

NON-ORDINARY LIFE
EXTRAORDINARY LIFE
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God has created you for more

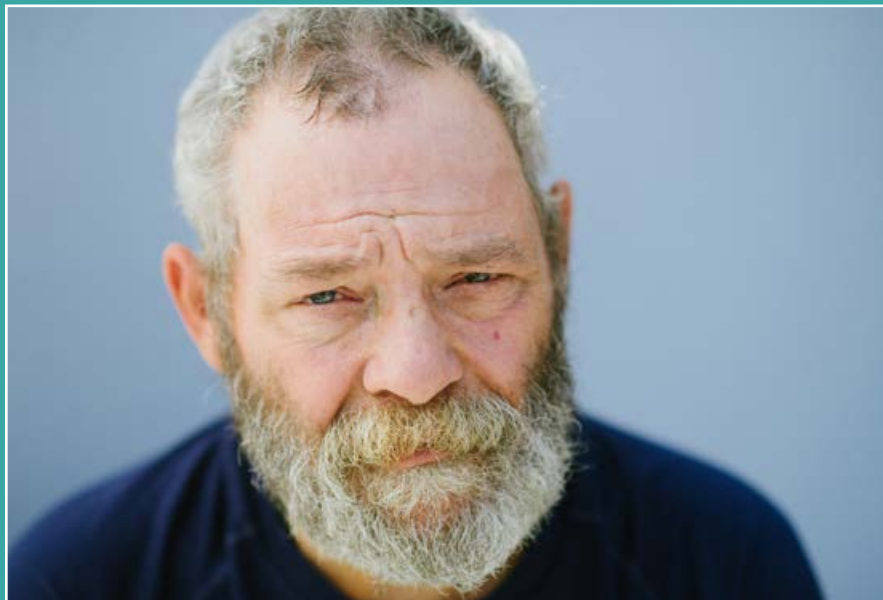
NASHVILLE RESCUE MISSION

I N T R O D U C T I O N

WHO IS NASHVILLE RESCUE MISSION?

We are a Christ-centered community dedicated to helping the hungry, homeless, and hurting.

Our goal is to restore hope and transform lives by providing emergency meals, safe shelter, and so much more.



DAY ONE

God has created you for more . . .

Thank you for downloading our Extraordinary Life e-book.

Now is the time to make your life extraordinary . . . instead of barely surviving. And here's the most amazing part—this isn't just about positive thinking, it's a promise from the Scripture.

Jesus said: *"My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."*
John 10:10 NLT

That's extraordinary!

In this e-book, you'll find the Extraordinary life series, which you can read and pray on each day. Every single section is based on the Scriptures, and shares principles and insights you can apply to your life immediately.

Here's a small preview to get you excited:

- 4 Keys to Live a Life of Unashamed Faith
- Why Worry Isn't Worth Worrying About
- How You Can Make Your Tongue . . . Mighty
- The Spirit of Mercy

But start preparing now. This is going to be some hard work. All good things are. But God will see and bless your efforts.

DAY TWO

4 Actions You Can Take Now to Make It an Amazing Year . . . and Even Change Your Life

Want to make this an amazing year? Here are 4 actions you can take, starting now. They won't be easy . . . and you won't experience immediate results. But if you follow them, 2019 won't just be an amazing year . . . you may find you're living with more faith, more hope, and more purpose than you ever thought possible.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LIFE

In order to experience success this new year, and in life, start by putting away the blame. And make a commitment to own the only things you can control in life—the choices you make.

BELIEVE YOU CAN CHANGE

This isn't about positive thinking . . . it's about supernatural power and living with the hope of expectation. So refuse to say, "I can't!" And start saying, "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 NLT

CLARIFY WHAT MATTERS

God created you with the ability to choose. Exercise that ability. What matters to you? What do you want out of life? What are your values you want to live out? Write them down. Pray over them, and allow God to work and define them in your life.

DO IT NOW

It's never going to be the perfect time. Whatever you're going to do . . . do it now! Because life won't ever settle down. Well, not until we take our last breath, and by then it'll be too late.

DAY THREE

Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?

Chances are, you have a watch on your wrist. Or maybe, you use the one on your phone. You probably set an alarm to help you wake in the morning.

Or maybe even set a timer when you cook. The point is . . . time is important to all of us.

Time is also important to God. Our lives, when compared to eternity past and eternity future, are nothing more than vapor. It's no wonder, when it comes to living a holy life, God's Word is clear the time is now.

If you're thinking you can wait to get serious about faith, may Romans 13:11-14 encourage you to get started now.

IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP!

Romans 13:11 NLT

This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP!

Romans 13:12a NLT

The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes . . .

IT'S TIME TO DRESS UP!

Romans 13:12b NLT

. . . and put on the shining armor of right living.

IT'S TIME TO GROW UP!

Romans 13:13b NLT

Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy.



DAY FOUR

4 Keys to Live a Life of Unashamed Faith

When Jesus talked about the Gospel, He called it the Good News. And it really is. In fact, it's amazing news for every person on the planet. But do our lives reflect how incredible the Gospel message really is?

Here's four keys to live a life of unashamed faith from Romans 1:16 NLT:

UNDERSTANDING THE PERSON OF THE GOSPEL

*For I am not ashamed of this **Good News about Christ** . . .*

The Gospel is based on a real person. It's not a fairytale . . . but was brought to mankind through Jesus, bought and paid for.

KNOWING THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

. . . for it is the power of God . . .

The Gospel isn't an academic exercise or philosophy. It's supernatural power that changes hearts and transforms lives.

LIVING OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL

. . . for it is the power of God unto Salvation . . .

The Gospel has a purpose. It's God's vehicle to rescue His people from the prison of sin that's impossible for us to escape on our own.

EMBRACING THE PEOPLE OF THE GOSPEL

. . . saving everyone who believes.

The Gospel isn't just for a choice few. God wishes for every person on the planet to experience and be transformed by the Good News.

5 Ways to Cultivate a Lifestyle of Mission

God is on a mission. He's been on a mission since the beginning of time. That was the whole purpose in the birth and life of Jesus. His mission was for people to know His grace, love, and accept His free gift of forgiveness and salvation.

That's still His mission. And He's called each of us to join with Him in His fulfilling the purpose of the Gospel. Will you join Him?

Here are 5 ways you can start cultivating a lifestyle of mission:

GO AS JESUS WENT

Everywhere you look in the Gospels, Jesus was always on the move. He never stayed in one place.

The call for each is never to extend an invitation for others to "come and hear"... but for us to always "GO!" If we're going to be a people living out God's mission, then we have to go.

SEE AS JESUS SEES

Jesus wants us to see the world as He sees it. Jesus sees people as they are—tired, broken, frustrated, lost, human.

That's why He was always quick to offer them the Good News, the gift of hope for forgiveness and salvation that they needed the most.

When we see people as Jesus sees people, then it's not just a shame that people don't have the Gospel. It's much more than that... we can recognize it's their eternity that's at stake.

FEEL AS JESUS FEELS

Jesus felt the needs of the people. It was something that moved Him to the depths of His being. He felt for people, and hurt deeply for them. We live in a world that conspires to insulate us from feeling.

Everything about our culture tends to make us calloused. We have to do everything we can to begin to feel again... the hurts and pain of others so that we are moved by compassion.

PRAY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the task ahead of us. But we have to remember, this is God's mission. Reaching a world with the Gospel—that's God's idea. And we don't need to pray for a harvest... the harvest is already here.

We must pray for God to send out laborers. It's not about how God's mission fits into our lives. But rather, how our lives fit into God's mission.

SHARE THE GOSPEL

Jesus did something. That's what the incarnation is all about. When God loved the world, He sent His Son. Jesus came from Heaven to earth to reveal God's love, grace, and mercy.

The divine mission ultimately demands that we do something. Just as God is not a God of remoteness, but He's always near—we're to be the extension of His nearness as we GO and reach our neighbors, communities, and the world with the Gospel.

DAY SIX

3 Reasons Why Death Is Gain

All of us have been affected by the death of a friend or loved one. Sometimes death is a long, painful experience. Sometimes it's quick and unexpected. But it doesn't matter . . . it's always painful.

But Paul says in Philippians 1:21, *"For me . . . to die is gain."* How can this be? If you're a believer, here are three reasons why you shouldn't fear dying or the death of a friend or loved one in the Lord.

"TO DIE IS GAIN" BECAUSE OF THE PERSON TO WHOM IT TAKES US

It is a blessed life when we live in the abiding presence of Christ, but it is a far better life when we live in His actual presence. To die is gain for the Christian, because of the person to whom it takes you. There is nobody like Jesus.

"TO DIE IS GAIN" BECAUSE OF THE PLACE IT TAKES US

To depart earth for Heaven is to return the believer to the place God had intended from the beginning of time—a place of rest and release. Heaven is everlasting perfection.

"TO DIE IS GAIN" BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE TO WHOM IT UNITES US

Heaven is a place of reunion. The biggest family reunion in eternity. And there won't ever be any sad farewells, wondering if we'll ever see each other again. As God's children in Heaven, we'll be together forever.

DAY SEVEN

Why Worry Isn't Worth Worrying About

We live in a state of constant worry. All this worrying isn't necessary . . . and it's preventing us from living the extraordinary lives we desire.

Jesus has something to say about worrying. Here's why, according to Jesus, worry isn't worth worrying about. It's based on Matthew 6:25-30.

WORRY IS UNREASONABLE (MATTHEW 6:25 NLT)

"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?"

The truth is, life is about so much more than the things we're worried about. Sometimes we can get so caught up in worry that we lose our ability to live . . . to live life to the fullest. When we worry, we miss out on what God has for us now.

WORRY IS UNNATURAL (MATTHEW 6:26 NLT)

"Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?"

There's a natural order to life. A rhythm that even the birds recognize on instinct. For us, it's about faith . . . and the expectation that God will be true to His promise to care for His people. Rest assured, God sees you. He's near to you. And He knows your needs much better than you do.

WORRY IS UNHELPFUL (MATTHEW 6:27 NLT)

"Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"

Worry doesn't make things happen. It doesn't take you anywhere or enable you to do anything. There's no power in worry. Only in faith and hope.

WORRY IS UNNECESSARY (MATTHEW 6:30 NLT)

"And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?"

Live by faith . . . not by worrying. God loves His people. He's created us with value, dignity, and worth. It's unnecessary to doubt God when He's already promised to care for His people.

DAY EIGHT

What Is Kindness?

Colossians 3:12 commands believers to, “*clothe themselves*” with kindness. That’s not just action . . . but also being the embodiment of kindness. To show kindness whether or not we even utter a word. It’s about presence. It’s about people not just hearing kindness but feeling the presence of kindness.

But what is kindness, really?

Here are 4 important elements of kindness from God’s Word:

SENSITIVITY

“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”

Philippians 2:4 NLT

Whether in word or deed, kindness means looking out for other people—making others the priority over ourselves.

SUPPORTIVE

“Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.”

Proverbs 15:4 NLT

Kindness is about encouraging, uplifting, elevating, and helping others live more fully.

SYMPATHETIC

“Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.”

Galatians 6:10 NLT

Showing kindness means meeting people where they are. Feeling joy with them. Feeling pain with them. It’s about opening ourselves up, and joining others on an emotional level.

SPONTANEITY

“Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.”

Galatians 6:10 NLT

You can plan out kindness. But really, true kindness is recognizing the opportunity and acting on it in the moment.

DAY NINE

Why is it so Important to Manage Our Mouth?

We all love to talk. Everybody has something to talk about.

In one year if all your conversations were written down word for word—they would fill 66, 800-page books.

But our mouths get us into a lot of trouble. Here's why it's so important for each of us to manage our mouth:

OUR WORDS DETERMINE WHERE WE GO

The mouth is a small part of the body . . . but it's powerful. Our very words have a tremendous influence over each of our lives. Like a horse navigated by a bit, a boat by a rudder (James 3:3-4)—our lives are navigated by the words we say.

If you don't like the direction you're going in life, then change what you're saying.

OUR WORDS CAN DESTROY WHAT WE HAVE

It only takes a spark to get a fire going. A careless camper can destroy an entire forest overnight. In the same way, a careless word can destroy a life overnight.

James calls the tongue a "fire" (James 3:5-6). Words can turn marriages, friendships, and reputations to ash.

Let us be very careful how we respond to one another. Words can ruin our lives, as well as the lives of those around you.

OUR WORDS DISPLAY WHO WE ARE

Our words reveal our true character. They show what's really going on inside of us. It's really a matter of the heart. Because Christians are to be a people of love. And if we love each other that much—shouldn't we at least speak kindly to one another?

DAY TEN

How to Successfully Live in the Tension of Redemption

As believers, we face a significant tension. At the moment we came to faith, God in His generous mercy gave us a new heart, a redeemed heart.

But at the same time, the full aspect of our redemption has yet to be revealed. And it won't be fully realized until Christ returns to gather His people.

We experience salvation . . . but not fully. How do we successfully live within this tension?

Here are 4 keys from the Scriptures to help:

HATE SIN AND DON'T HIDE IT WHEN YOU COMMIT IT.

Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

Romans 12:9 NLT

This is about more than just feeling bad when we sin . . . it's about viewing sin through God's eyes and the lens of Scripture. We should hate anything that mars or diminishes the utter and magnificent glory of God.

But what's even worse, is trying to hide from God. The Father loved you when you were lost . . . and there's no sin that will make Him love you less as His child.

MAKE ROOM FOR CHRIST'S WORK IN YOU.

God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished . . .

Philippians 1:6 NLT

All of us are under construction. We're a work in progress that won't be completed until eternity. But the work never stops. There aren't ever any delays.

God is always near . . . and He's eager to speak to you, guide you, and help you become more like His Son.

USE YOUR HUMANITY AS A KEY TO BECOMING DEPENDENT ON CHRIST.

That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10 NLT

Instead of seeing your faults as failures before God, view them as launching points to throw yourself upon His mercy, grace, and power. When you depend on God . . . you'll discover the strength—His strength—you need.

FILL YOUR HEART WITH GOD'S WAYS, WORDS, AND WISDOM.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

Allow God's Word to permeate your life. He's given us everything we need to navigate life in the Scriptures. Learn them. Lean on them. Love them.

DAY ELEVEN

4 Steps to Start Living God's Best for Your Life

God wants what's best for your life. He wants you to live an extraordinary life. We should be filled with so much hope and expectation as believers, because the One who created the entire universe cares about our experience in this life . . . and in the life to come.

How do we begin living this extraordinary life? God's Word has the answer.

Below are 4 steps you can take now to start living God's best for your life. Each of these includes a Scripture that you can think on, memorize, and pray through.

TRUST IN THE LORD

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil."

Proverbs 3:5-7 NLT

DELIGHT IN THE LORD

"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires."

Psalms 37:4 NLT

COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD

"Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you."

Psalms 37:5 NLT

REST IN THE LORD

"Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world."

Psalms 46:10 NLT

DAY TWELVE

The Keys to Unlocking Happiness in Your Life

All of us want to be happy. And at the same time, everyone has their own opinion about happiness and how to achieve it. For some, it's about wealth and possessions. For others, it might be status or titles.

But God's Word teaches us how we can unlock and experience true happiness in our lives.

Here are the 3 keys to unlocking happiness in your life from Psalm 1:1-3:

BE DIFFERENT

"Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers."

Psalm 1:1 NLT

Our culture today is so caught up in the status quo. We all try and look the same, talk the same, and think the same. But being a believer in Christ is a calling to be different. To be in the world, but not of the world. And unlocking happiness will require we embrace being different . . . because the world will notice.

BE DEVOTED

"But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night."

Psalm 1:2 NLT

And as much as the world is caught up in the status quo, our culture also rejects the idea of commitment and devotion.

People today are willing to commit only as much as it feels good to them. If you want to be truly happy, devote yourself to God. Make a commitment to follow after Him faithfully.

BE DEPENDENT

"They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do."

Psalm 1:3 NLT

We love our independence and freedom. But the truth is, happiness comes when we're willing to lean on God and allow Him to provide for our every need. Because when we do, we prosper—grow strong, experience vibrancy, and bear fruit.

DAY THIRTEEN

Unlocking the Mystery of Prayer

Prayer is more than a spiritual discipline to be given a regular place in our busy schedules.

True prayer is the constant appeal of the heart to God—urged, instructed, and illuminated by the Holy Spirit. And there's power when God's people commit to pray.

But prayer often feels mysterious. And sometimes it feels like our words just float out into air aimlessly. So the more we know about what prayer is, the more effective we can be when we come before God.

What is prayer?

CONVERSATION

Prayer is talking with God. It can be as a friend talking to a friend—and listening to each other.

RESPONSIBILITY

Prayer is part of our responsibility in the redemption of man. This means asking God to help us recognize opportunity in our lives to share or live out His grace and love to help guide others to Him.

PRIVILEGE

Prayer is a privilege. Just imagine for a moment ... the King of all creation, the Author of all life has eagerly invited you into His presence. There's no greater privilege in life.

WORK

Prayer isn't easy. We have to discipline ourselves. But if we don't actively, consistently pray, it's unlikely God will use us effectively.

SURRENDER

Prayer is surrender. It's in the moments we're on our knees—and should be the only place—when we wrestle through the struggles and difficult choices we face in life.

WARFARE

Prayer is warfare. Through prayer, we collide and come against the resistance of darkness. But as we continue, the Spirit intercedes and teaches us how to battle our unseen foe.



DAY FOURTEEN

Find God's Purpose in Your Problems

Life is a series of problem-solving opportunities.

The problems we face will either defeat us or develop us. But it all depends on how we respond to them.

Unfortunately most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in our lives. We react foolishly and resent our problems rather than pausing to consider what benefit they might bring.

Here are five ways God wants to use the problems in our lives:

GOD USES PROBLEMS TO DIRECT US

Physical punishment cleanses away evil; such discipline purifies the heart. Proverbs 20:30 NLT

Sometimes God must light a fire under you to get you moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. A problem can be God's way of trying to get your attention.

GOD USES PROBLEMS TO INSPECT US

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing."

James 1:2-4 NLT

People are like teabags . . . if you want to know what's inside them, just drop them into hot water! That's how God reveals the strength of our faith.

He puts us into situations and through our reaction, helps us better see ourselves. Sometimes, that's the only way we'll ever come to grips with areas in our lives that need work.

GOD USES PROBLEMS TO CORRECT US

"My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees. Your instructions are more

valuable to me than millions in gold and silver." Psalm 119:71-72 NLT

Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. It's likely that as a child your parents told you not to touch a hot stove. But you probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something—health, money, a relationship—by losing it.

GOD USES PROBLEMS TO PROTECT US

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people." Genesis 50:20 NLT

A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious.

Maybe it's the loss of a job and facing unemployment . . . only to find out later unethical practices had been discovered and investigated that eventually led to legal problems.

Many times, we don't ever really know the reason. But we have to trust God can see further and deeper into situations than we can.

GOD USES PROBLEMS TO PERFECT YOU

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation."

Romans 5:3-4 NLT

Problems, when responded to correctly, build character. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort. Your relationship to God and your character are the only two things you're going to take with you into eternity.

DAY FIFTEEN

The Spirit of Mercy

Mercy is a rare commodity in fallen humanity. And God certainly has a lot to say about how we treat the weak and frail among us.

We learn in Obadiah that God wants more than for us to just NOT to do harm to the weak and frail.

God was angry with Edom because their act of mercilessness was standing by and doing nothing as Israel was taken captive.

God's Word to Edom, and to us, was strong and clear:

1. YOU DID NOT HELP.

"When they were invaded, you stood aloof, refusing to help them. Foreign invaders carried off their wealth and cast lots to divide up Jerusalem, but you acted like one of Israel's enemies." Obadiah 11:1 NLT

The Edomites stood by and watched their neighbor, Israel, fall into captivity. And as a result, God declares that because of doing nothing, they were just like the ones taking Israel captive!

In the Western world, we have become desensitized and numb to human horror. We see awful scenes of horror to humanity on TV and we pass it by because it has seemingly become so common.

God help us lest we too stand by on the other side and simply gaze at the destruction of our neighbor and do nothing . . . and forgive us for the times we have done so.

2. YOU GLOATED, LOOKED DOWN UPON THEM, AND JUDGED.

"You should not have gloated when they exiled your relatives to distant lands. You should not have rejoiced when the people of Judah suffered such misfortune. You should not have spoken arrogantly in that terrible time of trouble." Obadiah 1:12 NLT

As we watch those stricken with poverty, tragedy, and pain . . . we're quick to judge they're getting what they deserve. Whether it's a drunk in the alley

or a crack addict whose life is torn apart.

But our God takes no delight in the destruction of the lost! And neither should we.

We should feel what God feels when He sees the hurt and pain of the lost. Our heart should break as His breaks. God forgive us for standing by and passing judgment on our neighbor.

3. YOU WERE INTERESTED IN PERSONAL GAIN INSTEAD OF GENEROSITY.

"You should not have plundered the land of Israel when they were suffering such calamity. You should not have gloated over their destruction when they were suffering such calamity. You should not have seized their wealth when they were suffering such calamity."

Obadiah 1:13 NLT

Instead of being generous, the people in Edom were opportunistic. They took advantage and gained from their neighbor's demise.

Too often our Western mentality is all about personal gain. We miss the opportunity to help others because we're too busy helping ourselves. One of the great sins of the west is that we are so caught up in our desire to do well that we don't do good!

To whom much is given, much is required!

4. THE RESULT . . . WITHHELD MERCY.

" . . . As you have done to Israel, so it will be done to you. All your evil deeds will fall back on your own heads."

Obadiah 1:15 NLT

The mercy that the Edomites withheld is mercy that they themselves did not receive. That's striking. And it should get our attention.

Because as believers in Jesus, our lives have been transformed by the immeasurable mercy of God. And in the same way, our mercy towards others should be immeasurable. There is no other response.

Lord, give us all a spirit of mercy!

DAY SIXTEEN

4 Things to Remember in Uncertain Times

In Genesis 28:10-18, we read about Jacob facing a very uncertain future. He was far from home and could not be sure of ever coming back.

He had no assurance of finding a wife, a job, a home to stay in, or even having his basic needs met. He was seemingly all alone in a hostile world. After a time of traveling, he set up camp and goes to sleep. And then God comes to Jacob in a dream.

The Lord speaks to Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15), and it is from that speech we learn the four things we need to remember in uncertain times.

1. REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISES

The first thing God reminds Jacob of is the promises He had made—His promises of land, offspring, and blessing. At this point in Jacob's journey, his return to the land and future offspring are very uncertain, so this promise is very encouraging.

This principle is true not only for Jacob, but also for us. When we are facing hard or uncertain times we need to open up our Bibles and let the Holy Spirit remind us of what God has promised. Instead of pacing back and forth, worrying, and focusing on the problem, we can be strengthened by focusing on the promises of God.

2. REMEMBER GOD'S PRESENCE

We must know God is with us if we're to face the uncertain and fearful future with confidence. Jacob needed to know this also, so in verse 15 God said very clearly, "*I am with you!*" Jacob may have felt alone, but he never was alone and neither are we!

God is with us. This does not mean we will escape the storms of life. But the knowledge of His presence in those storms can give us peace and confidence in uncertain times.

3. REMEMBER GOD'S PROTECTION

God's protection is the next thing that the Lord reminds Jacob of. He says in verse 15, "*I am with you and will watch over you.*" In other words, I'm going to protect you on this perilous journey.

In the same way, we do not need to fear the dangers we face in today's world such as: terrorism, disease, crime, or wicked people. God has promised to watch over and protect us. And certainly that is enough.

4. REMEMBER GOD'S PROVISION

The promise in verse 15 to "*watch over you*" has a dual meaning—to protect and to provide for or to take care of. This means God was also promising to provide for Jacob's needs in addition to promising to protect him from harm.

Jacob clearly understood this because he expects God to both watch over him on his journey and provide food and clothing for him as we see in verse 20.

God has promised to provide for all the needs of His people. Jesus reminds us that the Father knows we need these things and that since He provides them for the birds of the air, certainly He will provide them for us.

We need to remember the promise of God's provision because even in America, where we are materially blessed, there can be times when we are uncertain how our needs will be met. This can bring unnecessary and harmful anxiety in our lives. However, God has promised to provide for us.

We are certain to face uncertain times, but we can be encouraged because God is with us and for us.

5 Winning Attitudes You Can Learn from the Apostle Paul

There's so much that's completely out of our control in life. But even in the midst of uncertainty . . . God has given us an incredible power. The power to choose our attitude.

And in Philippians, the Apostle exemplifies the kind of attitude that we should seek to emulate as we press on and live out our faith in Christ.

The 5 winning attitudes you can learn from the Apostle Paul follow below:

1. DISSATISFACTION - PHILIPPIANS 3:12 NLT

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me."

Never be content with spiritual attainments. To tell the truth, the moment we finally "arrive" will only come when Jesus comes back for His people. That's why we must continue to choose faith, to press on, and continue to learn and grow.

2. DEVOTION - PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14 NLT

"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

Be devoted to one thing—serving Christ. Many of us are ineffective because we're involved in too many things. One of Satan's deadliest tricks

for keeping us from doing what God wants us to do is to distract us by getting us to do too many "good things."

3. DIRECTION - PHILIPPIANS 3:14 NLT

"I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

If you want to be a winner in the spiritual race, you've got to keep gazing in the right direction. Have your eyes set on the prize and pursue it—knowing where you're going. Because it's much too easy to get sidetracked.

4. DETERMINATION - PHILIPPIANS 3:14 NLT

"I press on to reach the end of the race . . ."

Get into the race. World class athletes don't become great by listening to lectures, reading books, or watching videos—they jump in and compete, determined to win.

5. DISCIPLINE - PHILIPPIANS 3:15-16 NLT

"Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. But we must hold on to the progress we have already made."

In the Olympic games of that day and time, the judges were very strict about the athletes obeying the rules perfectly.

If any competitor violated the rules they were immediately disqualified from the race. Our rulebook is the Bible. It takes discipline to run the race by the rules.

3 Ways to Help Others Grow in Their Faith

All of us are at different points in our faith. And it doesn't matter where we are in our journey, the Scripture calls each of us to help one another grow, flourish, and thrive in our relationship with Christ.

We're in this life together. As part of the Body of Christ, we need to support one another—because what affects one part of the body, affects it all.

Think of this: if everyone concerns themselves only with themselves, then each person has the support of one person.

If we all concern ourselves with the spiritual growth of each other, then how many more people do we have helping us? How much stronger can we be?

From Hebrews 10:24-25, here are 3 ways you can start helping others grow in their faith ... starting today:

CONSIDER

This is a deliberate, reasoned, thoughtful way of looking towards others. We should always be looking for who needs help, support, or a little bit of encouragement. Likewise, we should consider how best to do this for each other. And, of course, we also need others to consider us, and how to help us along.

INSPIRE

This is reaching out to someone who needs some encouragement. Sometimes, just a kind word has the power to inspire someone's heart for love and good works.

There are all kinds of ways you can inspire and encourage someone. Invite them to a Bible study. Take them with you when you try to teach people. Talk to them about spiritual things. It's something that we can all do, should all do, and is pretty easy to do. Don't just say, "that person could use a little nudge," BE the nudge!

EXHORT

This is to encourage one another—to keep encouraging one another. It's not a one-time event in a relationship. Encouragement is ongoing, because we need to be encouraged often. So keep helping. Throw some wood on the fire.

How You Can Make Your Tongue . . . Mighty

A trowel is a tool with a handle and a flat, sharp-pointed blade. Bricklayers use it to spread mortar between bricks.

Whoever invented the trowel likely did so to use it for constructive purposes. But it can also be used to hurt someone or cause damage to a person's property.

In many ways, the tongue is a lot like a trowel. Both the trowel and the tongue can be used to hurt people. Yet both were created for the purpose of building up, not tearing down.

Though it can be a troublemaker, the tongue can also build others up with encouraging words.

Here's how you can make your tongue mighty:

SPEAK LIFE INTO OTHERS

"Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up."

Proverbs 12:25 NLT

Life is already so difficult. Many of us carry burdens that are weighing us down. So often, they're burdens others can't see. But a kind,

encouraging word has so much power. It can instantly ease the load and give hope to someone who may be on the brink of giving up.

EMPOWER OTHERS THROUGH YOUR WORDS

"The words of the godly encourage many, but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense."

Proverbs 10:21 NLT

Your words can give nourishment to others. Like food and water. Like rest and sleep. Words can fill a person to enable them to accomplish great deeds—to live more fully, to love more deeply, to follow Jesus more faithfully.

VERBAL GIFTS

"Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket."

Proverbs 25:11 NLT

While so much of what is said carries so much darkness in our culture today, a good word stands out. It's a gift. And people long for them because they recognize the tremendous value and worth of an encouraging word that builds others up.



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