

T.O.D.A.Y., I WILL...

Attain —→ *Sustain Personal Victory in Christ*

Introduction

In this study guide you will see that attaining & sustaining personal and eternal victory in Jesus Christ is the most important decision of your life. Each negative vice mentioned in this guide can be overcome with the help of God's almighty strength, love, mercy, and grace. He has supplied you with so many tools---you have no excuse to not stay close to Him---you should be striving for the perfection of Christ in your life; TODAY. It is not easy, but He's always there and He will never leave or forsake you.

No matter who you are or what you've done, He's there to help you endure and persevere in the name of Christ. It is up to you to do your part according to the power of His word and His Spirit. It all starts with YOU at this very minute. What are you going to do TODAY to exemplify the light and love of the One who's paid it all?

Always remember and know beyond a shadow of doubt that God is still in control of this world despite the apparent triumph of evilness. God does not overlook sin and one day He will rule victoriously over this whole earth.

In order for you to attain victory in this world, today, you must give yourself to God through His Son-Jesus Christ. Have complete faith in Jesus Christ and God will sustain you by revealing Himself to you. By your trust and faith in Jesus Christ you can conquer sin and have a life of glory---forever.

I John 3: 8-9 tell us, *"But when people keep on sinning it shows they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy these works of the devil. Those who have been born into the family of God do not sin because God's life is in them. So they can not keep on sinning, because they have been born of God."*

We all have areas of temptation and habits that keep us from victory in Christ. All of the weaknesses that we're going to mention in this study guide gives Satan a stronghold in our lives. We must take each part ---one at a time--- and overcome them for the glory of God. Why? Because.....
WE ALL WANT VICTORY IN OUR LIVES!

Remember, at the end of the day, we all have a choice. We can choose Christ or the ways of the evil one.

You must follow these 3 steps: 1) Seek the Holy Spirit and God's word, 2) Pray for the Lord's strength to stay away from areas of temptation **and** 3) Seek help from your brothers and sisters in Christ---surround yourself with solid Christian support and fellowship. Do these 3 things in your life TODAY and you're walking on his path of righteousness.

Consistent small steps in our daily walk with God, through the study of His word and diligent prayer, can help us to attain a life of everlasting success. It is a gradual walk of progression that requires a Christ-Like attitude and an enduring faith. When you give your life to Jesus Christ and place your trust in Him you will have triumph!

It will not be easy and don't get discouraged, because through His strength **anything is possible**. You must yield your heart to God in every aspect of your life. If you don't---you will not succeed and you will be defeated.

Ephesians chapter 6 gives us a great illustration on how we should put on the armor of God and be

ready for battle against the evil one. We must always depend on God's strength in every situation and allow the power of His Spirit to help us each day.

God's word also tells us in II Corinthians 12:9, "*My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness. So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me.*" And in Isaiah 41:10, "*Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my **victorious** right hand.*"

God is beside you every step of the way and He will give you the strength where you're weak--- Today. This should encourage you and give you hope, for victory is in sight.

REMEMBER, we all have limitations, so rely on God to make you effective and live an impactful life for His glory. You can only overcome these weaknesses through His strength, not by your own efforts. Philippians 4:13, "*For I can do everything with the help of Christ, who gives me the strength I need.*"

Observe, interpret, and apply God's word to your life and exemplify the light and love of Jesus Christ in all that you say and do. Offset all of the bad things in this world with Godly thoughts, a Christ-Like attitude and make Spiritual choices.

God's word tells us Colossians 3:1-10, "*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ is at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think about things down here on earth. For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your real-life, is revealed to the world, you will share in His glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impure thoughts, lust and shameful desires. Don't be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry. God's terrible anger will come upon those who do such things. You used to do them when your life was part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage malicious behavior, slander and dirty language. Don't lie to each, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.*"

Set your sights on heavens priorities and put them into **daily** practice and you will produce a fruitful life. Galatians 5:22-23, "*When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, & Self Control.*

There are two categories of people:

- 1) Those who are controlled by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Those who follow their sinful desires---PERIOD!

Which category do you fall in **T.O.D.A.Y.**? If you're in **group #1** you will have victory!

Remember, we are victorious by our belief in Jesus Christ; enduring, persevering, and remaining faithful---**living as one who follows Him** (Revelation 2:7 and 21:7). This will be our great reward one day and we must be true to the One who has been True to us!

Jesus Christ will return and bring total victory to all who trust in Him. If you are not ready, you can attain and sustain victory in Christ by coming to Him TODAY.

Note each one of the areas in the study guide below. Are any of these preventing you from personal victory in Jesus Christ---TODAY?

- Bad Attitude
- Procrastination-Laziness-Excuses
- Self-Ambition(s)
- Anger
- Lying
- Confusion
- Guilt
- Earthly Expectations
- Callousness
- Rejection
- Discontentment
- Bad Choices

These can be major obstacles that hinder your spiritual growth and you will need the power of God to defeat each one. You must realize that each one of these vices is an assault by the evil one!

At the end of each guide list ways you can improve and conquer these weaknesses. Use every positive element that God has given you to win the battle, which are: **His word and the power of His Spirit, for they are your Guide and Teacher in life---TODAY!**

Hebrews 4:12 says, *“For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires.”*

God’s word reveals who you are and what you are not. It will penetrate the core of your moral and spiritual life. It discerns what is good and bad within you! You must not only read and listen to God’s word, but allow the power of His Spirit to shape your life to the One who will give you ultimate victory.

Choose to live a life of holiness & purity---this should be your mindset as you start this study guide.

I John 3:2, 3 tell us, *“But the people who belong to this world don’t know God, so they don’t understand we are His children, but we do know that when He comes we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He really is. And ALL who believe this will keep them pure, just as Christ is pure. Those who sin are opposed to God, for all sin opposes the law of God. And you know that Jesus came to take away your sin, for there is no sin in Him. So if we continue to live in Him, we won’t sin either. But those who keep on sinning have never known Him or understood who He is.”*

Do you really know Him TODAY? Is your victory established in Christ Jesus? Romans chapter 8 clearly tells us that we have everlasting life in the Spirit because of its life-giving power and freedom you have in Jesus Christ. Sin leads to death, but life in Christ is your place of rest. You have a future glory because nothing can ever separate you from God’s love. Nothing is more valuable and nothing will give you more hope than your place of victory in Him. He has promised to return and raise us all to eternal life where sin will be conquered---**once and for all!** (Hebrews 9:24-28)

Romans 8:37–*“Despite all things that we may experience, we have overwhelming victory in Christ’ love for us.”*

“BAD ATTITUDE”

A bad attitude is how you express your thoughts and emotions in a negative manner. It is a pessimistic feeling towards someone, or something. Remember, your negative point of view can portray *who you really are*.

Your attitude in life can be a power-point that could affect others; and if bad---it can lead to a snowball affect of harmful things. Read Numbers 13:25-29 and see how a negative attitude can change others around you.

Do you let others control your point of view on the job, or in a social environment? Are you selfish, prideful, or greedy in life? Do you want to be someone who portrays an; unloving, discouraging, distressing, unkind, hateful, uncaring, unforgiving, and deceitful character? When was the last time someone said, “You are a wonderful person to be around?” You can not attain that with a **bad** attitude!

Philippians 2:5-8 says “*Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus had, He made Himself nothing, and he took the humble position of a slave. And in human form He obediently humbled Himself even further by dying a criminal’s death on the cross.*” Humbleness in serving others will help you to be more like Jesus Christ. Also in Philippians 4: 4-6 you will see that when you depend on God you will not have an annoying manner; you will have a joyous heart of thanksgiving.

Allow God’s Fruit to be revealed in your life! Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 5:3-8. “*God blesses those who realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them. God blesses those who are gentle and lowly, for the whole earth will belong to them. God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.*” Let your Christ-Like relationship be seen in your thoughts, emotions and actions each day. You are no longer related to the things of this world because you belong to Christ.

The key to establishing a Christ-Like attitude is found in two scriptures: Romans 8:6 and Romans 12:2. These will help you in developing ways that are pleasing to Jesus Christ. Don’t let your sinful nature control your mind---for there is death. Allow the Holy Spirit to take control, where there is life and peace.

Don’t copy the behaviors of this world, but let God transform the way you think. When you surrender it all to Him, your way of thinking is conformed to His Holiness; not of this world.

Note the difference between a foolish character’s response and a Godly character’s response below!

FOOL’S RESPONSE

GODLY RESPONSE

BLAMES FAILURE ON GOD	PURSUES WISDOM IN GOD
PROUD AND ARROGANT	HUMBLE AND MEEK
TRUST IN THEMSELVES	TRUST IN GOD’S WAYS
STIRS UP ANGER	KEEPS PEACE
REBELLIOUS TO GOD	STAYS ON GOD’S PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
DESPISES GODLY ADVICE	RECEIVES GODLY ADVICE
DENIAL TO THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN-DEATH	ATTAINS ETERNAL LIFE

“PROCRASTINATION-LAZINESS-EXCUSES”

So many people put off things---there’s always a delay on implementing a very important decision in life. Do others, who are more in a reactive mode versus a proactive mode, sway your thought and actions in life? Make no mistake about it this is a classic sign of laziness, and making excuses. No matter how you slice and dice these negative vices they are: debilitating, ineffective, inefficient and worthless; not just physically and emotionally, but spiritually.

Matthew 25:21 says, *“The master was full of praise. Well done, my good and faithful servant, you have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give many more responsibilities.”*

God wants you to utilize the blessings He’s provided, to their fullest. He wants you to serve Him faithfully-diligently-productively. Don’t settle for little in life, but for all of the riches and blessings He has in store for you, **TODAY!**

Always remember these verses in Proverbs: 15:19, *“A lazy person has trouble all through life, but the path of the upright is easy.”* 10:4, *“A lazy person will be poor; while hard workers get rich.”*

Procrastination is someone who waits to do something later; if ever at all. Laziness is someone who is idle, uncaring, and sluggish. And someone who makes excuses overlooks or neglects something. Do you see the parallel in these 3 areas? They can be fatally disastrous in your daily Christian walk.

Are you delaying, idling, or neglecting important things TODAY? Do you think by putting it off you will attain better results? How absurd! Remember, what you do with your time tells a lot about yourself.

- It reveals the important priorities in your life
- It illustrates your planning skills
- It shows how well you’re preparing in life
- It portrays your “real-life” productiveness

You need to change your outlook and output in life. What you put out in life is what you will get in return.

If you’re a procrastinator, lazy person, or simply making excuses, you need to shift your mindset towards a person with **NO MORE DELAYS---NO MORE IDLING---AND NO MORE NEGLECTING!**
DO SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE IN YOUR LIFE TODAY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU.

Corinthians 3:5 tells us, *“It is not that we think we can do anything of lasting values by ourselves. Our only power and success comes from God.”* You need spiritual power through God to overcome these weaknesses.

You can count on one thing; if you are growing in your spiritual life your perspectives and priorities will change. Remember this scripture in Romans 12:2 *“Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.”*

You will see that the Lord wants you to be a good steward in every facet of your life. He wants you to be effective for His glory---TODAY.

So, what are you waiting on? Why are you delaying? Haven't you chosen the One who chose you long ago? Haven't you decided to grow closer to Him by: **Trusting Him, Obeying Him, Dedicated** your all to Him, **Accepting His ways** in your life, and **Yearning** to know Him more and more? He's always been there for you and He has never put you off. Are you putting Him off Today?

Psalm 1:1-3 tells us, "*Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with the scoffers. But they delight in doing everything the Lord wants; day and night they think about His law. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing Fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper.*"

This is a powerful scripture in telling you how to follow God's ways by thinking about His word. He wants you to be productive by bearing His wonderful Fruit. You can not overcome procrastination-laziness-excuses on your own, but through God's power you can have victory in these areas of your life.

Commit your all to the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be successful. If you sit unused and allow the evil one to prevent you from the blessings God has in store, you're missing a wonderful and marvelous opportunity of a lifetime. Dedicate your heart, soul, mind and strength to Him and you will feel and see the blessings He has in store for you.

Don't be slothful, but productive and fruitful. Don't choose to sleep away your life, but live each minute for His glory. Read the rest of Proverbs and you will see how to live a life of true wisdom. Then watch your life transform and conform to ways that will glorify His name, versus a life that's dwindling away by doing nothing. Choose to live a vibrant and joyous life for Christ, TODAY.

There are many stories in the Old Testament where men did not want to go up against the large armies or giants; they were looking for excuses to save their own lives. Read Numbers 13:31 when Moses sent men out to scout the promise land. Joshua & Caleb were true in their faithfulness and dedication to God. They believed **because** they were devout men of God. While the other scouts were discouraging Moses and the people of Israel to not enter the promise land, Joshua & Caleb were the encouragers. They did not find excuses or look at the negatives, but believed in their hearts because their faith was in God.

So many times people make excuses because they don't have confidence in themselves. And so often in life these excuses lead to procrastination and laziness. If the Lord called you to do something for Him Today would you put it off, idle it away, or find some type of excuse because it was completely out of your comfort zone? When He calls you for a purpose just how true is your dedication? Proverbs 22:13 tells us, "*the lazy person is full of excuses saying; if I go outside I might meet a lion in the street and be killed.*" How much faithfulness and patience will you apply in your decision making process, TODAY?

“SELF-AMBITIONS”

What does the word “ambition” mean to you? To achieve a goal or purpose in life! It’s the desire of power, fame and honor. Whatever your heart’s desire, that is your ambition in life. It’s striving for a level of success and/or recognition.

Are ambitions OK? Sure they are, as long as you honor God---FIRST. He will bless you in your life’s goal, if you put Him first! Isaiah 58:13 tells us *“To honor the Lord in everything you do, and do not follow your own desires.”* Be a humble servant as you strive for ambitions. Take them to the Lord in prayer and allow the power of His Spirit to lead you with pure and righteous motives. If you honor God, He will honor you in your accomplishments (Read Matthew 23:11-12).

If there is one goal that should be first in life, it is love. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and you will love one another (I Corinthians chapters 13 & 14). Exemplify the love and light of Jesus Christ in your life and your “real” ambitions will be true to Him, and He will bless you. Remember what Jesus tells us in John 14:15, *“If you love Me, obey My commandments.”*

Don’t allow Satan to trick you into the areas of your **own self**-ambitions. Once **“self”** comes to full-surface, then God is no longer first and foremost in your objectives. Remember what Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 16:24, *“He said, if any of you want to be My follower, you put aside your self-ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow Me.”*

Never sacrifice your faithfulness and true dedication to God in order to pursue your **own** ambitions. Once you do this you will fall into the sinful desires (found in Galatians 5:19) that prevent you from dedicating your all to God. This is exactly where Satan wants you. He tried to deceive Jesus with his bag of tricks and lies in Matthew 4:8-10, but Jesus Christ rebuked him---**with the power of God’s word**. You must do the same. How do you overcome his deceitfulness? You must draw closer to God (Read James 4:7-10).

Let His Fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control take root in your life. He will comfort and counsel you through all of your weaknesses. Take delight in the Lord, first and foremost, and He will give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4).

Don’t set your goals so high that it leads to discontent or a desire for wanting more. Be reasonable in setting your goals. Establish objectives that are attainable and honorable in God’s sight. Habakkuk 2: 9, 12 tells us *“How terrible it will be for you who get rich by unjust means! How terrible it will be for you who build cities with money gained by murder and corruption.”* Don’t work for success or wealth at the expense of others, if you do you will experience God’s judgment. Let it be Christ-Like ambitions, not **self**.

A good example on personal successes and ambitions in life is found in Mark 9:34-35. The twelve disciples were arguing about which one of them was the greatest. When Jesus asked them what they were discussing they didn’t answer. Why do you think they did not answer Christ? They found it easy to argue about their own **self**-ambitions amongst themselves, but in the presence of Christ they were humbled and quiet; probably ashamed of their thoughts and actions. What did Jesus say to them? He called them over and said *“Anyone who wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.”* WOW!

If your ambition in life is to be #1, would you be willing to go back to the bottom and serve others

“ANGER”

Being mad at people or simply the ways of this world can cease your victory in Christ. Anger is a strong feeling of displeasure and it's a **self** desire to retaliate and bring wrath or injury upon someone or something. Anger is normally established through jealousy, envy, hatred, abuse or broken promises. If you are struggling with anger in your life use these 3 steps below; Today:

1. Recognize the root cause of your anger.
2. Pray for God's strength, wisdom, knowledge and discernment to overcome this barrier.
3. Surrender your anger to Him and let His powering Holy Spirit take control; **not yours.**

Read God's word on how to deal with anger; remember what Hebrews 4:12 tell us. Submit yourself to the power of the Holy Spirit in helping you to walk away when your anger is erupting. It's a valuable choice in life, just like everything else. You either allow the flesh to take over or His Spirit to lead you in walking away----draw close to God---let your anger subside---control your actions and your tongue (James 3 & 4).

Pray for a peaceful, comforting and calming spirit. When Satan is trying to get you to hold a grudge, be full of vengeance, or to be vindictive, you know this is not the way of the Lord. Remember the Fruit of the Spirit; if you are not living by these nine elements then you are not on God's path of righteousness.

Surround yourself with Christ-Like things. Participate in Christian fellowship at church; prayer groups, Sunday-School classes, church camps, and fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ. Listen to Christian music on the radio. Read God's word and understand what it's saying and apply it to your life.

It is not easy, but the more you focus and consume yourself on all that you have in Jesus Christ you will find it easier in life to deal with this area of weakness. Think like Christ does, "how would you handle a situation if Jesus Christ was right by your side Today?"

You must be slow to anger because it can never make things right in God's sight; James 1:19, 20. Be a humble and obedient servant and get rid of all filth and evilness in your lives---that's what anger does; it feels your heart, mind and soul with complete filth. Accept the message of God that He's planted in your heart for it is strong enough to save your soul. **Remember, it is a message to obey, not to just listen.**

The root control of your anger is simply listening and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you in a life of; *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness & self-control*. Don't let this area destroy you and others around you.

Don't let the sun go down and still be full of anger. This gives a strong foothold to Satan (Ephesians 4:26). Don't let anger lead you to say foul or abusive things to someone else - no matter who they are. Let everything you say and do be good and helpful to one another.

Don't bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Ephesians 4:31-32 tells us to "*Get rid of all bitterness, rage, **anger**, harsh words, slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior.*" James 3:5 says "*The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can bring about in our lives.*"

Be like Christ, with a tender heart and forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Live in His glorious light and love in all that you say and do for Him, Today!

“LYING”

Why do you think God despises lying? Because it is the complete opposite of honesty, or anything true. It is deceit or evasion of the Truth. When lies are evident in your actions or speech you are misrepresenting or deliberately misleading someone from the absolute truth. Have you ever provided information in an ambiguous manner just to protect yourself from a consequence? No matter how you look at it, there is no such a thing as a white lie. Big or small - **a lie is a lie!** When you mislead someone you're leading them astray, you have deceived them.

Have you ever misled someone? Was it emotionally or spiritually damaging to the person? What does God's word tell us about those who lie or deceive others? Psalm 5:6 *“God will destroy those who tell lies. The Lord detests murderers and deceivers.”*

WOW---God lists deceivers with murderers! If you read in Proverbs 6:16-19 one of the seven deadly sins is a lying tongue. Bottom line is that God hates deception and lying. Psalm 101:7 tells us, *“God will not allow deceivers to serve Me, and liars will not be allowed to enter My presence.”* Colossians 3:9 says to *“Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds.”*

Is it OK to lie or deceive another for the sake of someone's life? Hebrews 11:31 illustrates that it was **by faith** that Rahab, the prostitute, did not die with all the others in her city who refused to obey God, for she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. The spies were sent by Joshua into Jericho to scope the land, and it is there where they met Rahab and stayed the night. When the King found out he sent orders to Rahab to turn them over, but she told him that the men were here earlier, she didn't know where they were from she just knew that the Lord had given them this land and it was her faith and trust in the Lord in protecting those who were out to do God's will.

It may be necessary to protect someone from harm who is doing God's will, but when you are deceiving or **lying for your own benefit then this is sin.** Revelations 21:27 clearly says that anyone who practices deceit and is dishonest will face eternal judgment in hell. This is not God's will for your life. He loves you and He wants you to obey His word and follow the ways of Christ.

So why is it important to stay away from deceit and lies? Proverbs 16:11 tells us that *“the Lord demands fairness in every business deal; He sets the standard.”*

Psalm 24:3-4 says *“who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His Holy Place? Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who never tell lies.”*

A wonderful promise from God is also found in Psalm; 37:37. It tells us *“Look at those who are honest and good, for a wonderful future lies before those who love peace.”* WOW! Lying and deceiving for your own benefit in this world may be a shortcut to your success on earth, HOWEVER, when you are honest and good in all that you do for His glory, Today, it will provide a long-term future far beyond your imagination.

Leads

Into

Expected

Sin

Satan will attempt to deceive and lead you down his path of lies, but know that the Truth in Jesus Christ will set you free from this bondage you're living in Today. It may be by accident or this may be a habitual area in your life. Either way, you need to get off this path and stay on the righteous path of God--- through Jesus Christ.

LIST SOME OBVIOUS LIES IN YOUR LIFE

YOU NEED TO BE FREED FROM?

SCRIPTURES USED TO OVERCOME

YOU NEED TO BE FREED FROM?	SCRIPTURES USED TO OVERCOME

HONESTY AND TRUTH IS ALWAYS YOUR BEST PATH IN LIFE, WHICH WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR DAILY WALK WITH THE LORD!

If you are having problems with habitual lying, please read James 3 on controlling your tongue and also James 4 on how to submit yourselves to God. Practice and implement it in your daily life!

“CONFUSION”

Today there are many false teachings that seem to make sense. But don't believe anyone because they say things you want to hear **or** with their own version of authority that seems smooth and convincing.

Remember, always refer to God's word for the **true** check list for all things---it is your authoritative guide in life. Don't be ignorant of God's word. Don't let others mislead you with stupid and false guidelines about His word---it will only lead to a confused state of mind.

II Peter 3:16 illustrates that there will be those who will twist things around about God's word to mean something quite different than what it really means. They do this throughout the scriptures and the result for them is disastrous.

2 Corinthians 4:4 tells us, *“Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.”*

The evil ones job is to deceive everyone from the Truth. He uses the allure of worldly things to blind them from true victory, ***which is found only in Jesus Christ.***

Someone who's confused is dazed and/or disordered and mistakes one thing for another. They are disorganized, puzzled, disrupted or in a state of turmoil---they are perplexed. They can't tell the difference between something false or true! Why? Because they were not grounded in the truth of God's word!

A lack of focus is one of the root causes of confusion. Satan tries his best to confuse and deceive us. A confused mind on what God wants in your life can make you ineffective, and this is exactly what Satan wants. If he sees someone with a weak mind he knows how to bamboozle them with his trickery. Once again, you must stay true to God's word and allow His Holy Spirit to establish you with a mind that's free and clear!

So let's talk about your level of spiritual focus. When you are not able to focus and dedicate your spiritual life to what God wants, what is the root cause of this dysfunction? What is leading to this deviation, which leads to your state of spiritual confusion? Has Satan surfaced areas of distraction in your life such as; fear, grief, anger, alcoholism, drugs, low self-esteem, stress, depression, discouragement, unworthiness, strained relationship(s), wonderings about materialistic possessions or just simply at a crossroad in your life? You just don't know what to do! It's absolutely frustrating and driving you crazy!

These are the types of disorder, dysfunction, disruption and disorganization he wants to bring into your life so you will not focus on dedicating your all to Jesus Christ. Don't worry and don't be confused, for God is there and He will help you.

God's word tells us about confusion in Isaiah 41:10; *“Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you within my victorious right hand.”*

Psalms 28:7 says *“The Lord is your strength, your shield from every danger. Trust in Him with all your heart. He helps you, and your heart will be filled with joy.”*

God will protect you from the evil one, and He will give you victory through any type of problem you may have Today. One of the most compelling scriptures in God's word about confusion is found in

“GUILT”

When God declares us not guilty (Romans 3:24 and Romans 8:1). He has removed our sins---no matter what it is. From His perspective it is though we never sinned---HOW PROFOUND! You should never have any more feelings of regret or remorse for thoughts, feelings or attitudes of past sins. You should never have to be ashamed of your actions - past or present. You can now move forward since you have victory in Jesus Christ, who has set you free from the area of guilty----you are forgiven!

By trusting Jesus Christ, completely, and placing confidence in Him for removing all the guilty stains from your past, they are gone. You are now made right with God and He has given you the power of His Spirit to live the way He taught according to His word. There is no one regardless of who you are or what you've done that He will not accept. All He wants is for you to come to Him and allow Christ to live that victorious life of freedom according to His will---TODAY.

What are you regretting in life Today? Are you ashamed of things you've done in the past? Do you have regrets and grief over something that you have done, or not done? What gives you a guilty conscience? Is it because you expect so much of yourself and you do not attain that benchmark of success in your “own” eyes you feel like you've failed in life Who's eyes matter the most - your's or God's?

What will the root disaster of guilt bring into your life? It will bring anxiety, disappointment, discouragement, discontentment, shame, stress, pressure, doubts, fears, worry and depression. It will lead you to feel like there is no help, hope and purpose in life. You feel powerless and vulnerable to everyone and everything around you. You have a poor goal in life, poor attitude, poor planning, poor persistency, poor endurance, poor perseverance, poor self-image and poor values. You have low self-esteem with no self-worth. You are weak in your thoughts and weak to temptations. You are so deep into your guilt that you have taken your focus off the most important thing, which can clear you free from this guilt, no matter what it is, and that is Jesus Christ. Quit living an ineffective life, because that is what Satan wants.

Be productive, persistent, and positive with God's almighty power and you will persevere and overcome this area. No matter if you are feeling guilty over a bad choice, poor decision, or not holding yourself responsible for your actions, Jesus Christ is the only One that can help you to overcome any guilt or regrets in your life, Today!

Don't allow the evil one to surface guilt. Don't let this debilitating state of mind immobilize you. Don't let it interfere with your decision making, especially a wrong decision. Don't let it lead you down a path of confusion, which will lead you to make an irrational decision. Don't live in this bondage that is keeping you from experiencing the freedom of living in Christ's glory.

He is the only One that can free you from this area in your life. There is no need to feel disappointed, discouraged, discontent or shame in your life. There is no reason to let stress, pressure, doubt, fear, worry and depression to consume you, for the Lord has taken away all of your guilt and shame.

Don't let Satan make you feel:

- Unhappy, no joy or peace
- It is your fault if others are not happy

- Look at what you've done...God would never forgive you for that sin
- You are worthless scum...God will not accept you
- No matter what I do, I am always wrong
- If you feel guilt, then you must be wrong or have done something wrong

Don't allow Satan to deceive you with his "tricks of guilt". You deserve to conquer this for Christ's glory, through His power. You deserve all of the blessings that Jesus Christ has in store for you. The evil one wants you to feel unworthy, which could lead you to the sinful desires that keep you from experiencing a victorious life in Christ. Don't let guilt riddle your life internally, but allow the power of His Spirit to imbed peace, joy, faithfulness and self-control into your heart and mind.

When you accept Jesus Christ as Lord all of your sins and guilt are gone - **free and clear**. It has been washed away by the blood He shed upon the cross for you and me. Be proud of all that you have in Jesus Christ. He's accepted you for who you are: a sinner saved by His grace. There are no more regrets in life.

You must:

- Swallow your pride
- Admit your guilt
- Surrender this weakness to the Lord
- Repent for your sins
- Accept Christ as Lord and Savior of your life
- Study His word and apply it to your life
- Pray for His divine strength and guidance, **T-O-D-A-Y**

Trust Him in all areas of your life. **O**bey Him with love. **D**edicate your all to Him; live, give and share the blessings you have in Christ. **A**cept His ways and His will for your life. And **Y**earn to know him more each day and realize with complete confidence and faith that He's given you ultimate freedom!

Remember what God's word tells us in Romans 3:23-24 that *"All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. Yet, God in His gracious kindness declares you NOT GUILTY!"* WOW!

It has all been paid through His Son, your Savior Jesus Christ. As a believer, don't let guilt cripple you. Psalm 19:12-13 says *"How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep from deliberate sins. Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin."* God completely forgives His children; even for sins you do unknowingly. Isn't this great?! When you come to that level of acceptance in Christ - NO MORE GUILT!

Philippians 3:13-14 tells us *"I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all of my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Jesus Christ, is calling me up to Heaven."* Don't dwell on your past, for your hope and all that you have is in Jesus Christ.

Here are some great scriptures that will help you in dealing with any regrets or guilt in your past life. Today is your day because yesterday is gone.

Psalm 51:1-12 (summary of the entire scriptures) – *"Blot out the stains of my life, wash me clean*

“EARTHLY EXPECTATIONS”

What do you anticipate or expect in life? Is there anything that you’re looking forward to? Many of us imagine these things---one day:

- Good health-body
- Higher education
- Satisfying job
- Marriage to a beautiful person
- Nice home-car-clothes-jewelry (materialistic possessions)
- Wealth-earthly success-financial security
- Very active social and/or political life
- Popular Personality-highly thought of in the world
- Recreational fun
- Balanced life for “your” pleasure

These are probably just a few things on your list of expectations for “earthly success”, and this a solid “Earthly” list.

However, are you so wrapped up in your everyday life your focus on earthly expectations takes your heart away from God? Are you setting the bar of “earthly” expectation so high in life it de-focuses you away from where God really wants you---and that is an ongoing & growing spiritual life in Christ?

Is your list of expectations more on the things of this world or on the “real-life” hidden with Jesus Christ-your Savior? If you expect too much in this life, once reality sets in you will find that the spiritual outcome is zero. Why? When you place earthly values first---you will not be successful and you will not attain ultimate victory. God must be first! If God is not first you will not succeed in your spiritual and eternal triumph---reward!

I Timothy 4: 7,8, *“Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, BUT spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next.”*

What is more important Today; a sub-par earthly life, or a fulfilled life with great things to happen in the future? This is a no-brainer!

So, you have to ask yourself this question, **“what does God expect from me?”**

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 clearly tells us what God requires from you and that is *“Fear Him, live according to His will, love Him, worship Him with all of your heart and soul and to obey the Lord’s commands that He’s giving you Today for your own good.”*

So have reverence for Him, live according to His will - His expectations, **not yours**; love Him, and worship Him with all that you have, and obey Him in all that you do.

Are you tired of not meeting your expectations in this life? Is your bar too high to attain? Focus on His requirements and you will find that the Fruit of His Spirit will provide you with the expectations of His glory.

How does the earthly list above compare to the spiritual expectation list below? Major contrast in God's eyes! Focus on His expectations---not the things of this world!

Spiritual Expectations	Reality	GLORIOUS OUTCOME
Love	Loving one another; no matter what	His Love will be seen in your actions
Joy	Living in the Joy of eternal life	His Joy shines for others to see
Peace	Full of His Peace in troubled times	His Peace is seen in your daily attitude
Patience	Applying His Patience	His Patience is revealed in your true motives
Kindness	Exemplifying His Kindness	His Kindness is seen in your care for others in need
Goodness	Living in His Goodness	His Goodness is seen as you focus on His righteousness
Faithfulness	Living in His Faithfulness	His Faithfulness is revealed in true worship
Gentleness	Living with Christ-Like Gentleness	Living a Christ-Like model for God's glory Today
Self-Control	Living in His power, not mine	Seeking Him first in all things that you do in life Today
Living for God	Focused on God's path for your life	Living a fulfilled life in the will of God, TODAY!

So how can you attain this fulfilled life? It is through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ! Have you accepted Him Today?

Are you expecting things to happen with you in control, or with God in control? If He's in control you can anticipate great things. Proverbs 11:23 tells us that *"The Godly can look forward to happiness."* When you live for God you can expect a wonderful and glorious future with Him. Romans 5:4-5 says *"Character strengthens your confident expectation of salvation. And this expectation will not disappoint you."* II Corinthians 3:8 tells us, *"Shouldn't you expect far greater glory when the Holy Spirit is giving life?"*

Living in the Holy Spirit will give you the hope that will help you with expectations of a glorious future---you will be transformed and conformed in your new life. Your earthly expectations will go away and your focus is now more on what God wants from YOU!

Don't expect God to do things your way. Remember, it is His will, not yours. You have to come to this level of acceptance when placing Him first. Isaiah 55:8 tells us, *"My thoughts are completely different from yours, says the Lord. And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine."* It's His timetable; don't expect things to happen on your clock. When you ask the Lord for something expect it to happen; Trust Him, Obey Him, Dedicate your all to Him and Accept His will.

Live with the wonderful expectation of eternal life, for you are now filled with the great joy and hope in all that you have in Christ, (I Peter 1:3). God has reserved a priceless inheritance for you - His child. It is kept in heaven for you---pure and undefiled---beyond the reach of change and decay. You may raise your earthly bar of expectation so high you will never reach it, but when you live in Jesus Christ and you've accepted Him as Lord of your life, you can expect a wonderful life that is far more than you can ever imagine. Through Him you can attain and sustain this expected life of victory!

Don't expect too much in this life, for it will bring failure. Psalm 37:23-24 tells us, *"The steps of the Godly are directed by the Lord (not the world). He delights in every detail of their lives. Though you stumble,*

you will not fall, for the Lord holds you by the hand.” If God is first on your list of expectations, He is with you through every step of the way. Expect Him to be with you, Today.

Don’t expect this earthly life to provide the joy and peace you’re looking for. You must seek God and live in the expectations of His will. What is God’s will in your life? You must know that God’s ultimate will is for you to come to Him by salvation through Jesus Christ---complete trust and faith in Him.

God has an expected plan for you, Today. Psalm 139:3 says *“He charts the path ahead of you. Every moment He knows where you are.”* He cares about the details of your life because He’s concerned about the condition of your heart. God wants your heart to be with Him and then you will live with His expectations in life.

Psalm 138:8 tells us *“The Lord will work out His plans for your life. His plans are always for good.”* And Psalm 32:8 says *“He will guide you along the best pathway for your life.”* He will advise you and watch over you. God wants you to follow His path, Today.

I John 5:14 tells us, *“Be confident that He will listen to you whenever you ask Him for anything in line with His will. If you want to know what His will is in your life and what He expects from you, be confident with trust and faith. He will show you the way, Today.”*

Let His Fruit of the Spirit be revealed in your life and expect great things to happen. Do it with Godly intentions---when you do things for His glory then in His time you can expect blessings to come your way.

Be mindful, thankful and grateful for all that He’s provided. Always remember this promise from God in Jeremiah 29:11 *“I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”* WOW!

Have hope, faith and trust in Christ Today, for He’s the only true expectation in life! Luke 12:40 tells us, *“Be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.”*

It may be Today---are you ready? Always believe in your heart, as you read God’s word, Jesus exceeds everyone’s expectations. Yes, even this world!

LIST THINGS YOU EXPECT IN THIS LIFE THAT

PREVENT YOU FROM VICTORY IN CHRIST

SCRIPTURES USED TO OVERCOME

EXPECT “REAL” VICTORY WHEN APPLYING GOD’S WORD AND HIS SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE!

“CALLOUSNESS”

Someone who has a callous heart is; uncompromising, unyielding, head-strong, inflexible, pig-headed, refusing to accept change, unwilling, disobedient, rebellious, insubordinate, unmanageable, difficult, tough, cruel, harsh, unforgiving, hatred, and ***hardened*** against good or moral things. WOW! Has anyone ever called you these lately? If so, be very concerned about your position in the “real-life”.

Hebrews 3:12-13 tells us, *“Be careful dear brothers & sisters. Make sure your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, as long it is called **TODAY**, so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.”*

What makes a person choose to accept these negative and sinful ways in life? What is the root cause of these terrible descriptions? It’s **S-I-N!**

Stubbornness

Ignorance

Neglectfulness

Our hearts turn away from the living God when we stubbornly refuse to believe in Him. If you persist in unbelief, God will eventually leave you alone to your sin.

You can basically sum up S-I-N in your life by living stubbornly in the ways of the world, ignoring God’s ways, and simply neglecting the One that died for your sins. The ways of the world will lead you to this hardened state. You think you’re strong, ***but you can be broken***.

If you have a callous heart you must free yourself from this state of eternal judgment. To prevent from having an unbelieving heart, stay in fellowship with Christian believers, be aware of the sin in your life, pray daily to God and allow His Spirit to soften your heart with His love. Remember, JESUS CHRIST is the Way, the Truth and the Life-TODAY (John 14:6).

Trust Him, and He will soften your heart with His *love*. Surrender your weaknesses over to Him and He will help you to rid yourself of hatred and unforgiving ways.

Obey Him and He will give you *peace, patience and joy*. Follow His ways and will give you internal and eternal rest.

Dedicate time in applying His word to your life and He will prepare your mind with His ways of *kindness, goodness, gentleness and faithfulness*. Give Him your heart, soul, mind, and strength and He will show you His way.

Acept Jesus Christ as Lord of your life. Submit to the power of the Holy Spirit to lead you down His path of righteousness and He will give you *self-control*.

Yearn to know Him more. You can not do these things on your own, but in Christ you can do all things, who gives you strength for Today. (Philippians 4:13)

What does God word tell us about stubbornness, ignorance (foolish ways), neglect and a hardened heart? Psalm 81:11-12 tells us, *“But no, my people would not listen. They did not want me around. So I let them follow their blind and stubborn ways, living according to their own desires.”*

If you persist in stubborn ways, He will allow you to fall into your sinful desires of this world. Also

in Psalm 95:8-11, God's word says *"They turned their hearts away from God. They refuse to do what God tells them. So in God's anger He made a vow; They will never enter my place of rest."* Don't let stubbornness prevent you from entering God's Holy Kingdom.

Build a foundation of strength in His love, mercy, and grace and you will have something more firm and powerful than the hardened heart Satan has planted in you. Don't follow in the ignorance of this world. Observe God's word, interpret it to what it's saying and apply it to your life, Today. Let His Truth be seen in your life.

Matthew 7:26 sums up neglect/ignoring clearly, *"But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores (neglects) it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand."* This is not the foundation that you want in life, Today!

Don't allow the callous ways of the world to keep you from surrendering, seeking, knowing, believing, giving, living and sharing all that you have in Christ Jesus. If you let the evil one deceive you and harden your heart against God's path, the Lord will allow you to fall into your blind and sinful ways.

You must choose to accept the ways of God's salvation Today, which is through Jesus Christ. In John 12:39-43 you will see that the people saw what Christ had done, but they still chose to not believe in Him. They were stubborn, ignoring His miraculous ways and neglected to come to Him. Because of the S-I-N in their lives, the Lord allowed them to fall to their own sinful desires.

Today is your day of walking away from this world of evilness and living your life in Christ--and He in you. Then He will help you to produce His loving fruitfulness!

Look at the grid below. Don't allow your life to fall in *Stubbornness*, *Ignorance* and *Neglectfulness*.

SIN IN YOUR LIFE

FRUIT OF CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE

STUBBORNNESS	PATIENCE, PEACE & JOY
IGNORANCE	FAITHFUL
NEGLECTFULNESS	LOVE, KIND, GOOD, GENTLE & SELF-CONTROLLING
<i>CALLOUS IN LIFE</i>	<i>SPIRIT OF CHRIST</i>

Always know that God's word can not take root in a callous heart, but when you give your life to Him completely He will transform and conform you to His ways; not the hardened ways of this world. It's your choice Today!

“REJECTION”

Reject Christ or Accept a Life of victory *IN HIM*---**IT ALL STARTS WITH YOUR CHOICE!**

Rejecting something means you simply refuse it. You put it aside and decline to give it any attention. It is of no use---no value to your life---none whatsoever. You turn your back on it, you discard it, dismiss it, refuse to obey it and simply deny it. It is something that you insist is not true---even though it may have overwhelming evidence to be factual.

Is there anything in life that you deny with this kind of authority? Is there any area of your life - morally, socially, physically or spiritually that you reject? What led to this powerful conviction? Has it led you to a hardened heart or stubborn way of thinking?

You may reject most things in life, but you may have that one person, or something, that you would never turn your back on. What if that one thing was gone after Today? What would you do?

Being a rejecter has labeled you as an irresponsible person; you shift the blame to others. However, you are responsible to someone, and that is the Truth, which is Jesus Christ. Romans 14:10-12 clearly tells us that we are accountable to Christ. *“As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to Me and every tongue will confess allegiance to God. Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God.”*

Make responsible decisions and be true to yourself, but most importantly true to God. Let the Fruit of His Spirit impact your life and others for His glory.

Your decision on accepting Christ in your life is very important. You need to accept the Truth and not reject it. You need to be responsible to yourself, your family, your employer, your government, your friends, your neighbors, brothers and sisters in Christ and even strangers, but most importantly God.

Matthew 10:33 says, *“If anyone denies Me here on earth, I will deny that person to My Father in Heaven.”*

Be aware of your behavior in the area of rejection. Impact others and yourself in a positive light. Understand that by denying the Truth will get you nowhere in life. John 12:48 sums this by saying, *“All who reject Me and My message will be judged at the day of judgment by the Truth I have spoken.”* He is the Truth in your life, Today, so do not reject Him.

You need to understand one thing, and that is this: You may not accept many things or people in your life, but there is One who has accepted you for who you are, no matter what you’ve done. That One is Jesus Christ.

You may continue to reject and turn away from Him, but He will never reject or turn away from you because He’s always been there and He will never forsake you. YES, NO MATTER WHAT He is always there.

Don’t you WANT someone to take you for who you are? Someone who accepts you with the loving embrace that helps you in everyday life? Don’t you need it? You may want to re-consider your level of acceptance in life, Today.

Accept the ways of Christ in your life Today and you will be:

- God’s child-John 1:12

- Christ's friend-John 15:15
- Justified-Romans 5:1
- United with Jesus Christ-I Corinthians 6:17
- A member of Christ's body-I Corinthians 12:27
- Adopted and accepted as God's child-Ephesians 1:5
- Connected to God through His Holy Spirit-Ephesians 2:18
- Redeemed and forgiven for all of your sins-Colossians 1:14

This level of acceptance secures you and makes you significant in the eyes of God. You are His and He is yours and the evil one can not take that away.

Are you in a state of denial because you don't think you need a Savior? Is this personal rejection existing because you think you're life is good, but you don't realize that you're a sinner. Romans 3:23 tells us that *"All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory."* Romans 6:23 says that *"The penalty of sin is death."* Romans 5:8 tells us that *"Jesus Christ died for your sins"*, and Romans 10:8-10 says, *"In order for you to be forgiven, you must believe and confess that Jesus is Lord of your life."* Salvation comes through Jesus Christ--no other way. You can't deny Him if you want to make it to glory!

Do you have the fear of social rejection in life? You don't want to accept the ways of Christ and confess Him as Lord of your life because you are more concerned about your status with others. Are you afraid of social persecution? Unbelievers in John 12:42-43 portrays a good depiction of this very situation. Do you want the approval and acceptance of man **or God?**

Do the things of this world mean more to you than eternal life? Are you in it for the short term or long-term?! Matthew 19:16-23 tells the story of a man who was not willing to lose his earthly possessions in order to gain an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ. Where is your level of acceptance Today?

And there are those who reject or resist the Holy Spirit's calling. They say they are believers, but they are not submissive to the power of God's Spirit---He is your direct line to God. God is telling His Spirit what is best for you, but you continue to reject His calling. Why? Read Acts 28:23-27 and see how leaders back during the days of Paul rejected the Holy Spirit's calling.

Has your heart hardened in your rejecting ways? Rejection to the ways of God will not inherit you the Kingdom of Heaven. It's your decision Today---reject Christ or accept Him in your life as your personal Lord and Savior. He will always be there for you. He's accepted you for who you are and He would never reject you.

Psalm 14:1-3 clearly tells us *"A fool rejects God."* Why are you in complete denial of the Truth that saved you from this world? You may continue to reject Christ as Lord of your life, but He is always there with accepting and embracing arms of love, waiting for you to come Him.

The Holy Spirit is speaking to you and you must submit to His calling in life, Today. Remember this passage from John 8:24, Jesus talking, *"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not. That is why I said you will die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am who I say I am, you will die*

“DISCONTENTMENT”

Discontentment is being dissatisfied, displeased, unwilling, and maybe even disappointed about something. Maybe you feel like there is nothing fulfilling in life? It could be that you are not satisfied with your accomplishments, or you feel as if you have let others down. What leads you to this state of discontentment with no unhappiness--no joy--or no peace in life? This terrible vice scrip will prevent you from trusting your Lord & Savior, and having complete victory in life? How miserable this must be!

Have you fallen short of your expectations in life? Do you feel like a failure in life because you have not achieved a certain area of success, or you don't have the things in life that your friends or other family members possess? Are you feeling no more affection? You're so unhappy or discontent because you don't think you can grow or attain your goals in life. Ask yourself this question, “are the expectations of this world so important to me that I am going to let it destroy my life and, most importantly, my relationship with the Lord?” Do you want a relationship with the world, which provides you with all of the internal displeasures and disappointments in life, or do you want a trusting and loving relationship with the Lord where you will find, *love, joy, peace, patience and faithfulness*?

What does “true” religion mean to you? I Timothy 6:6 tells us that “*true religion with contentment is great wealth.*” WOW! Great wealth? This is definitely not the wealth of this world, but in our place of glory with Christ. This verse is a key to your spiritual growth and personal fulfillment in life----with Christ. You need to be content with what God is doing in you, Today.

Your primary concern for Today is the Kingdom of God. Focus on this as your ultimate goal in life and you will be satisfied beyond any riches of this world can offer. II Corinthians 12:10 says, “*Since you know it is for all Christ's good, you are quite content with your weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.*” Philippians 4:11-13 says, “*You have learned how to get along happily whether if you have much or little. You know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. You have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty. With plenty or little. You can do all things through Christ, who gives you strength.*”

Know this; when you depend on things in life for contentment, you will become unhappy when things don't go your way. When you depend on Jesus Christ for your contentment, you are secured and satisfied to the fullest because He is always there and He will never fail you. You can trust in Him for all things, Today!

Don't rely on the things of this world to bring contentment in your life, especially money. Ephesians 5:10 tells us that “*Those who love money will never have enough. How absurd to think that wealth brings true happiness.*” Have you ever noticed that those who own a lot are never happy and always wanting more? Hebrews 13:5 tells us to “*Stay away from the love of money; be satisfied with what you have. God has said, I will never fail you, and I will never forsake you.*” You can trust in Him for all things. Be content with that; nothing more. What more do you need?

A great promise from God is found in II Peter 1:3, “*As you know Jesus better, His divine power gives you everything you need to live a Godly life. He has called you to receive His own glory and goodness.*”

“CHOICES”

A choice is your act or power of choosing an alternative. It is something that you have chosen or selected that is worthy of change; like breaking barriers, living in the Christ Zone, feeding your self upon God’s word and making a difference for Christ---TODAY. When you make a choice, it is very apparent in how you live; it is your standard. **This can be the difference between YOUR victory OR defeat!**

We’ve all heard great sayings in life:

“Give me your heart and I will show you teamwork and discipline.”

“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks on changing himself.”

“If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.”

“Everybody wants to be somebody; nobody wants to grow.”

“Don't fear change, embrace it.”

“It is never too late to become what you might have been.”

“You don't get to choose how you're going to die. Or when. You can only decide how you're going to live. Now.”

When you look at some of these quotes they are all very personalized. It all comes down to your choice to make a change and difference in life TODAY! When you choose something in life are you expecting something good in return, right? Is it your benchmark of reality? You anticipate wonderful things.

Have you ever wondered why some of your choices yielded far below your expectations? What you expected versus the real results feels pretty bad, don’t they? Did you expect too much, maybe? Were your motives right? What were your heart’s desires?

If your choice was all about **self** motives without Christ first, maybe that is why your choice failed. If you did not take it to the Lord in prayer and ask for His divine guidance, maybe that’s why your choice collapsed. If you were not sure about God’s will in this choice maybe that is why it did not succeed.

Galatians 5: 17 clearly tell us that the sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. The Spirit gives you the desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. They are constantly fighting, ***and your choices are never free from this conflict!***

If you rely on your own wisdom to make certain choices in life, no matter what, you are making wrong choices. If you choose by your own human efforts without Christ in the picture, you will fail. Bring Christ into your decision making process in all areas of your life, Today!

Choices in life are simple math terms---it’s **one of two**; you either decide to choose and follow the ways of the world, or the ways of Christ. **There is no in-between.** This is it!

- You either choose evil or good.
- You choose the wrong thing or right thing to do in life.
- You either choose the path to the left or the path to the **right**eousness.
- You either choose to listen and follow the secularity way of life or the Truth in God’s word.
- You either choose to follow a god or *the* God.
- You either choose to follow your sinful desires or the ways of the Holy Spirit.

- You either choose to follow your ways, or you choose to accept and follow the ways of Jesus Christ? Do you want to live by the standards of the world Today, which are choices that do not include Christ, or do you want to live in the freedom of Christ's loving, joyous, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlling ways?

Always remember the alternative One choice in life! You must always be mindful that God chose you first (Ephesians 1:11). You have received an inheritance from God, for He chose you from the beginning. You need to come to a level of acceptance. You must come to a level of belief. You must come to a level of trust. You must come to a level of obedience. You must come to a level of dedication. Once you choose to believe, trust, obey, dedicate and accept all that Jesus Christ offers you, you are given the Holy Spirit. You will experience the wonders of His Fruit and you will know the right choices to make in life.

Your choices in life will bring true joy in all that you have in Him, Today. John 15:16 says, "*You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.*" Jesus made the first choice to live and die for you and me, and He invites you to come Him forever. You have to make the next choice in life - reject or accept Him. There is nothing more clearly than this.

When you choose to accept the ways of Christ the alternative choices of evil are less satisfying. Satan will tempt and deceive you with his lies and tricks. He will plant deliberate seeds of negativity and dissatisfaction in your heart, soul and mind so you will doubt your choice in serving Christ. You can not fall for his traps. He wants you to desire the choices of this world; not the choice in following Christ.

You can only choose the ways of Christ with His help, power and strength. You can not do it on your own, but in Christ you can do all things. Romans 6:16 tells us, "*Whatever you choose to serve becomes your master. You can not have two masters, only One Master, which is Jesus Christ. If you choose sin, which leads to death or you can choose to obey God and receive His approval.*" You see, when you place God first in all of your choices, you will receive His approval. Learn your new life in Christ and follow His ways, Today.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 says, "*Oh, that you would choose life that you and your descendants might live. Choose to love the Lord your God and to obey Him and commit yourself to Him, for He is your life.*"
WOW!

Your choice to accept and follow His ways will bring you true life! Remember, God gives you the ability and freedom to choose. You must consider your long-term (eternal) effect when making a solid choice---maintain an eternal perspective, not a short term picture of this world. Your choice Today could be the most important one in your life---**victory or defeat.**

Remember the promise of God in Revelation 17:14, you are His called, chosen and faithful ones. He chose you first in life. Is your choice to accept His ways? Note the difference between bad and good choices in life below: Where are most of your checkmarks in life's choices?

BAD CHOICES-EVIL/WRONG

GOOD CHOICES-CHRIST/RIGHT

LOVES WORLDLY THINGS	LOVES CHRIST FIRST
PRIDEFUL OVER THEIR SUCCESS IN THE WORLD	LIVES WITH THE JOY THEY HAVE IN CHRIST
STIRS UP ANGER AND HOSTILITY	EXEMPLIFIES CHRIST-LIKE PEACE
QUICK TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THEMSELVES	IS PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THE LORD
URNS THEIR BACK ON THOSE IN NEED	QUICK TO SERVE OTHERS IN KINDNESS
UNFRIENDLY AND EVIL PERSON IN LIFE	LIVES A GOOD-HEARTED LIFE IN CHRIST
TRUST IN THEIR OWN ACTIONS	IS FAITHFUL TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS
INCONSIDERATE OF OTHERS IN LIFE	LIVES A CHRIST-LIKE MODEL OF GENTLENESS
UNCONTROLLABLE SINFUL DESIRES	LOVES CORRECTION; PRACTICES SELF-CONROL
FOLLOWS THEIR OWN WAY IN THE WORLD	KNOWS GOD AND FOLLOWS HIS WAYS, TODAY!

LIST CHOICES IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU NEED
TO CORRECT FOR CHRIST'S GLORY?

SCRIPTURES USED TO OVERCOME

*CHOICES IN LIFE ARE REAL IN THIS WORLD, BUT MORESO FOR YOUR ETERNAL VICTORY IN CHRIST. IT IS YOUR CHOICE TODAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE **ONE** WHO CHOSE YOU TO IMPACT OTHERS FOR HIS GLORY! IT' S ALL UP TO YOU AT THIS VERY MOMENT!*

USE GOD'S WORD AND ALLOW THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT TO HELP YOU OVERCOME THESE SINFUL VICES IN. THROUGH CHRIST'S ALMIGHTY SPIRIT YOU WILL BE ON YOUR WAY FROM DEATH TO LIFE. READ COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 3 AND LIVE IN THE NEW VICTORIOUS LIFE THAT CHRIST HAS GIVEN YOU---TODAY!

IT COULD BE THE FINAL DAYS, HOURS, MINUTES OR SECONDS IN LIFE AND THIS PERSONAL DECISION CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEATH OR LIFE----DEFEAT OR VICTORY!

WELCOME TO THE WINNING FAMILY!!