

31

TIMELESS TRUTHS

FOR VICTORIOUS
CHRISTIAN LIVING

(A Fresh Thought for Each Day of the Month)

JON REDMOND

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

As a general rule, entire verses are quoted. In some cases, though, only portions of verses are quoted. You will notice that some of the words in the verses are in italics. This is how they are actually printed in the Bible. There are two possible reasons for this. The first reason for the italicized print is that these words are not found in the oldest biblical manuscripts. They were inserted by the translators to add clarity to the passage, and they were placed in italics to separate them from the words actually found in the oldest manuscripts. The second reason for the italicized print is that a New Testament author was quoting an Old Testament passage. In these instances, the Old Testament passages were placed in italics.

Dedication

This booklet is dedicated to a handful of pastors whom God has used to greatly impact my life. These men are my teachers, mentors, and role models. Some of them I know personally. Others of them I only know from afar. Some of them are now in heaven. Others are still serving God on earth. Their sermons, their books, and their godly lives have been like shining lights that have brightened my path. Their faithfulness to God and their absolute refusal to ever walk away from His calling on their lives (even in the face of almost unthinkable adversity, opposition, danger, disappointment, heartache, spiritual struggles, personal loss, and serious physical problems) have helped sustain me in my own ministry. I owe these men a great debt.

I am especially indebted to my favorite of these pastors, my father, Charles Redmond. Many of the timeless truths presented in this booklet I learned directly from him. Some of these truths we have learned together in the experiences we have had, the battles we have faced, the setbacks we have encountered, and the ultimate victories God has given us. I'm so thankful that we've been partners together in the ministry. It's been an honor to be his assistant at First Baptist Church in Pasadena for these many years. My prayer is that God would give us many more years to serve Him together.

Introduction

The Bible is a book of truth. From the first verse in Genesis to the last verse in Revelation, every word is perfect and true, without any errors whatsoever.

In the Bible, we find promises from God. Many of these promises have already been fulfilled in history, and many have been fulfilled in our own lives as well. The remaining promises will all be fulfilled in God's own time and in God's own way.

As we read the Bible, we also find countless guidelines and principles. We discover timeless truths about God, the devil, humanity, adversity, disappointment, fear, failure, sin, forgiveness, faith, hope, triumph, restoration, life, death, and eternity. In this booklet, I have identified 31 of these guidelines, principles, or what I like to call "timeless truths for victorious Christian living."

Why 31? Well, I wanted you to be able to meditate on one truth a day for a month's time. I have included supporting Bible verses below each timeless truth in order to put the truth in a biblical context. The progression of these verses, below each truth, is biblically sequential.

The challenge is simple: As part of your devotional time each day, read the timeless truth that corresponds to that particular day of the month and then read the supporting Bible verses. By doing this, you will have a clear thought to meditate on all day long.

If you read through this booklet month after month, and I hope you will, you will find that these truths will begin to change the way you think. In time, your faith will begin to increase and so will your peace. And you will become more grounded in Christ as a result.

You will notice that I have included *The Lord's Prayer*, *The Psalmist's Prayer*, *A Morning Prayer*, a list of *Twelve Morning Bible Verses*, and a list of *Twelve Bible Verses on Health and Healing* at the beginning of this booklet. I encourage you to pray the three prayers at the beginning of each day. Don't just read the prayers. Instead, make

these prayers *your prayers*. I also encourage you to read the *Twelve Morning Bible Verses* and the *Twelve Bible Verses on Health and Healing* each morning.

You will also notice that I have included a short explanation of how to make heaven your home at the end of the booklet. I have also included a brief explanation of the assurance of salvation. If you have never been saved, my prayer is that what I have written will lead you to salvation. If you don't have the full assurance of your salvation, I hope that my comments will help you at that point. If you're already saved and sure, maybe you could use what I have written to help someone else come to the full assurance of his or her salvation.

I decided to close the booklet by giving what I hope will be some practical and helpful suggestions on how to organize your daily prayer life. If you are happy with your current method of praying, I would encourage you to keep doing what you are doing. But if you want to try something different, I would encourage you to at least read what I have written. I felt led of God to add this section just before this booklet was printed with the hope that someone might say, "That's just what I needed!"

Actually, I hope that everything in this booklet will be exactly what you need on a daily basis. May God speak to you on every page. And may your faith grow as you personalize these timeless truths.

Jon Redmond

*“The grass withers,
the flower fades,
but the word of our God stands forever.”*

Isaiah 40:8

The Lord's Prayer

“Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as *it is* in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.”

Matthew 6:9-13



The Psalmist's Prayer

“Open my eyes, that I may see
wondrous things from Your law.”

Psalm 119:18

A Morning Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of this day. Help me to trust You at every turn and to honor You throughout the day. Help me to live this day to the fullest, as though it were my last day on earth.

I begin this day by asking You to forgive me of my sins with the precious blood of Jesus. Cleanse my heart of every impurity. By faith, I receive Your forgiveness now. Thank You that I am clean.

I ask You to fill me and to anoint me with Your precious Holy Spirit. Make me a blessing today. Help me to extend the same kindness, love, patience, and forgiveness to others that You always extend to me. And help me to view everything that happens today as though it were filtered through Your loving hands and allowed into my life for a good purpose. After all, You are totally in control.

I place into Your hands all the things that could cause me to feel anxious, stressful, or overwhelmed today. Help me not to overextend myself by doing too much. Instead, help me to operate within the realm of my anointing so I can go through this day with an inner ease.

Please lead me today. Cause me to be at the right place at the right time. Go before me and make my path smooth. Order my steps. Meet my needs. Fight my battles. Work on my behalf. Redeem my time. Make me productive. Grant me divine favor in all situations. And give me an unusual awareness of Your presence all day long.

I pray for a sprinkling of the blood of Jesus to be on me today. Please surround me with Your angels and keep me safe. Give me the physical health, strength, energy, and mental clarity that I will need today. Help me to get stronger and stronger as the day goes on. May Your strength be mine. I pray these things for me and for my family. I declare by faith that I am strong in You and in the power of Your might. I love You, Father, and I trust You completely. Thank You that I'm a Christian. Help me to share Christ with someone today.

*In Jesus' Name I Pray,
Amen.*

Twelve Morning Bible Verses

“This *is* the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

“Rejoice because your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20).

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose” (Romans 8:28).

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

“The LORD *is* good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him” (Nahum 1:7).

“For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly” (Psalm 84:11).

“For I *am* the LORD who heals you” (Exodus 15:26).

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

“For you shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight; for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel *will be* your rear guard” (Isaiah 52:12).

Twelve Bible Verses on Health and Healing

“For I *am* the LORD who heals you” (Exodus 15:26).

“With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation” (Psalm 91:16).

“I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living” (Psalm 116:9).

“I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD” (Psalm 118:17).

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and *that* my soul knows very well” (Psalm 139:14).

“He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

“For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds” (Jeremiah 30:17).

“Let the weak say, ‘I *am* strong’” (Joel 3:10).

“*He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses*” (Matthew 8:17).

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people” (Matthew 9:35).

“Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (III John v. 2).

Timeless Truth 1 – Peace Is Available

Peace is the result of trusting Jesus. We trust Him first for our salvation and then for everything else.

“The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace” (Psalm 29:11).

“You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on You*, because he trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3).

“The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever” (Isaiah 32:17).

“He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

“For the Scripture says, ‘*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame*’...For ‘*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved*’” (Romans 10:11, 13).

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful” (Colossians 3:15).

Timeless Truth 2 – God Is in Control

God is absolutely in control of every detail of our lives. Everything we experience in life is filtered through His loving hands. There are some things we'll never understand on this side of heaven. That's what faith is for. We choose to trust God with the mysteries of life.

“The secret *things belong* to the LORD” (Deuteronomy 29:29).

“The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all” (Psalm 103:19).

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

“See, I have inscribed you on the palms *of My hands*” (Isaiah 49:16).

“Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon his God” (Isaiah 50:10).

“The LORD has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds *are* the dust of His feet” (Nahum 1:3).

“The very hairs of your head are all numbered” (Matthew 10:30).

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose” (Romans 8:28).

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known” (I Corinthians 13:12).

“For he (Moses) endured as seeing Him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:27, clarification added).

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (I John 5:4).

Timeless Truth 3 – Life Is All About God

The purpose of life is to develop a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. The goal of life is to become like Him. And the wisest way to spend our lives is by serving Him.

“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

“The Lord is King forever and forever” (Psalm 10:16, TLB).

“Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing” (Psalm 100:2).

“Let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I *am* the LORD” (Jeremiah 9:24).

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My* Father will honor” (John 12:26).

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29).

“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (I Corinthians 2:2).

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death” (Philippians 3:10).

“For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10).

Timeless Truth 4 – God Rewards Seekers

God rewards those who seek Him. Instead of spending our time pursuing happiness, money, things, positions, and relationships, we should spend our time seeking the Lord. He will fill our hearts with peace and joy. He will give us everything we need. And He will supernaturally open doors for us.

“The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing” (Psalm 34:10, NIV).

“Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!” (Psalm 105:4).

“Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near” (Isaiah 55:6).

“And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

“And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work” (II Corinthians 9:8).

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

“I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it” (Revelation 3:8).

Timeless Truth 5 – God Still Heals

God is a healer. He heals our souls, our emotions, our minds, and our bodies. Sometimes He heals us instantaneously. At other times, He heals us gradually through counseling, surgical procedures, medications, or other treatments. Ultimately, He heals us completely and permanently in heaven.

“For I *am* the LORD who heals you” (Exodus 15:26).

“With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation” (Psalm 91:16).

“I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD” (Psalm 118:17).

“He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

“For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds” (Jeremiah 30:17).

“Let the weak say, ‘I *am* strong’” (Joel 3:10).

“*He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses*” (Matthew 8:17).

“*He has sent Me 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*” (Luke 4:18).

“Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

““And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new’” (Revelation 21:4-5).

Timeless Truth 6 – Problems Have Purposes

Every problem has a purpose. God allows problems into our lives to strengthen our faith, develop our patience, purify our character, clarify our perspective, and deepen our fellowship with Him. God knows how to bring indescribable good out of the worst imaginable situations. The ultimate good is to make us more like Jesus. Problems are really blessings in disguise.

“As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good” (Genesis 50:20).

“Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction” (Isaiah 48:10).

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:28-29).

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory” (II Corinthians 4:17).

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death” (Philippians 3:10).

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:2-4).

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love” (I Peter 1:6-8).

Timeless Truth 7 – Our Identity Is in Christ

Our identity comes from our relationship with Jesus, not from anyone or anything else.

“So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27).

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5).

“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” (John 15:5).

“He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*” (I Corinthians 6:17).

“Our sufficiency *is* from God” (II Corinthians 3:5).

“Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

“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” (Galatians 2:20).

“Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

“And you are complete in Him” (Colossians 2:10).

“For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (II Timothy 1:12).

“You are God’s very own” (I Peter 2:9, TLB).

Timeless Truth 8 – Forgiven Sins Are Gone

It is both illogical and unbiblical to punish ourselves for sins that God has forgiven and forgotten. If God is satisfied with how the blood of Jesus removes our sins, we should be, too. We honor the blood of Jesus by accepting His forgiveness and living like we are the forgiven children of God. We should never condemn ourselves for sins that God has forgiven and forgotten.

“Blessed *is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered*” (Psalm 32:1).

“As far as the east is from the west, *so far has He removed our transgressions from us*” (Psalm 103:12).

“*There is forgiveness with You*” (Psalm 130:4).

“You have cast all my sins behind Your back” (Isaiah 38:17).

“I, *even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins*” (Isaiah 43:25).

“He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19).

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29).

“*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 8:1).

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our sins* and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:7, 9).

Timeless Truth 9 – Jesus Sets Us Free

Jesus came to set us free from all the things that imprison us. Sin, guilt, doubt, bitterness, fear, hatred, anxiety, worry, legalistic religion, and the unrealistic expectations of others imprison us. Jesus liberates us from these bondages.

“I called on the LORD in distress; the LORD answered me *and set me* in a broad place” (Psalm 118:5).

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

“He has sent Me 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” (Luke 4:18).

“The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him” (John 4:23).

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:32, 36).

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly” (John 10:10).

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2).

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty” (II Corinthians 3:17).

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).

Timeless Truth 10 – Loving God Matters Most

Anything that diminishes our love for God isn't good for us. We should stay away from people, places, and things that do that.

“You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3).

“As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been” (I Kings 11:4, NIV).

“He (Amaziah) did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart” (II Chronicles 25:2, clarification added).

“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, *and* hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37).

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12).

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (I Corinthians 10:12).

“For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness” (I Timothy 6:10-11).

“For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world” (II Timothy 4:10).

“Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works” (Revelation 2:4-5).

Timeless Truth 11 – Loving Others Is Imperative

We should love people unconditionally...just like God loves us. And we should forgive people unconditionally...whether they ask for forgiveness or not. We are liberated when we walk in love and when we freely extend forgiveness to others. Besides, it takes too much energy to hold a grudge!

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14-15).

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39).

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses” (Mark 11:25).

“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18).

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

“Love is patient, love is kind” (I Corinthians 13:4, NIV).

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

“Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection” (Colossians 3:12-14).

“Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled” (Hebrews 12:14-15).

Timeless Truth 12 – God Blesses Obedience

God always blesses our obedience. He always honors us when we seek to honor Him. And He is always pleased when we pursue holiness and resist temptation. It is easier to avoid temptation than to overcome it. So we should stay away from anything that tempts us to sin.

“And you shall be holy; for I *am* holy” (Leviticus 11:44).

“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go” (Joshua 1:7).

“Those who honor Me I will honor” (I Samuel 2:30).

“Blessings chase the righteous!” (Proverbs 13:21, TLB).

“If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

“We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts” (Romans 13:14).

“Flee sexual immorality” (I Corinthians 6:18).

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*” (I Corinthians 10:13).

“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (I John 2:6).

Timeless Truth 13 – Fear Is Not From God

Fear is not from God. Fearful thoughts are not from God. A fearful spirit is not from God. The devil wants us to live fearful, timid lives. God wants us to live confident, faith-filled lives.

Fear eventually vanishes in the presence of faith.

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

“The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1).

“I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears” (Psalm 34:4).

“Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You” (Psalm 56:3).

“Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble” (Matthew 6:34).

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

“Peace be with you!” (John 20:19, NIV).

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Romans 8:15).

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7).

Timeless Truth 14 – We Control Our Responses

We can't always control what happens in life, but we can control how we respond to it. We can choose to respond to difficult circumstances and difficult people with faith, dignity, class, perseverance, forgiveness, kindness, and love. And in our right response, God is glorified.

“The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21).

“Kindness makes a man attractive” (Proverbs 19:22, TLB).

“Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit *was* in him” (Daniel 6:3).

“None of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24).

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

“Do all things without complaining and disputing” (Philippians 2:14).

“For I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (Philippians 4:11).

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Colossians 3:12, NIV).

“*Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Colossians 4:6).

“The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy” (James 3:17).

Timeless Truth 15 – Thanksgiving Transforms Us

A thankful heart changes our perspective on life, makes us more pleasant to be around, and touches the heart of God. We should never take our blessings for granted. As Christians, we should be the most thankful people on earth. We are forgiven, saved, and heaven bound. And until we get there, God will take good care of us.

“*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High*” (Psalm 92:1).

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *and* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name” (Psalm 100:4).

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures forever*” (Psalm 107:1).

“If you have good eyesight and good hearing, thank God who gave them to you” (Proverbs 20:12, TLB).

“Even to *your* old age, I *am* He, and *even* to gray hairs I will carry *you!*” (Isaiah 46:4).

“Rejoice because your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20).

“Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ” (II Corinthians 2:14).

“Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift!” (II Corinthians 9:15).

“Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20).

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

“By Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name” (Hebrews 13:15).

Timeless Truth 16 – Life Is a Precious Gift

Life is a precious gift from God. It is fragile and could end at any moment. We should enjoy every minute of life and invest it in things that really matter.

“*There is* but a step between me and death” (I Samuel 20:3).

“LORD, make me to know my end, and what *is* the measure of my days, *that* I may know how frail I *am*” (Psalm 39:4).

“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12, NIV).

“My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass” (Psalm 102:11, NIV).

“This *is* the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1).

“A time to be born, and a time to die” (Ecclesiastes 3:2).

“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

“I will give your life to you as a prize in all places, wherever you go” (Jeremiah 45:5).

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

“Whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you *ought* to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that’” (James 4:14-15).

Timeless Truth 17 – Prayer Is Essential

Prayer is the best use of our time and the most important part of our day.

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (II Chronicles 7:14).

“My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct *it* to You, and I will look up” (Psalm 5:3).

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3).

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (Matthew 7:11).

“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35).

“Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*” (Mark 11:24).

“Men always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).

“Pray without ceasing” (I Thessalonians 5:17).

“You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures” (James 4:2-3).

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” (I John 5:14-15).

Timeless Truth 18 – God’s Timing Is Always Best

We must be willing to wait on God. God’s timing is always best. His provision is never early, but it’s never late. His provision is always right on time. Good things come to those who wait on God.

“Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!” (Psalm 27:14).

“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass” (Psalm 37:7).

“To everything *there is* a season, a time for every purpose under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

“He has made everything beautiful in its time” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

“Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD *is* a God of justice; blessed *are* all those who wait for Him” (Isaiah 30:18).

“Those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

“God...acts for the one who waits for Him” (Isaiah 64:4).

“The LORD *is* good to those who wait for Him, to the soul *who* seeks Him. *It is* good that *one* should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD” (Lamentations 3:25-26).

“Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me” (Micah 7:7).

“When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4).

Timeless Truth 19 – Life on Earth Isn't Perfect

Life isn't perfect. Neither are other people. Neither are we. The only perfect person is Jesus. The only perfect place is heaven. And our lives won't be perfect until we get there. We must learn to accept the imperfections of life on earth. These imperfections should increase our longing for heaven.

“*It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes*” (Psalm 119:71).

“For *there is* not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin” (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

“We also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body...If we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance” (Romans 8:23, 25).

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal” (II Corinthians 4:17-18).

“For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain” (Philippians 1:21).

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me” (Philippians 3:12).

““And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new’” (Revelation 21:4-5).

Timeless Truth 20 – God Has a Plan for Us

The safest, most peaceful place to be in all the world
is in the center of God's will.

“Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring *it* to pass” (Psalm 37:4-5).

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:6).

“‘For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,’ says the LORD, ‘thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope’” (Jeremiah 29:11).

“Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*” (Romans 8:27).

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

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality” (I Thessalonians 4:3).

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

“For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise” (Hebrews 10:36).

“The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9).

Timeless Truth 21 – Our Words Have Power

Our words are very important. We should be careful how we use them. We should only speak words that are true, loving, kind, encouraging, edifying, pure, and filled with faith. After all, God is listening. And so are others.

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing” (Proverbs 12:18, NIV).

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1, NIV).

“Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21).

“A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in settings of silver” (Proverbs 25:11).

“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks...I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:34, 36).

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).

“*Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Colossians 4:6).

“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion *is* useless” (James 1:26).

“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so” (James 3:10).

Timeless Truth 22 – Helping Others Honors God

God providentially places people with various needs along our life's path whom we can encourage, help, and point to Christ. The world is full of people who are hurting, searching, broken, hopeless, and lost. So let's do everything we can to help someone today.

“The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way” (Psalm 37:23).

“If anyone serves Me, him *My* Father will honor” (John 12:26).

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

“Be interested in others” (Philippians 2:4, TLB).

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2, NIV).

“Do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Hebrews 13:16).

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (James 1:22, NIV).

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27).

“Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17).

Timeless Truth 23 – The Holy Spirit Changes Us

The Holy Spirit lives in the heart of every true believer, and He is the One Who produces Christ-like character traits (the fruit of the Spirit) in our lives. We can't make ourselves spiritually mature. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit in us as we abide in Christ.

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him” (John 14:23).

“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” (John 15:5).

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7).

“We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us” (II Corinthians 4:7).

“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” (Galatians 2:20).

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23, NIV).

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

“Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

Timeless Truth 24 – God Blesses Generous People

Our lives should be characterized by generosity. We should tithe to our church. We should be generous towards our family members. We should give to Christian ministries and other noble causes. We should help those who have special needs. We can never outgive God. He always blesses our generosity.

“For all things *come* from You, and of Your own we have given You” (I Chronicles 29:14).

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10).

“The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself” (Proverbs 11:25).

“Happy is the generous man” (Proverbs 22:9, TLB).

““Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing that *there will not be room enough to receive it*” (Malachi 3:10).

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38).

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. *So let each one give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver...Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have *sown* and increase the fruits of your righteousness” (II Corinthians 9:6-7, 10).

Timeless Truth 25 – This World Is Passing Away

This world, and everything in it, is passing away. So let's try to keep things in perspective and not get overly attached to, or stressed out about, temporary and earthly things. Instead, let's try to live each day with eternity in mind.

“The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1).

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15).

“For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace” (Romans 8:6).

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20).

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2).

“For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come” (Hebrews 13:14, NIV).

“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?” (James 4:4).

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (I John 2:15-17).

Timeless Truth 26 – Walking With God Is the Key

Sometimes God requires us to take a step of faith even if we don't know where that step might lead.

“And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him” (Genesis 5:24).

“Noah walked with God” (Genesis 6:9).

“For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly” (Psalm 84:11).

“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This *is* the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left” (Isaiah 30:21).

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24).

“For we walk by faith, not by sight” (II Corinthians 5:7).

“Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25).

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” (Ephesians 4:1).

“Walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise” (Ephesians 5:15).

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Hebrews 11:8).

Timeless Truth 27 – Human Beings Need Rest

We need to regularly draw aside and rest. We need daily rest. We need weekly rest. And we need other special times to get away and refresh ourselves. God knows we need rest, and He has a way of slowing us down if we refuse to do so ourselves.

“Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” (Genesis 2:3).

“Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest” (Exodus 23:12).

“I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety” (Psalm 4:8).

“He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake” (Psalm 23:2-3).

“*It is* vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; *for* so He gives His beloved sleep” (Psalm 127:2).

“When you lie down, you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet” (Proverbs 3:24).

“He gives power to the weak, and to *those who have* no might He increases strength” (Isaiah 40:29).

“Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

“Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31).

“For we who have believed do enter that rest” (Hebrews 4:3).

Timeless Truth 28 – Pleasing God Is Paramount

Pleasing God is more important than pleasing people. We should love people, be kind to people, encourage people, and help people. But we shouldn't spend our lives trying to please people. At the end of life's journey, we will discover that God's opinion was the only one that ever really mattered.

“Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4).

“When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him” (Proverbs 16:7).

“The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25).

“He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

“Well *done*, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

“How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?” (John 5:44).

“I always do those things that please Him” (John 8:29).

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (II Corinthians 5:9-10).

“I am trying to please God. If I were still trying to please men I could not be Christ's servant” (Galatians 1:10, TLB).

“He (Enoch) had this testimony, that he pleased God. 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 11:5-6, clarification added).

Timeless Truth 29 – God Is Always With Us

The awareness of God's presence gives peace, joy, and meaning to life. God is always with us, but sometimes we forget that. What we need is an awareness of His presence.

“My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest” (Exodus 33:14).

“No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you” (Joshua 1:5).

“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence *is* fullness of joy; at Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11).

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Psalm 91:1).

“When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you” (Isaiah 43:2).

“*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*’ which is translated, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:23).

“I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

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

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).

Timeless Truth 30 – Death Isn't Final

For Christians, death is simply a passageway into the eternal presence of God in heaven...it will be a sweet experience.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me...Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever” (Psalm 23:4, 6).

“One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple” (Psalm 27:4).

“Precious in the sight of the LORD *is* the death of His saints” (Psalm 116:15).

“He has put eternity in their hearts” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

“Whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die” (John 11:26).

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:3, 6).

“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord” (II Corinthians 5:8).

“For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain” (Philippians 1:21).

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Timeless Truth 31 – Jesus Is Coming Soon!

Jesus is coming soon...maybe even today! Let's live like we believe that. If we do, we'll sin less, worry less, love more, witness more, and live lives that truly count for God. This really could be the day of His return. He could appear at any moment. We could see His face this very day.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also” (John 14:3).

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20).

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

“And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming” (I John 2:28).

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (I John 3:2).

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (Revelation 22:12).

“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20).

How to Make Heaven Your Home

If you have never made peace with God by receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, now would be a wonderful time to do so. God loves you, and He has a plan for your life. But you and I have a problem. We have all sinned. Those sins have separated us from God. And those sins must be paid for. That's why God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth...to pay for our sins by dying on the cross. He died. He was buried. But praise God, He rose from the dead. He ascended back to heaven. And one day, He's coming back to earth!

But since we don't know when Jesus might return or when we might die, it is wise to give Him our hearts now. If you would like to receive Jesus, pray this prayer and then trust Him to save you:

Dear Jesus,

I know that I have sinned. I am sorry. Please forgive me and help me to change. I ask You to come into my heart and save me. I ask You to make me a Christian, and I trust You to do it. Welcome to my heart, Jesus. Begin now to make me the person You want me to be.

*In Your Name I Pray,
Amen.*

Assurance of Salvation

God wants us to live with the full assurance of our salvation. In order for us to do that, though, we have to understand where assurance comes from. Assurance doesn't come from our emotions and feelings because our emotions and feelings change. Assurance doesn't come from living a perfect life because no one is perfect. Assurance comes from the Word of God. He has promised to save us if we will ask Him to save us and then trust Him to do so.

You have asked Jesus to save you. Now trust Him to do it. As you trust Him, He will fill your heart with peace. Remember the first timeless truth: Peace is the result of trusting Jesus.

How to Organize Your Daily Prayer Life

God is a God of order, and I think He is pleased when we attempt to somehow organize our daily prayer life. Having a prayer notebook is perhaps the best way to do that. A prayer book helps guide us through our daily prayer time. It gives our wandering minds some much needed focus and structure. For that reason, I am a big advocate of prayer books. But maintaining a simple, functional prayer book is not always an easy thing to do...at least not for me. My prayer books have at times gotten so full that they're not easy to use. While it is good to have a "full" prayer book, it is also good to have one that is well organized and easy to use.

The Lord placed a thought in my mind recently that has both simplified and deepened my own prayer time. I gladly pass it along to you. Again, as I said in the introduction, if you are happy with your current prayer method, stick with it. Don't change a thing. As the old saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." But if your prayer life is stuck, dry, cumbersome, unorganized, or nonexistent, you might benefit by adopting my plan. Here it is:

Buy some kind of a notebook. It doesn't have to be fancy. Just buy something you can use each day as your daily prayer book.

As you begin to organize your prayer book and actually write your prayers in it, divide it into four categories or sections. The first section is called, "*Thanksgiving.*" In this section, make a list of all the things for which you are thankful. This list will include things like your salvation, your health, your family, your job, God's financial provisions, and other things for which you are especially thankful. You can simply begin your prayer time by thanking God for these things. There is something about beginning your prayer time in a spirit of thanksgiving that helps keep life in perspective.

The second section is called, "*Intercession.*" In this section, make a list of all the people for whom you are praying. You would certainly want to include your family members and other special people whom God places on your heart. Simply write their names down.

The third section is called, “*Petition.*” In this section, make a list of all the things you need personally. This list will include things like wisdom, good health, protection, a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit, divine connections, discernment in important meetings, patience, financial provision, safety on trips, and other specific requests you have for your own life. As God answers these prayers, you can go back and thank Him for each request He has answered. There is something about seeing a record of answered prayers that strengthens our faith.

The fourth section is called, “*Special Words from God.*” In this section, make a list of all the things God says to you through Bible reading, devotional reading, sermons, Bible study classes, books, other people, circumstances, nature, and the Holy Spirit.

As time goes by, of course, your lists under each of these categories will grow. So be sure to leave plenty of blank pages between these four categories in your prayer book.

If you make an acrostic out of these four categories (*Thanksgiving, Intercession, Petition, and Special Words from God*), you will spell the word “T.I.P.S.” And that’s what God placed on my heart one night when I was at home praying. He gave me some “tips” on organizing my prayer book that have proven to be a tremendous blessing to me. I pray they will be a blessing to you as well.

Booklets by Jon Redmond

- *How to be a Happy Christian*
- *Riding Out the Storms of Life*
- *Finding Freedom Through Forgiveness*
- *Never Alone*
- *How to Make Heaven Your Home*
- *How to Make Heaven Your Home (Spanish)*
- *When God Says, "Wait"*
- *How to Have a Peaceful Heart*
- *In the Twinkling of an Eye*
- *Angels Among Us*
- *What Happens at the Moment of Death?*
- *Discovering God's Will*
- *The Lord Is My Shepherd*
- *How to Lead a Child to Christ*
- *On Eagles' Wings*
- *Living on the Edge of Eternity*
- *The Problem With Procrastination*
- *The Lord's Prayer*
- *Lessons from the Lions' Den*
- *How to Survive a Satanic Attack*
- *Hiding His Word in Our Hearts (A 31 Day Devotional of Bible Verses)*
- *31 Timeless Truths for Victorious Christian Living (A Fresh Thought for Each Day of the Month)*
- *Prayer & Fasting (3 Days of Seeking the Lord)*
- *The Life of Christ (As Depicted in the Chapel Windows of First Baptist Church in Pasadena)*
- *Bible Reading Plan (4 Different Plans are Available)*

Most of these booklets can be read online at www.fbp.org.
All of the booklets are available at First Baptist Church in Pasadena, Texas.

Jon Redmond

Jon Redmond is the associate pastor of the First Baptist Church in Pasadena, Texas. He has served on the church staff at First Baptist since 1995.

A graduate of Baylor University (B.A.), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (D.Min.), Jon's desire is to lead people to trust Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord and to help them grow in their relationship with Him.