \_\_\_\_\_; for without Me you can do \_\_\_\_\_.”

John 15:4,5

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much **fruit**; for without Me you can do **nothing**.”

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 46

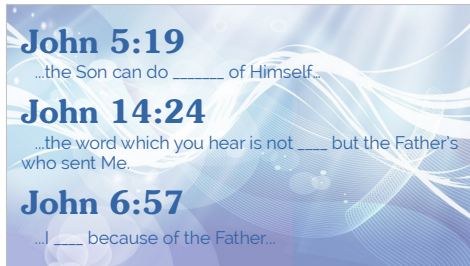


Next verse: John 5:19, 14:24, 6:57

When we become Christians, it is a new birth. We become connected to Jesus like a branch that is grafted onto the main plant. Connected to the Source of Life, we grow and develop like trees that grow buds, flowers, and fruit. We don't have to plan how to do it, we just have to make sure we stay connected. *"Without Me",* Jesus said, *"you can do nothing."*<sup>11</sup>

How dependent was Jesus on His Father when He was on earth?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 47



### John 5:19

...the Son can do \_\_\_\_\_ of Himself...

### John 14:24

...the word which you hear is not \_\_\_\_\_ but the Father's who sent Me.

### John 6:57

...I \_\_\_\_\_ because of the Father...

### John 5:19

...the Son can do **nothing** of Himself...

### John 14:24

...the word which you hear is not **Mine** but the Father's who sent Me.

### John 6:57

...I **live** because of the Father...

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 48

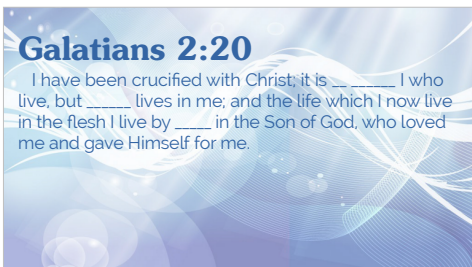


Next verse: Galatians 2:20

Jesus described His dependence on His Father as an illustration of what our lives will be when we depend on Him the same way. As long as we stay connected to Jesus, He has promised to work in us *"both to will and to do for His good pleasure"*<sup>10</sup> and to continue this work until He returns for us.<sup>12</sup> This is how we grow as Christians. It is all **Him**, **His** life, **His** work in us. It is like we die, and He lives in us.

How did Paul describe this exchange?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 49



### Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is \_\_\_\_\_ I who live, but \_\_\_\_\_ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is **no longer** I who live, but **Christ** lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by **faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 50



Next verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

The apostle Paul said, *"I die daily."*<sup>13</sup> When our sinful human nature dies and Jesus lives in us, it changes us. We don't seek praise or prominence; our highest place is at Jesus' feet. We have perfect trust in the One Who was nailed to the cross for us. We wait for Him to lead and guide us. We listen for His voice. When we are treated badly, we remember that Jesus has taken our place. In death and in life He stands for us. His love crowds out the desire to pay back those who hurt us.

What does this love look like in real life?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 51



### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love suffers long and is \_\_\_\_; love does not envy; love does not \_\_\_\_ itself, is not puffed up; (5) does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no \_\_\_\_; (6) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; (7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, \_\_\_\_\_ all things. (8) Love never fails...

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love suffers long and is **kind**; love does not envy; love does not **parade** itself, is not puffed up; (5) does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no **evil**; (6) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; (7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures** all things. (8) Love never fails...

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 52

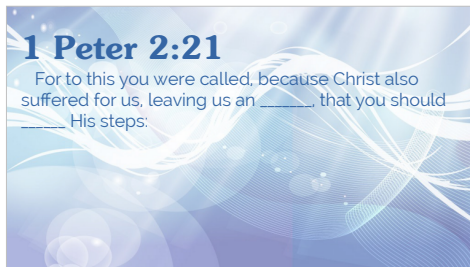


Next verse: 1 Peter 2:21

First Corinthians thirteen is a great chapter to read often! It is a perfect description of the character of Jesus. He had a peace that nothing could disturb. While on earth, He lived in the atmosphere of heaven.

Is it possible for us to be like Jesus?

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 53



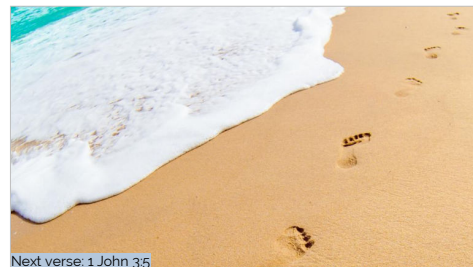
### 1 Peter 2:21

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an \_\_\_\_\_, that you should \_\_\_\_\_ His steps:

### 1 Peter 2:21

For to this you were called, because **Christ** also suffered for us, leaving us an **example**, that you should **follow** His steps:

## How to be a Follower of Jesus 54



Next verse: 1 John 3:5

As we spend time studying Jesus' life and character, we become more and more like Him. The process of continual renewal happens as long as we are in connection with Him.

Is Jesus able to give us victory over sin?

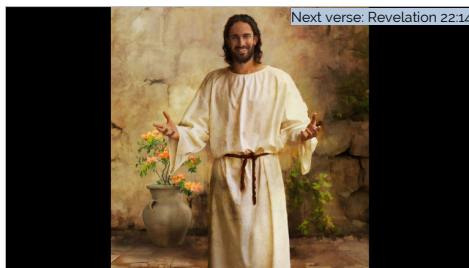


**1 John 3:5**

And you know that He was manifested to take away our \_\_\_\_\_, and in Him there is no \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 John 3:5**

And you know that He was manifested to take away our **sins**, and in Him there is no **sin**.



Jesus came to save us not **IN** our sins but **FROM** them.<sup>14</sup> He enables us to *"walk in newness of life"*.<sup>15</sup> He is able to keep us from falling and to present us *"faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."*<sup>16</sup>

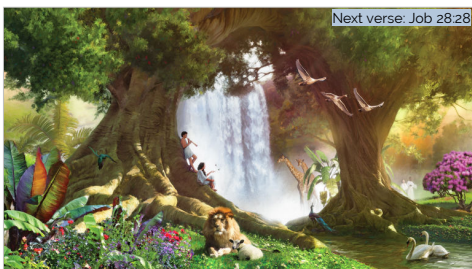
Does this mean we keep His commandments?

**Revelation 22:14**

Blessed are those who do His \_\_\_\_\_, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

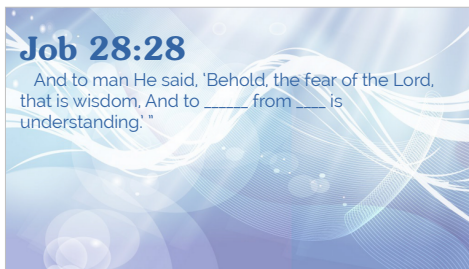
**Revelation 22:14**

Blessed are those who do His **commandments**, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.



Jesus said, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."*<sup>17</sup> Those who love God will be enabled to do this, through His power at work in them. Jesus can take them to heaven, because they have allowed Him to put heaven in their hearts. (See study on *The Law of God*).

When on earth, how did Jesus resist the power of evil?



**Job 28:28**

And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ is understanding.'

**Job 28:28**

And to man He said, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to **depart from evil** is understanding."



Jesus quoted Scripture and used it as a defense against temptation.

Just like our bodies are made up of what we eat and drink, our character reflects what we meditate on. If we study the word of God, it becomes part of us. Memorizing its promises fortifies us against temptation.

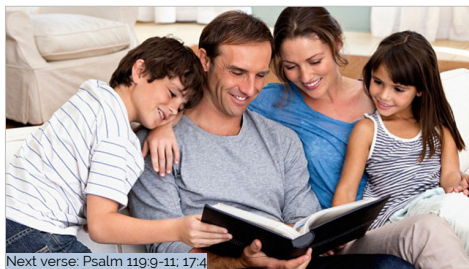
How often should we read the Bible?

**Acts 17:11**

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_ to find out whether these things were so.

**Acts 17:11**

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched** the Scriptures **daily** to find out whether these things were so.



The Word of God is like living water. As we read it and reflect on it throughout the day, we are transformed. Our mind is strengthened and expanded as we compare Scripture with Scripture, asking God for the Holy Spirit to help us understand its meaning and relevance to our lives. The life of God is in His word. It is our source of truth and power, our guide to heaven.

How does this keep us from sin?

**Psalm 119:9-11**

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. (10) With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! (11) Your \_\_\_\_\_ I have hidden in my \_\_\_\_\_, that I might not \_\_\_\_\_ against You.

**Psalm 17:4**

...By the word of Your lips, I have \_\_\_\_\_ from the paths of the destroyer.

**Psalm 119:9-11**

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. (10) With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! (11) Your **word** I have hidden in my **heart**, that I might not **sin** against You.

**Psalm 17:4**

...By the word of Your lips, I have **kept away** from the paths of the destroyer.

Next verse: 1 John 2:1



If we want to get to know Jesus, we will spend time in His word. Jesus overcame Satan to show us how we could overcome. He met each temptation with *"It is written"*.<sup>16</sup> Trusting in God's promises, He received power to obey God's commandments. This example is for us. He wants to give us this same power and strength.

Does this mean we will never sin?

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may \_\_\_ sin. And \_\_\_ anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may **not** sin. And **if** anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.



Next verse: Ephesians 2:8, Titus 3:5

When we make mistakes, this is not a reason to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by Satan, God never rejects us. His only desire is our restoration. The more we realize our own weakness, the more we trust in His strength. We can talk to Him about our struggles and every detail of our life.

What are the two pitfalls Christians especially need to guard against?

Ephesians 2:8

For by \_\_\_ you have been saved through \_\_\_\_, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (g) not of \_\_\_\_, lest anyone should boast.

Titus 3:5

not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His \_\_\_\_ He saved us..

Ephesians 2:8

For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (g) not of **works**, lest anyone should boast.

Titus 3:5

not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His **mercy** He saved us..

Next verse: Psalm 65:17



The first error we need to guard against is thinking that we can do anything to save ourselves or make ourselves holy. This is impossible. Both our salvation and transformation of heart are only through Christ.

The other error is thinking that grace releases us from keeping God's law. Jesus says, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments..."* and *"He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."*<sup>19</sup> Our obedience springs from love to our Redeemer, and is only possible through His grace and power, when we ask Him to give us a new heart that delights to do His will.

How important is prayer to our Christian life?

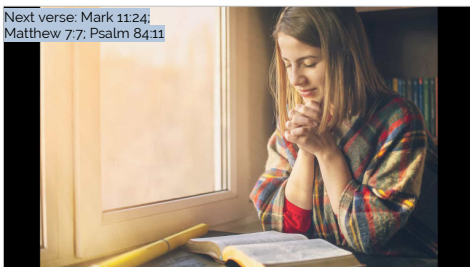
Psalm 55:17

Evening and morning and at noon I will \_\_\_\_, and cry aloud, and He shall \_\_\_\_ my voice.

Psalm 55:17

Evening and morning and at noon I will **pray**, and cry aloud, and He shall **hear** my voice.

Next verse: Mark 11:24; Matthew 7:7; Psalm 84:11



Prayer brings us into the presence of God, as we open our heart to Him just as we would to a friend. He is interested in every detail of our lives, and so ready to give us the help we need. Staying in the shelter of His love through constant prayer repels the darkness of Satan and his whispered temptations. Miracles happen through prayer. We can pray anytime, anywhere—lifting our hearts to God and asking for Divine guidance and blessing. By faith we are transported into a holier, heavenly atmosphere.

Will He always give us what we ask for?

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, \_\_\_\_\_ that you receive them, and you will have them.

Matthew 7:7

"\_\_\_, and it will be given to you; \_\_\_\_, and you will find; \_\_\_\_, and it will be opened to you."

Psalm 84:11

...no good thing will He \_\_\_\_\_ from them that walk uprightly.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe** that you receive them, and you will have them.

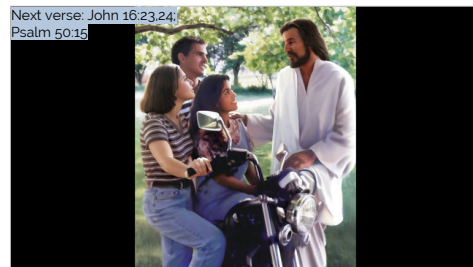
Matthew 7:7

"**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you."

Psalm 84:11

...no good thing will He **withhold** from them that walk uprightly.

Next verse: John 16:23,24; Psalm 50:15



When we pray, we need to feel our need of God's help, believe that He hears us, and ask in faith and perseverance, according to His will. If we are doing something we know is wrong, we need to make it right. If we don't get what we asked for right away, we are still to believe, knowing that God is too wise to make a mistake, and too good to not give us what we need. We don't always know what would be for our highest good, but God, in His infinite wisdom, gives us, just at the right time, what will bless us most—just what we would want if we could see the whole picture, as He can. We can trust the hand that was nailed to the cross for us.

Before He ascended to heaven, how did Jesus encourage us to ask for His help when we pray?



**John 16:23,24**

...“Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will \_\_\_ you. (24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name, \_\_\_ and you will \_\_\_ that your joy may be full.”

**Psalms 50:15**

Call upon Me in the day of \_\_\_; I will \_\_\_ you, and you shall glorify Me.

**John 16:23,24**

...“Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will **give** you. (24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. **Ask**, and you will **receive**, that your joy may be full.”

**Psalms 50:15**

Call upon Me in the day of **trouble**; I will **deliver** you, and you shall glorify Me.



Next verse: Matthew 18:19,20  
Romans 8:34

Every prayer is heard by God. He delights in giving us MORE than we ever could ask or think!<sup>20</sup> He longs to give us protection, guidance, the Holy Spirit, physical things we need, and help with every problem. He cares for us and loves us. It is part of His plan to give us things we wouldn't otherwise receive if we didn't ask in faith. He WANTS us to ASK – on behalf of ourselves, and also for others. It builds our faith when we see our prayers being answered!

**What is the benefit of praying with others?**

**Matthew 18:19,20**

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be \_\_\_ for them by My Father in heaven. (20) For where \_\_\_ or \_\_\_ are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

**Romans 8:34**

It is \_\_\_ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes \_\_\_ for us.

**Matthew 18:19,20**

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be **done** for them by My Father in heaven. (20) For where **two** or **three** are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

**Romans 8:34**

It is **Christ** who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes **intercession** for us.



Next verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:25

What a wonderful promise this is! Jesus takes these requests to His Father, saying, “I know these people by name! Send answers to their prayers. Their names are written on the palms of My hands.”<sup>21</sup> Prayer in our families, with our friends, and in our churches is needed! It should be our automatic response in any difficulty. We have a Guide, a Counselor, a Friend, at the throne of God in heaven!

**Why is it important to connect with other Christians?**



**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

Therefore \_\_\_ each other and \_\_\_ one another, just as you also are doing.

**Hebrews 10:25**

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but \_\_\_ one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

Therefore **comfort** each other and **edify** one another, just as you also are doing.

**Hebrews 10:25**

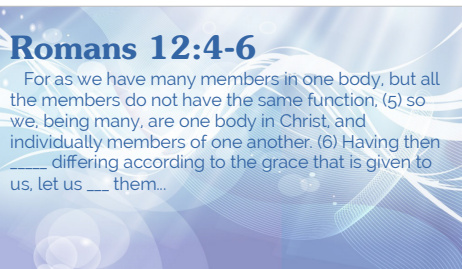
not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting** one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.



Next verse: Romans 12:4-6

As members of the body of Christ, we meet together to study, pray, praise God for what He is doing in our lives, and encourage each other. This becomes more and more important as we approach the final events of this earth's history. As we recount how God is blessing and leading us, it inspires others to trust Him even more.

**How can I use the gifts God has given me to bless others?**



**Romans 12:4-6**

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, (5) so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. (6) Having then \_\_\_ differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us \_\_\_ them...

**Romans 12:4-6**

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, (5) so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. (6) Having then **gifts** differing according to the grace that is given to us, let **use** them...



We use the gifts God has given us—whether it be faith, prayer, teaching, helping, etc.<sup>22</sup>—to bless others, as we follow Christ's example.

Soon we will hear the words of Jesus, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...”<sup>23</sup>

No liars, unbelieving, or impure people will be there. Instead, we will associate with those who have overcome Satan and through grace, become like Jesus.

**Will you be part of that group?**