

# STEPPING STONES

Illustrated Biblical Studies for Walking through Life with the Word  
A Four-Book Collection

## BOOK THREE (51-77)

Dr. Bob Abramson

This is the third in a collection of four books. Each book is comprised of a wide range of illustrated, one-page studies in the Word of God. Most deal with a single topic or biblical principle, though some may be part of a series. The studies are concise, containing key points which are intended to be expanded or “unpacked.” They can be used devotionally for individuals or groups. They also make excellent teaching or preaching outlines. We invite you to approach these studies with an open heart to hear from the Holy Spirit. Use them to discover what God wants to say to you, and then to others through you.

Our prayer is that what you receive from them will draw you and those you minister to a little closer to God, helping you become a little more like Christ, every day in every way.

### About the Author

Dr. Bob Abramson is a missionary pastor, leadership mentor and coach, and Bible school educator around the world. He has a heart for mentoring leaders to fulfill, skillfully and effectively, their call from God. Over the years, he has pastored multicultural, international churches in New York City and in the South Pacific. He previously established or taught in Bible schools and ministry training centers in New Zealand, Fiji, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Europe and the United States. He has authored extensive curriculum materials for ministry training and just completed his latest work, a textbook on cross-cultural mentoring.



Dr. Abramson teaching in Malaysia

Dr. Abramson earned a Doctor of Ministry from Erskine Theological Seminary, with a concentration on supra-cultural marriage and family issues, a Masters in Religion from Liberty University and a Bachelor of Arts in Bible with a minor in Systematic Theology from Southeastern University. He and his wife Nancy currently reside in Lake Worth, Florida. They have five grown children and five grandchildren.



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# 51.

# - A JUDGMENTAL SPIRIT -

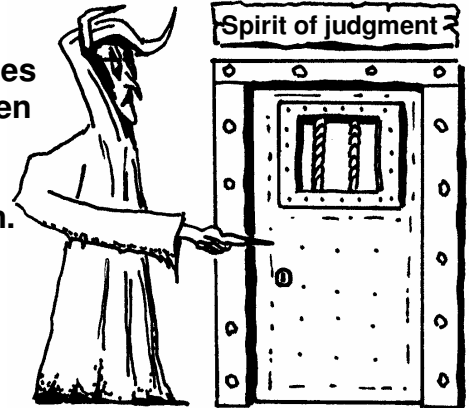
*“By your words you will be justified. By your words you will be condemned.”*

To justify = “To render or judge someone innocent.”

**MATTHEW 12:33-37**  
**MATTHEW 7:1-5**

To condemn = “To sentence someone – to pronounce doom.”

Hasty judgment easily becomes a habit. Eventually, it becomes an automatic response. It then graduates to becoming an open door to a spirit of judgment, and before you know it, your perception of others is tainted, spoiled, easily and wrongly influenced. There is no longer room for love and compassion.



**ACTS 10:1-16**

Peter should have known better. He personally experienced living with Jesus. He had listened to, and learned from Jesus. For three years he sat under the Master! Yet, when the Lord spoke to Him that the old prejudices were to die, he objected.

Jesus clearly taught the truth regarding feelings *and* words of judgment toward others:

- *“Hear and understand, Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.” (Matthew 15:11 NKJV)*
- *“Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.” (Matthew 15:18 NKJV)*
- *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34 NKJV)*

## POINT 1. WATCH YOUR MOUTH. IT WILL REVEAL YOUR HEART!

**ACTS 10:17-29**

Peter gets an invitation to go to Caesarea to meet Cornelius. He will preach the Gospel to Cornelius’ household... and will learn that Christ is Savior of all people, not just one nation.

**ACTS 10:34 & 35 (Paraphrase of Peter’s words)**

*“God has shown me that there should be no room for pride or self-righteous judgment in how I look at others. God created all people equal before Him and He loves us all. We are all special to Him - precious and valuable in His sight.”*

Three Roots of a Judgmental Spirit: (1) Pride or Self-Righteousness; (2) Feeling the need to justify ourselves because we have guilt or shame; (3) Peer Pressure (ROMANS 12:2, 3)

**GALATIANS 2:11-13, 16, 20-21 & GALATIANS 5:1, 6, 13 & 16**

**POINT 2. ALLOW GOD HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS JUDGE. STAY OFF HIS THRONE!** (While you are at it, stay off of your throne too!)

Resist the temptation to look down upon or speak ill of others. Do not enter into bondage to a judgmental spirit! It will own you!

**ROMANS**  
**12:9-21**

**POINT 3. “DO NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL. OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD.”**



# 52. HIS WORD IS ESTABLISHED IN HEAVEN! PSALM 119:89, 90

His Word declares His authority, His will, His promises, His protection... It's all established, settled, set in place! His faithfulness "endures" to all generations. It never varies. It is not measured in degrees, nor is it given on the basis of favoritism. It never fails. It is never in doubt. God can be depended upon. He is faithful, faithful, faithful! He is absolute in faithfulness... and He backs it up with His infinite power and His unfathomable love  
**FOR YOU!**

*(Isaiah 55:11-12 NKJV) "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. {12} For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."*

*(Jeremiah 23:29 NKJV) "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"*

# 1. HIS WORD IS UNCHANGING... It is set in place forever!

## PSALM 119:105

God will invade your darkness and bring forth His marvelous light.  
It will flood you with grace and you will be changed forever!

## 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 1 PETER 2:9

His Word is a lamp unto your feet. You don't have to walk in unknowing darkness. You can be confident of your destination! It's a journey into the light, with Christ forevermore!

*(Job 23:12 NKJV) "I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food."*

*(John 8:12 NKJV) "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

## PROVERBS 4:18-22

# 2. HIS WORD MAKES THE DIFFERENCE... between eternally stumbling into blackout and walking forever in the light that dawns from above.

PSALM 121:1-8

## PSALM 124:1

PSALM 125:1 & 2

**"If it had not been for the Lord who was on our side..."**

*"God is not a man. He will not lie. God is not a human being. He does not change his mind. What he says he will do, he does. What he promises, he keeps. (Numbers 23:19 - International Children's Bible)*

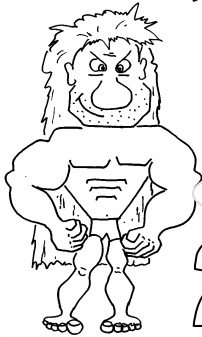
# 3. OUR GOD IS A PROMISE KEEPER... He keeps the promises in His Word foerever!



# 53. OVERCOMING TEMPTATION AND SECURING YOUR FREEDOM

## JUDGES 16:1-5

- 1 The thing that tempts you wants to **bind** and **afflict** you!  
Temptations may seem beautiful and worth embracing, but if you touch them they will burn you. There is no secret about their true intent. You will know in your heart what you are playing with... and nothing is hidden that will not be revealed.

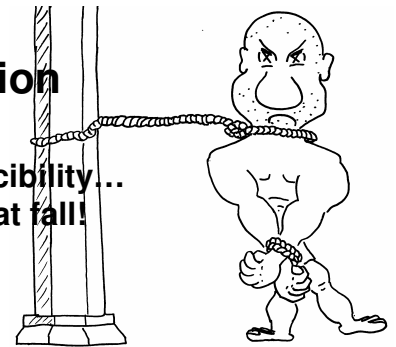


SAMSON

## JUDGES 16:6-15

- 2 We deceive ourselves, embrace temptation and set ourselves up for the fall.

Feelings of Self-Sufficiency... Pride... A Sense of Superiority or Invincibility...  
No Fear of the Consequences... No Fear of God! It's a setup for a great fall!



SAMSUNK

## JUDGES 16:16-21 JAMES 1:12-17

**TEMPTATION → ENTICEMENT → SIN → DEATH**

- 3 There is a way of escape. Take it!

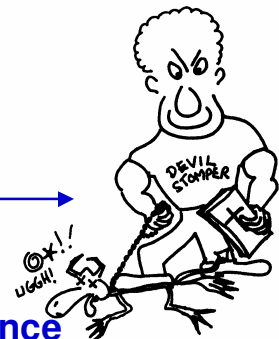
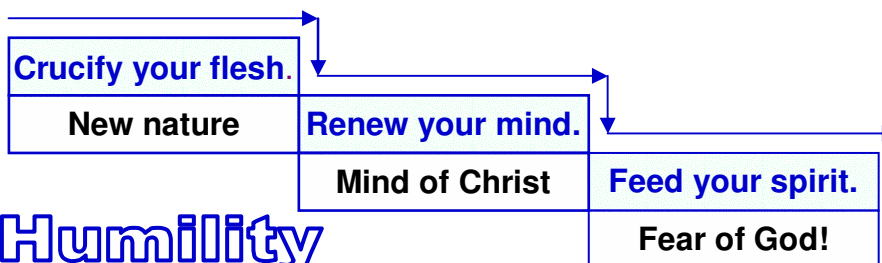
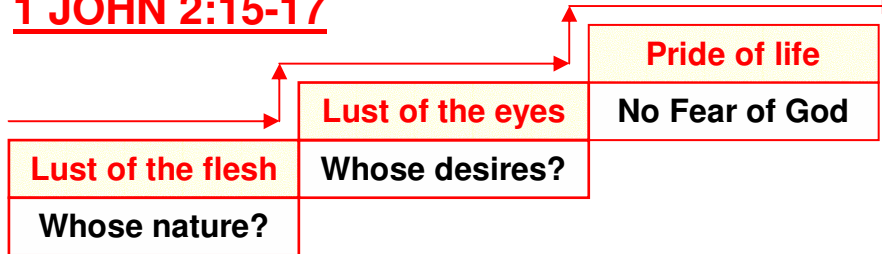
*(1 Corinthians 10:12, 13 NKJV) "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."*

- 4 Position yourself for victory and rest in God.

### Arrogance!

Look at the whole picture.

### 1 JOHN 2:15-17

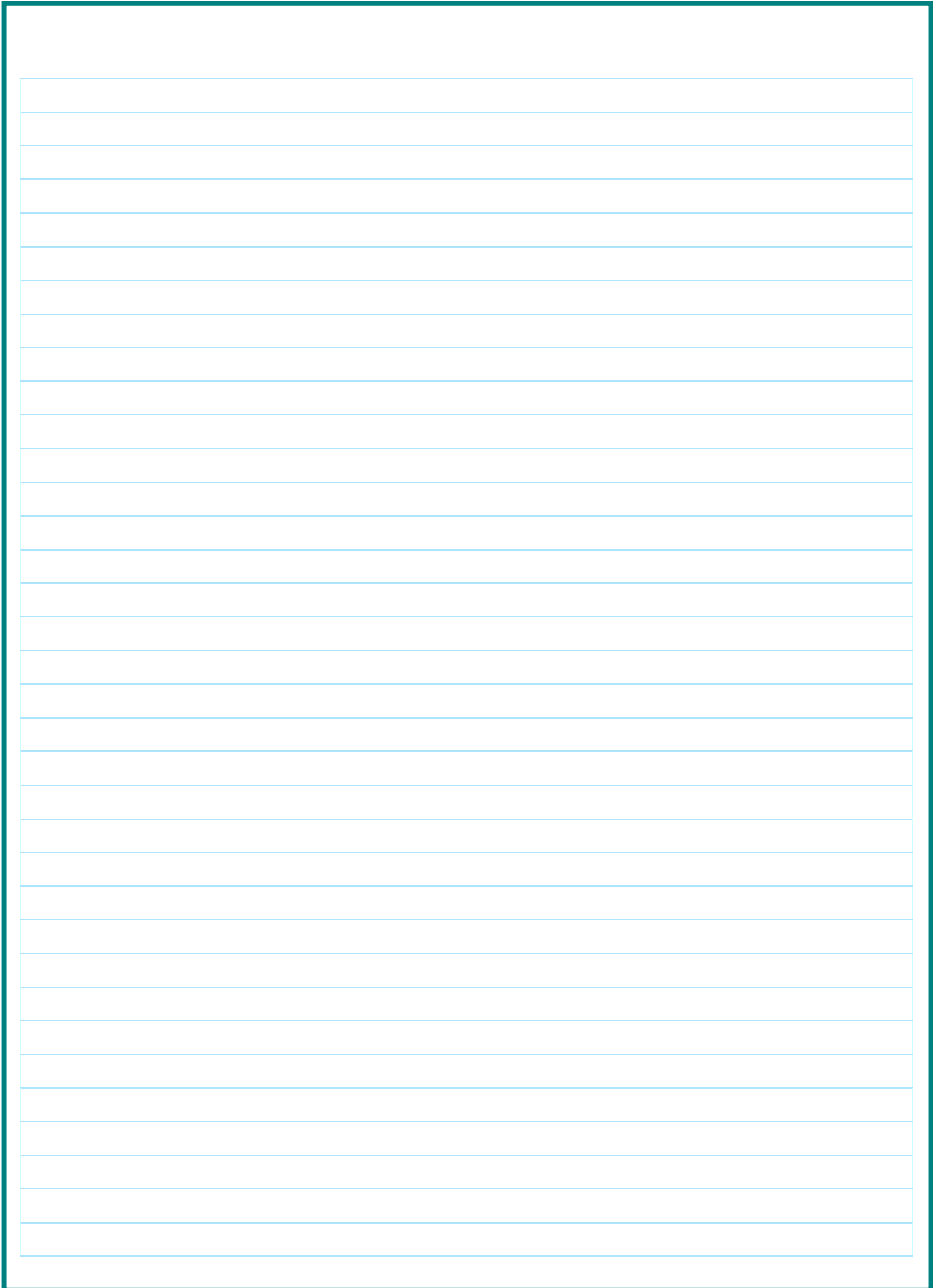


### Humility

### 2 CORINTHIANS 10:5 & ROMANS 12:1-3

JAMES 4:7-10 1 PETER 5:6-11 PSALM 112:1, 4 & 7

## Notes



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54.

# BUILD AN ALTAR.



Moses  
Exodus 17



Moses built an altar.  
**EXODUS 17:8-15**

Abraham built an altar **GENESIS 12**  
...And again in **GENESIS 13, 22**

Isaac built an altar. **GENESIS 26**

Jacob built an altar. **GENESIS 35**

Moses built an altar. **EXODUS 17**

Joshua built an altar. **JOSHUA 8**

And... Elijah built an altar.  
**1 KINGS 18**

In Old Covenant days, men built an altar, slaughtered an animal and burned it as an act of worship. When that happened, God met them and acted on their behalf. It was an act of worship that required considerable work.

In Old Testament days, men built altars in response to what was happening in their lives. They raised a memorial to God and worshiped at it. Every event in life became an occasion for altar-building.

- If times were happy... or if times were sad, they built an altar!
- If there was victory... or there was defeat, they built an altar!
- If they sinned... they built an altar! When they were forgiven they built an altar!

Under the Old Covenant, **altar building** was an expression of three things:

1. An expression of a sense of need for God's help
2. An expression of a desire for God's presence
3. An expression of a decision to submit to God's will

Result → **An Act of Worship**

And the writer to the Hebrews, in Chapter 13, Verse 10, says, **"We have an altar..."**

Our altar is no longer a place of ritual toward God. It is now a place of relationship with God.

Under the New Covenant, when men and women come to the altar, there is a sacrifice demanded, but it is no longer blood and burning.

**ROMANS 12:1 & 2**

Today, we build our altars in our hearts. These altars speak of a readjustment of attitudes, in which we meet with God, and are changed. And so... our attitudes do not need to be conditional on our conditions! We can get an attitude adjustment at the altar!

**HEBREWS 4:14-16**

When you build an altar in your heart, you make a place for worship to ignite.

**1. AT THE ALTAR, WORSHIP WILL CHANGE ANYTHING.**

**IT WILL RESHAPE YOUR DESTINY!**

The altar was to be made of earth and *nothing else* - unless you were in a rocky place and then it was to be made of rock. But the rock was *not* to be formed with tools, and no steps were allowed to get you up to it. **Why?**

**EXODUS 20:22-26**

**EPHESIANS 2:8, 9**

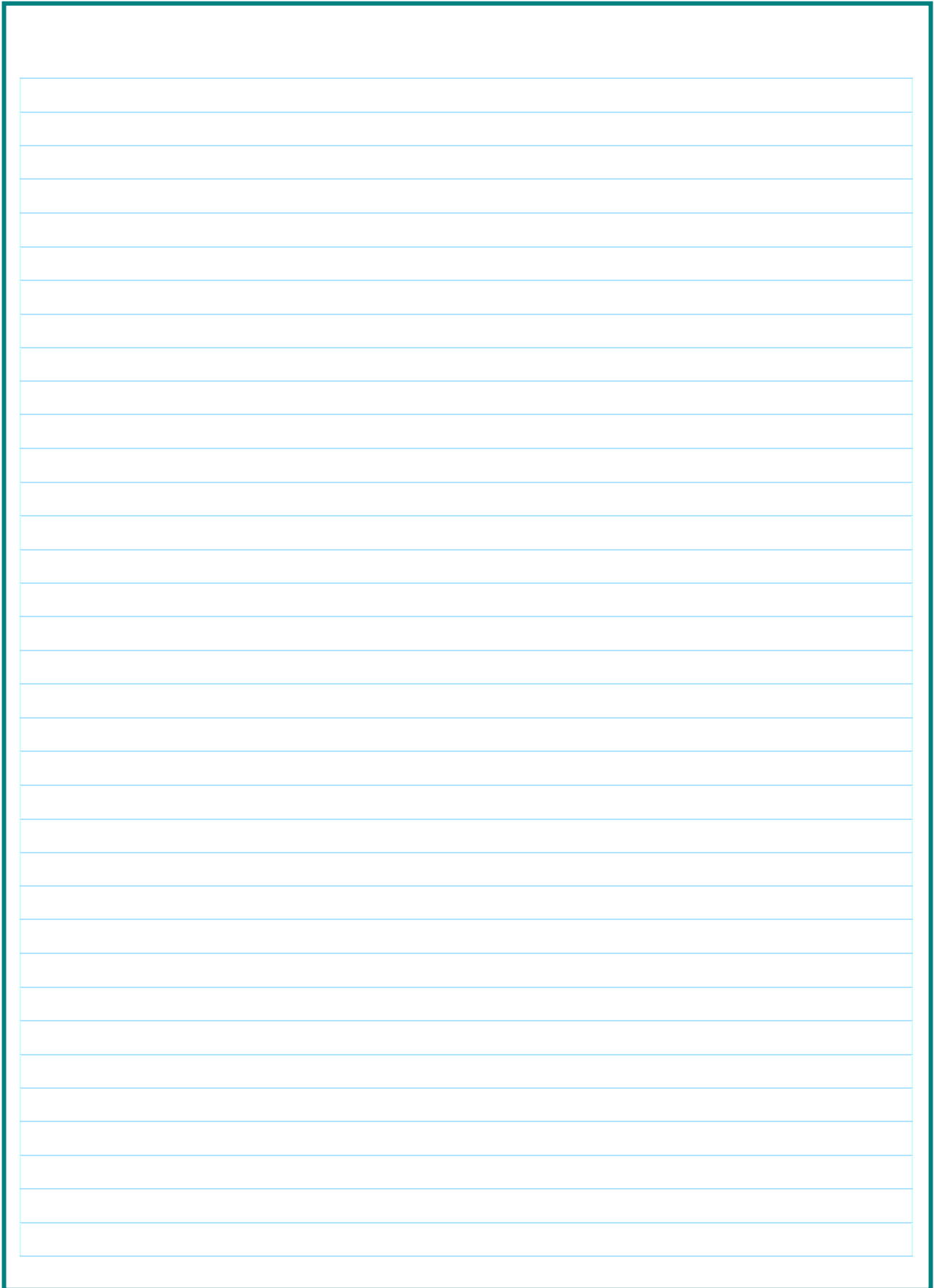
**2. THERE CAN BE NO HUMAN WORKMANSHIP IN ALTAR-BUILDING!**

The altar is the place of complete grace. We have a way of escape because we have an altar!

**3. YOU HAVE AN ALTAR!**

**HEBREWS 8:1, 6... HEBREWS 9:11-15**

## Notes



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# 55. You are the Salt of the Earth.

## MATTHEW 5:1-16

And here was the Master, His voice ringing with words rich and full of timeless truth - words that would be forever written on countless hearts - words that would echo far beyond that grassy hill to the ends of the earth, till the end of time.

*"Blessed are you..."*  
(Verse 11)

**A significant shift: "THEY" → "YOU"**

What did Jesus mean by "the salt of the earth?" What an odd choice of words. Salt is a very simple compound - sodium chloride, but symbolically, it's so much more.

## What is salt? What does salt do? How does it affect the world?

### 1. SALT HAS A FLAVOR! - VERSE 13

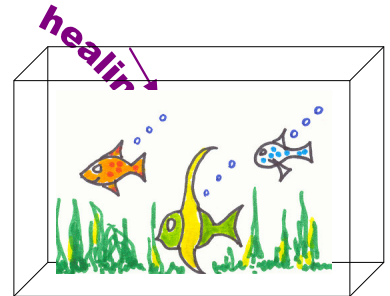
Salt makes things more palatable... more tasty. It enhances what it comes in contact with and adds something to what it is poured out on. Jesus was talking about the presence of your Christ-like character flavoring the lives of other people.

### 2. SALT IS A PRESERVATIVE.

**It keeps things from spoiling.**

Salt keeps things from decaying - from stinking - from reeking of corruption... And you are the salt of the earth!

2 KINGS 2:19-21



### 3. SALT BRINGS HEALING.

Elisha's pouring of the salt into the water was a public act of mercy. He took salt to the source of the problem. Pour yourself out! There is an interesting side effect when salt is poured on something. (Example: meat or soup - The salt becomes part of it)

### 4. SALT BRINGS SAFETY TO SLIPPERY FOOTING.

**In winter, it is poured on sidewalks and streets.**

It is the Jesus in you that needs to be poured out on others, to keep them from stumbling and slipping and sliding. Give someone a sprinkling of grace.

## JOHN 4:7-14

Jesus and the woman at the well



## ARE YOU THIRSTY?

**Are you making anyone else thirsty?**

*"but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

*"You are the salt of the earth!"*

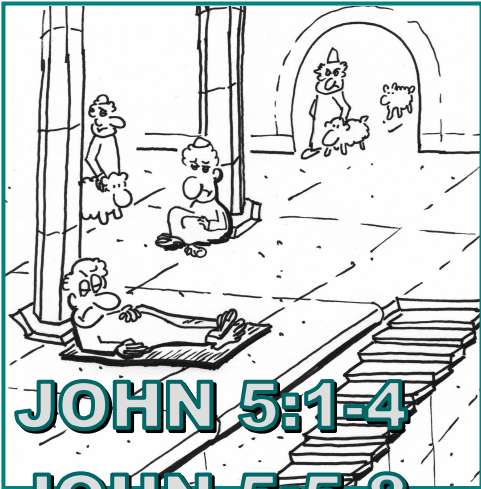


**Pour yourself out!**



# 56. Take up your faith and walk in His grace.

## The Pool of Bethesda



**JOHN 5:1-4**  
**JOHN 5:5-8**

- It was a pool surrounded by the sick, the sad and the hurting.
- It was a pool surrounded by helplessness people who lived in despair, without hope.
- It was a pool littered with sheep dirt.

*“Bethesda,” in the original Hebrew language means “House of Mercy or House of Kindness.”*

**Don't miss the angel!**  
**When he comes, dive in first!**

(What about that long drop into the pool? Ouch! He couldn't even get up off his bed. Nobody was there to help. His circumstances seemed bigger than any expectation he had for change.)

---

Jesus asked, **“Do you want to be made well?”**

The man had been without hope, disappointed so many times... suffering so long that he could not even dream of a change in his circumstances. Jesus destroyed suffering and hopelessness in a flash! He is a “Suddenly God!”

**1. When you are given a Biblical imperative, it is to be obeyed without regard for your past expectations or present objections.**

A move of God seldom fits our expectations, or lines up with natural law. It's not predictable or pretty. A move of God is a creative act! Don't try to define it. Don't try to understand it. Just get up and go with it!

- There are times when you have to ask.
- There are times when you have to fast.
- There are times when you have to pray.
- And then there are times when you just have to get up and go. Why? Because God shows up and says so!

This could be a time when your doubt has to fall into the pool.

**Take up your confidence and walk.**

This could be a time when your discouragement and hopelessness has to fall into the pool.

**Take up hope, encourage yourself and walk.**

This could be a time when your fear has to drown in a stinking pool.

**Take up your faith and walk.**

Whether you expect it... whether you like it... whether you deserve it... Not the issue!

**Take up His grace and walk!**

**JOHN 5:9**

Grace looks past the past.

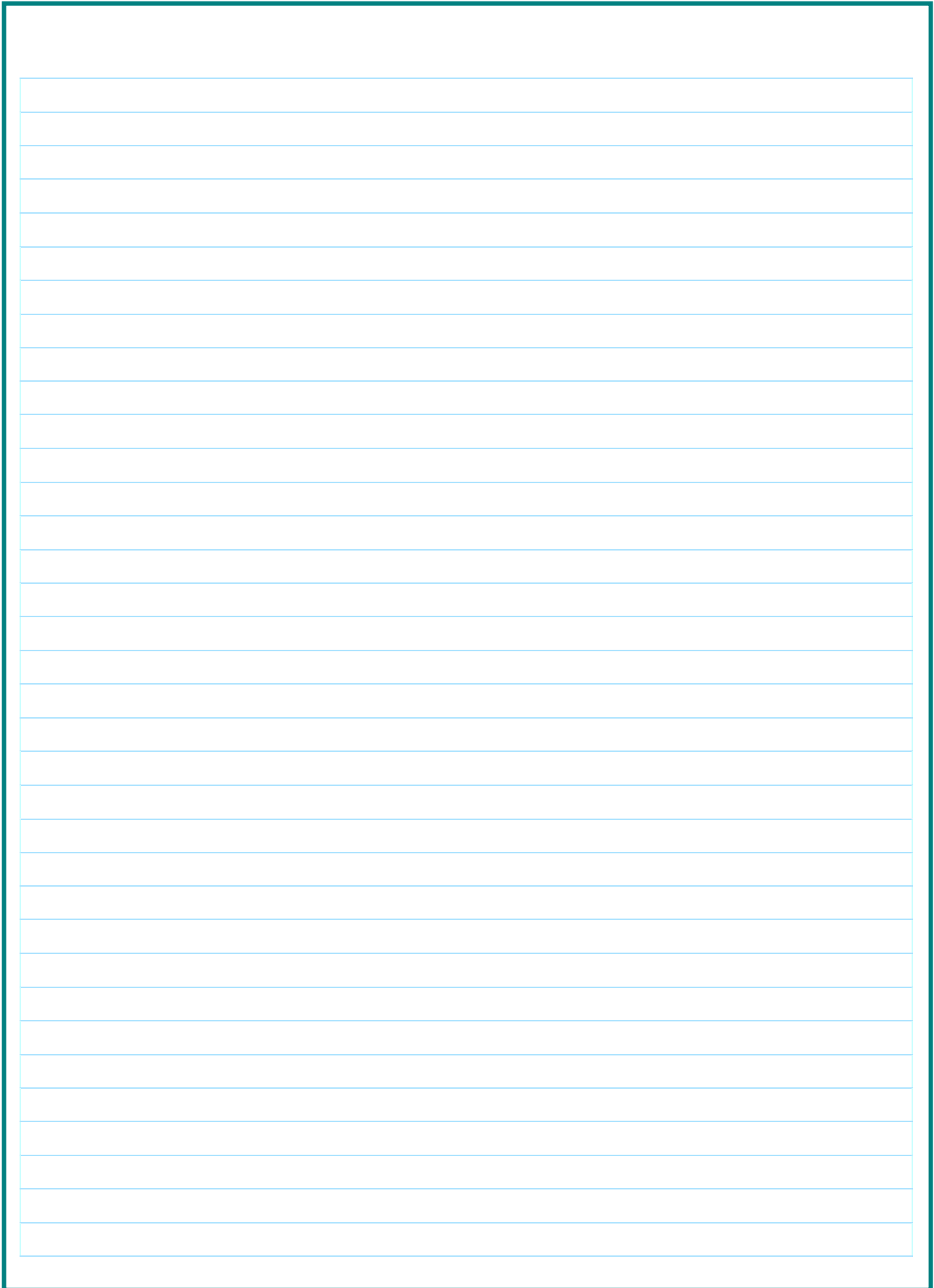
**ZECHARIAH 4:6-7**

**2. Grace looks past the accumulated dirt that all of us sheep get from our wooly, stinky human nature. Grace looks to the cross! Cry grace... then, take up your bed and walk!**

**3. Take up your faith and walk in His grace.**

**EPHESIANS 2:8-9**

## Notes



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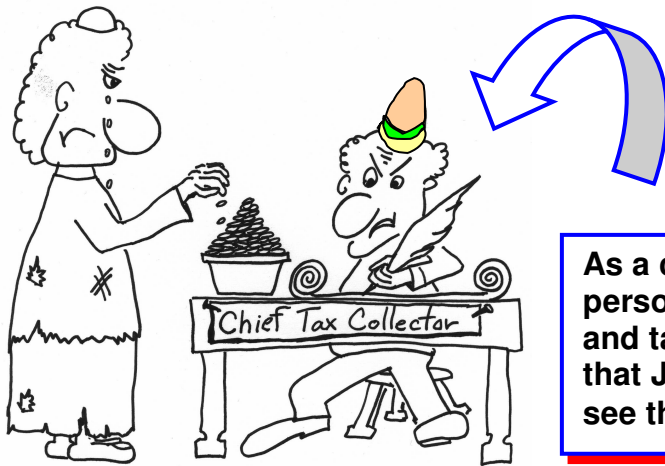
# 57. Sorrowful or Saved?

## LUKE 18:18-27

EXODUS 20:1-5

MATTHEW 22:35-40

★ There was no middle ground with Jesus. He would not share His glory. ★  
The young ruler made his choice. He would be **exceedingly sorrowful** for all eternity!



## LUKE 19:1-10 Zacchaeus

As a chief tax collector, Zacchaeus was not a good person. He would cheat people out of their money and take far too much from them. One day he heard that Jesus was coming to town. He was curious to see this Man that so many had talked about.

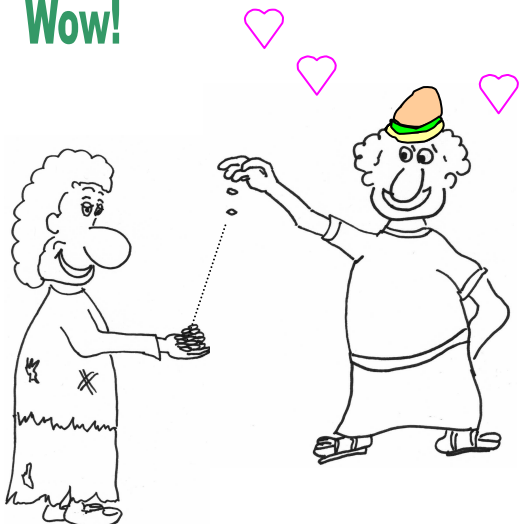
*(Luke 19:4 NKJV) "So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way."*

It was good that Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus... but that fact is *far surpassed* by the reality that Jesus wanted to see Zacchaeus!



Who... Me?

Wow!



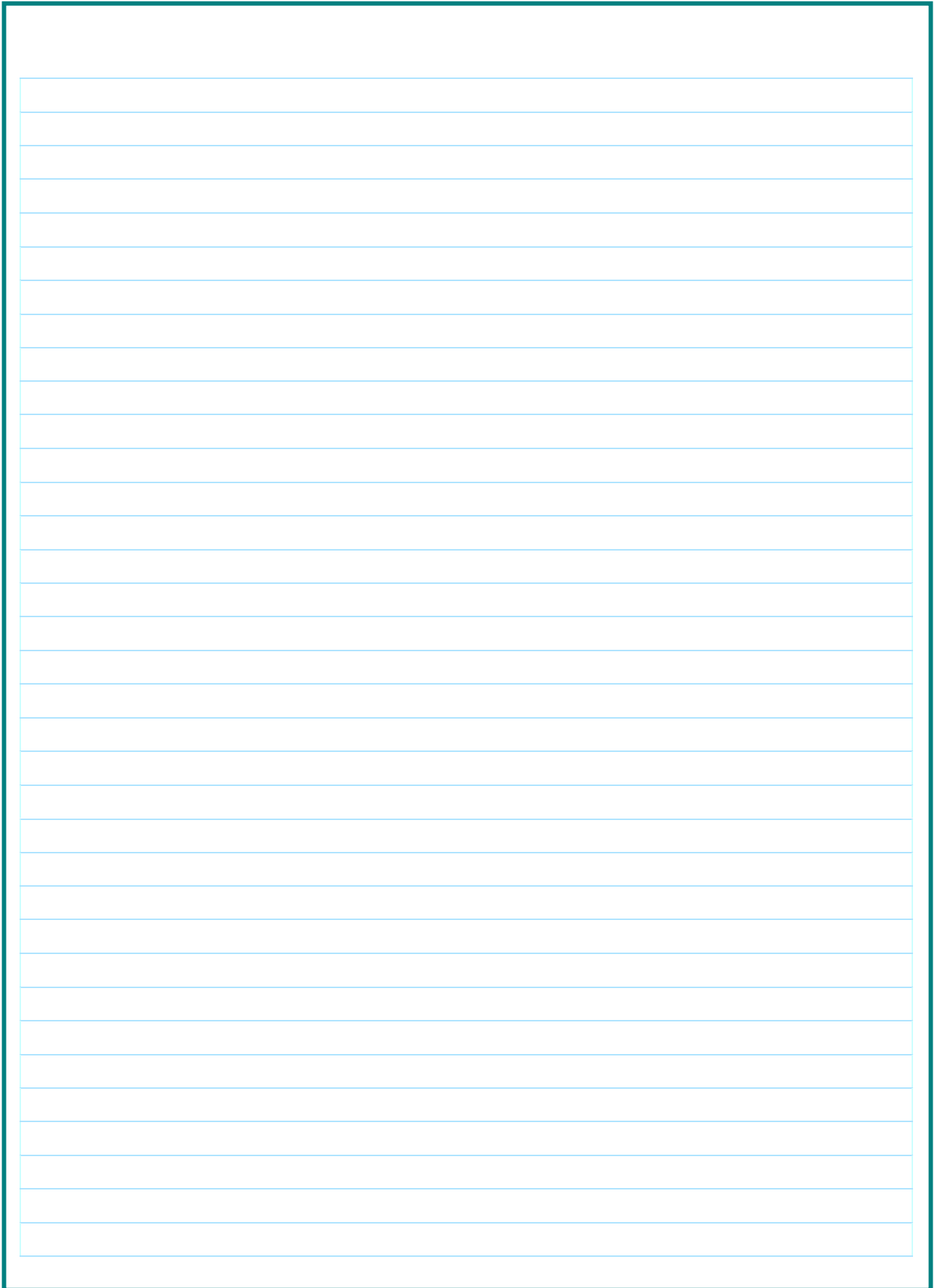
## VERSES 9 & 10

Something took place when Zacchaeus' house was filled with the presence of Christ. Something got crucified. Something got birthed. Something got released.

Zacchaeus' life was forever changed because his heart was changed forever!

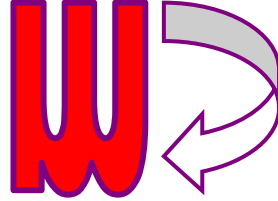
## LUKE 18:9-14

## Notes



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# 58. Christmas Love



MATTHEW 1:18-25

JOHN 3:16

JOHN 3:36

1 JOHN 4:7-11, 16-19

HEBREWS 4:14-16



Christ was Love

and always will be!

*“For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”  
Isaiah 9:6*



# 59. Our Prayer for You

*(Colossians 1:9-10 NKJV) "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; {10} that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"*

## **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

*Jesus said, "Go, therefore and make disciples..."*

## **Be filled**

### ***"with the knowledge of His will"***

- In all wisdom (A combination of worldly and spiritual)
- In all spiritual understanding (God's perspective)  
Result: You are fully equipped to understand life's twists and turns... and face them successfully.

What is the purpose for praying that you "be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding?"

Answer: "So that you might walk... fully pleasing Him"

What fully pleases God? → A Worthy Walk!

## **Walk Worthy**

### ***"of the Lord."***

### **- Look at EPHESIANS 4:1-3 -**

- It means walking worthy of the name you have been given - "Christian" (One who claims to follow Christ - It's your badge of identity and marks you as forever His.)
- It means living life as an obedient and faithful child of God. It all adds up to wholly and fully pleasing God by being...

***"fruitful in every good work"***  
***and "increasing in the knowledge of God."***



## **Result:**

## **Strengthened by His glorious power!**

***"Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;" (COLOSSIANS 1:11)***

His "glorious power" is all of His dominion and authority, wrapped in His creative majesty. You are empowered by His omnipotence!

Result: You have all the power you need to live with patience and joy as the goodness of God comes to pass in your life.

**THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE FOR BEING FILLED WITH ALL WISDOM AND SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING: THAT YOU MIGHT BE EMPOWERED BY GOD... THAT YOUR WALK WILL BE FRUITFUL... AND THAT YOU WILL GROW AND BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST.**

**You can look like, act like, talk like and walk like Jesus!**

**It's a walk worthy of the Lord!**



(You can walk in the **F**avor **O**f **G**od)



60

1400 B.C. - (written by Moses)

(Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NKJV) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! {5} You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."

(Leviticus 19:18 NKJV) "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

1460 years later - (written by Luke)

(Luke 10:25-28 NKJV) "And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" {26} He said to him, "**What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?**" {27} So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" {28} And He said to him, "**You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.**"

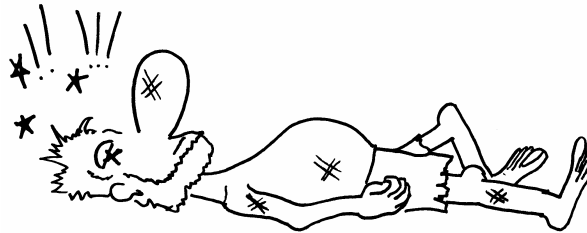
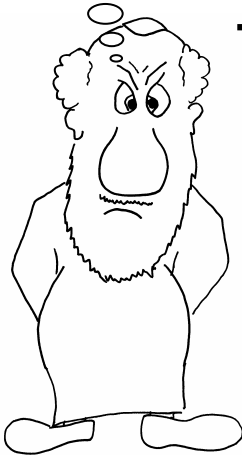
Not my problem!

# Be a Doer of the Word

## The Parable of the Good Samaritan

### LUKE 10:25-37

Who cares? He's a Samaritan!



#### 1. He saw the need.

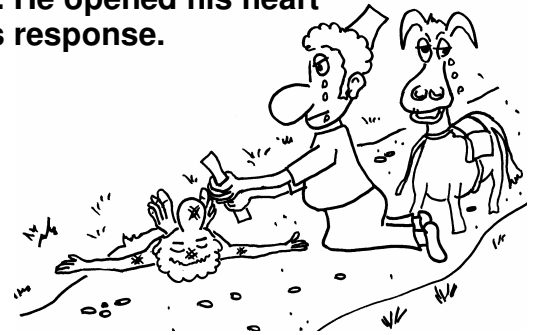
He recognized the wounded man as a hurting human being who needed help.

#### 2. He moved to touch the one in need.

He crossed an ethnic/cultural barrier and found his brother. He opened his heart and let his conscience guide him. Integrity would define his response.

#### 3. He realized what he had to do, and... He chose to do it!

He had compassion. He took sacrificial action. It cost him.



## PSALM 34:12-14      JAMES 1:22-27

"So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" {28} **And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."**

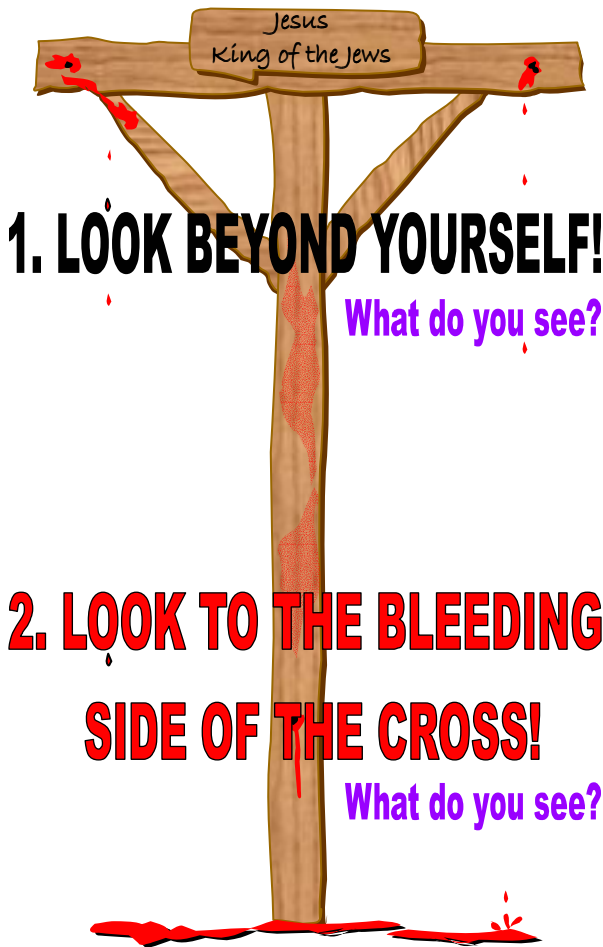
(Paraphrase: **Do this and you will have eternal life.**)

The Samaritan's heart was filled with mercy, and he sacrificially gave of God's grace. He was beginning to look like, talk like, act like and walk like Jesus!



# 61. FOUR STEPS TO GLORY

## Philippians 2:5-13



(You cannot understand the glory side of the cross unless you first look to the bleeding side of the cross.)

### HE LOOKED BEYOND HIMSELF. (Verses 5-6)

A godly perspective of ourselves and the purposes for our lives demands that we vacate the high places where we worship ourselves and our accomplishments - and that we climb down from the heights of pride. Far too often we cling to our rights and enforce demands on others we hold power or influence over. Jesus had every right to do that, but he voluntarily set these rights aside. Why? Because He was willing to let love rule his life.

### HE LOOKED INTO HIS HEART. (Verse 7)

(His love was beyond measure.)

Nobody made Jesus put aside His deity. It was His decision. He saw the worth of humanity... and without regard to His standing as Creator and Lord, He became one of us and one with us! Why? Because it was the only way. Otherwise, love would fail and we would be eternally condemned. Thank God love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:8b)

### HE LOOKED AT THE CROSS. (Verse 8)

He felt as we feel. He hurt as we hurt. He loved - as one of us. And yet, He knew it was not enough. The divine demand was for a sacrifice so far reaching and extreme that God could only ask it of Himself. Only He could be worthy to fulfill this demand.

- He looked at the cross.
- He went to the cross.
- He suffered on the cross.
- He died on the cross.

### HE LOOKED THROUGH THE DARKNESS AND LIT THE UNIVERSE WITH HIS GLORIOUS LIGHT. (Verses 9-11)

#### John 8:12

Christ paid the price and God the Father was satisfied with the penalty for your sin. You are set free - redeemed. You are reconciled to God. You need no longer walk in the darkness. You have the light. How can darkness possibly wrap itself around you? It is already defeated. It has to bow its knee. It has to flee.

### 3. LOOK TO THE GLORY SIDE OF THE CROSS!

What do you see?

### 4. DON'T JUST STAND THERE LOOKING. DO SOMETHING WITH WHAT YOU SEE!

Be careful to put into action the light that now burns in your heart. Obey God with deep reverence and fear. He is at work in you. Open yourself up to what He has for you. First, He will give you the desire to obey Him. Then He will give you the power to do what pleases Him. (Verses 12-13)

Matthew 5:14-16 1 John 1:7 1 John 3:16-18 1 John 4:7-11



# 62. THE VOICE OF THE LORD

## HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE HEARD FROM GOD?

**LUKE 10:38-42** Requirements



1. Stop and listen!
2. Be sensitive and still.
3. Spend dedicated, quality time.
  - It takes effort. It takes practice.
  - It takes desire. It takes commitment.

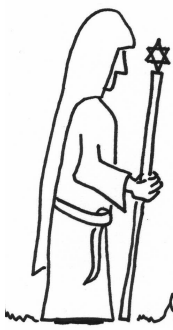
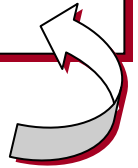
### FOUR REASONS WE MISS THE VOICE OF GOD

1. We feel obligated when we should not! So we do what God never told us to do.
2. We allow our obligations to people (which can be perfectly legitimate) to rise above our obligations to God. So we give priority to the wrong voices.
3. We allow the voices of others to manipulate and control us. They have no right to do so. So we find ourselves living without the freedom our salvation has given us.
4. We are people-pleasers instead of God-pleasers. We care too much about what the voices of people might say... and so we fail to heed the voice of God. We find ourselves compromised and miss our calling.

You cannot hear from God through someone else's ears. Test the spirit behind the words. Test the words themselves. Are they life-words? Do they encourage. Is there compassion, caring and love in them?

Be very cautious when you hear someone say, "God told me to tell you that you are supposed to..."

- ☑ Never allow a prophetic word to be the driving force that directs your decisions!
- ☑ Always allow a prophetic word to be the enlightening force that causes you to seek the voice of God (so you may confirm or deny for yourself what was said)!



### JUDGES 6:11-24... 36, 37 Gideon - God's "Mighty Man of Valor"



God saw Gideon with different eyes than Gideon saw Gideon!

God appeared to him while he was hiding from the Midionites, fearful that they would steal and destroy all he had.

*He was threshing wheat... in a winepress ???*

### HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU IF THE VOICE REALLY IS GOD'S

1. Was the voice consistent with the Bible?
2. Are there confirming signs following the voice you heard?
3. Was the voice you heard full of common sense?
4. Did the voice signal a direction that leads to compromise and sin?

### ONCE YOU KNOW THE VOICE BELONGS TO GOD, WHAT'S NEXT?

Wait for the power to come.  
Worship Him while you wait.

**LUKE 24:36-53**

Then do what you heard His voice say - with great Joy!



63.

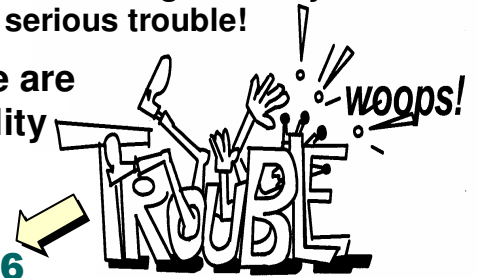
# Repentance

**2 SAMUEL 11** Often we cannot or will not accept the reality of sin in our lives. We are blind to our need to repent.

## VERSES 1-2

The Bible says that in the spring, kings were to be with their troops, leading them into battle. Instead, David was at home, standing on his rooftop. There he saw Bathsheba. His eyes opened wide to the temptation and he lost himself in it. He embraced to the temptation and rejected God. When you are where you are not supposed to be (and looking at what you are not supposed to see) the snare of sin awaits you. David fell into serious trouble!

We position ourselves for blessings by being where we are supposed to be - in the place of obedience, responsibility and submission to the will of God.



## **1 JOHN 2:15-16**

## VERSES 3-27

Lust, covetousness and evil know no boundaries. Murder was next! Bathsheba's husband died in battle, just as David had arranged. When we allow evil in our hearts, it will snare us. David's heart was hardened by his sin.

*"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. {14} But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. {15} Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."*

When we justify ourselves and ignore our sins, we fall into deep trouble.

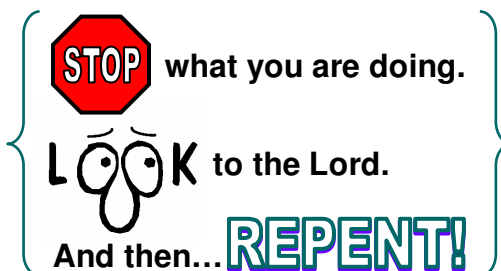
God will always expose our sins and make them known to us. Will we be willing to recognize our sins and repent?

With repentance comes forgiveness of sin... With forgiveness of sin, comes victory and freedom.

## **2 SAMUEL 12:1-13**

David looked into his own heart and saw his guilt. He moved swiftly and cried out in repentance.

**PSALM 51**  
**2 PETER 3:9**



You are not a victim. You are a victor! You are a king and a priest before God. Behave like one! Here is how...

1. Position yourself for victory.
2. Recognize any hardness of heart.
3. Realize the opportunity to reject such a thing.
4. Return to your first love.



# 64. DETERMINED TO WIN



## GALATIANS 6:9

“Well doing” is doing good within the will of God, according to the plan of God and in the power of God.

“Due Season” is within God’s appropriate timing. (The time when everything is lined up properly to guarantee your success!)

Paraphrase of GALATIANS 6:9 - *“Do not get tired of doing what God has desired and planned for your life. At the appropriate time - that moment when God moves His hand to touch your life - everything will come together, and you will enjoy the benefits from your faith and labor.”*

We must believe that every one of His promises is true!  
God said it. That’s it! Jesus said, “Only believe.”

You may be on the verge of your breakthrough. If you back off now, you will never know how good it could have been!



## HOW CAN I DEFEAT MY WEARINESS?

### 1. BELIEVE... AND GO TO PRAYER.

#### 1. MARK 11:23-24

There are always two choices in the midst of weariness. You can give up and surrender to the circumstances, or press through in the power of prayer.

Pray. Wait upon the Lord. Get the plan. Having done all you can, stand with your plan...

### 2. BELIEVE... AND CONFESS THAT YOU ARE A “CAN DO” CHRISTIAN!

#### PHILIPPIANS 4:13

### 3. BELIEVE... AND RUN YOUR RACE WITH ENDURANCE!

#### HEBREWS 12:1-3

Look to Jesus. Walk through the weariness in the refreshing of the Holy Spirit. Put the problem under your feet.

**You are a winner and a champion -**

**A DEVIL STOMPER!**

## MARK 11:23-24

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

## PHILIPPIANS 4:13

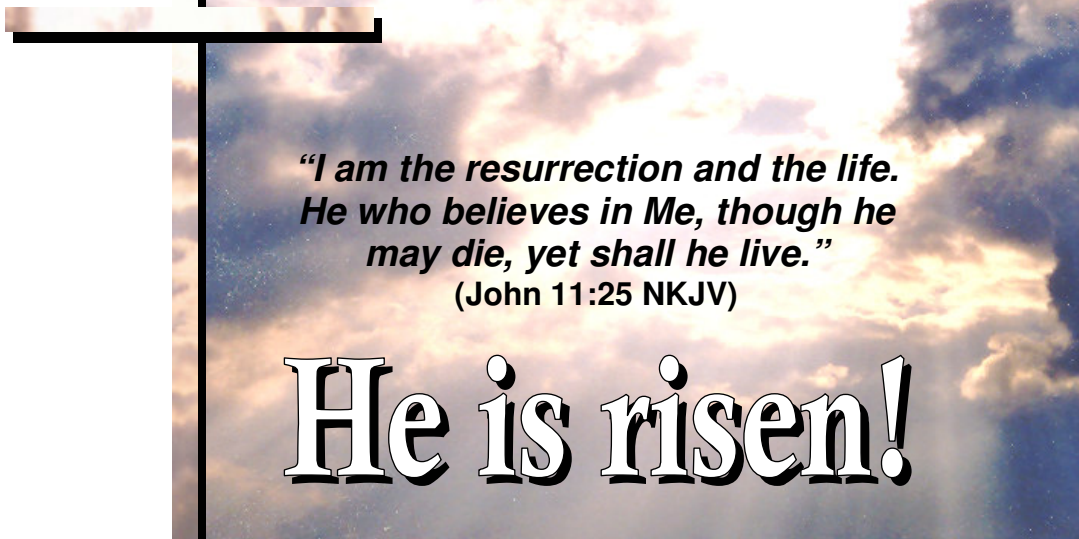
“I can do all things through the Greater One who supernaturally infuses me with His strength and power to guarantee my success!”

## HEBREWS 12:1-3

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith... For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”



# 65. It is no longer Friday. It is Resurrection Sunday.



*"I am the resurrection and the life.  
He who believes in Me, though he  
may die, yet shall he live."  
(John 11:25 NKJV)*

## He is risen!

*Death, hell and the grave are defeated. He is alive and our prayer is that you will know Christ and experience the power of His resurrection in your life, and that you will be blessed with the fullness of His love for you.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4**

**ROMANS 1:4**

**LUKE 23:33-46**

**LUKE 24:1-8**

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-26**

**HEBREWS 2:9...14-18**

**ROMANS 8:31-38**

Accept Christ as Lord and Savior now. You will have peace in your heart and your future will be secure!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ affirmed forever that He is the Singular Authority over all creation. He is Lord of all. Because of His death, burial and resurrection everyone who serves and follows Him is given gifts. Among these gifts are three specific ones that can be yours.

### **First Gift: Assurance of eternity with Him**

Instead of the fear and uncertainty of death, Christ gives us assurance of an eternity with Him - a great, unending celebration of life - a loving relationship forever with God!

### **Second Gift: All the benefits of Salvation**

His resurrection guarantees the believer all the benefits of salvation - right now, today! As a believer, you are highly favored. You can look like, act like and talk like Jesus! You are a winner and a champion for all eternity.

### **Third Gift: Resurrection Power - in You**

As a believer, the same power that raised Christ from the dead is alive and at work in you. You have the authority and power of God. It is in the words you speak and the anointing you hold. Be bold! Be all you can be - in Christ!

**The greatest gift of all can be your today...**

**forgiveness of sin and an eternity of blessings!**



# 66.

## IT'S BEEN GOOD, BUT IT'S GOING TO GET BETTER!

When God pours out His Spirit, He pours out His blessings like a waterfall of sweet honey. There is an outpouring coming. Position yourself to get under it!

**ACTS 2:1-4**  
**ACTS 2:14-21**

God cannot pour Himself and His blessings into our yesterdays. He desires to fill our tomorrows. Position yourself for the outpouring. Look to tomorrow!

It's been good but it's going to get better! Yesterday and today cannot take us beyond what we already have. Tomorrow requires anticipation and expectation. We will see a great outpouring and great opportunities. The past two years have been good to the church. Tomorrow is here.

- God has prepared a journey of opportunity and of growth for us.
- It is time to step into the future together. Growth is fully a function of the future.

### Three Expectations for the Future

#### 1. Expect an incredible increase of God's love and holiness...

**poured into us! 1 THESSALONIANS 3:11-4:1**

We talk about being more like Jesus. Now is the time! All things are becoming new! God wants to interrupt the good and make it great!

- Blessings are flowing. We must move ahead to position ourselves to receive His grace and to experience His glory! It is time for increasing excellence in your life. Lay hold of your portion, your future, your destiny. Do not be left behind!
- Together we can look like, act like, talk like and love like Jesus - more and more every day!

"Increase" means "to expand and make room for a greater capacity, to become progressively greater in size, amount, number and intensity."

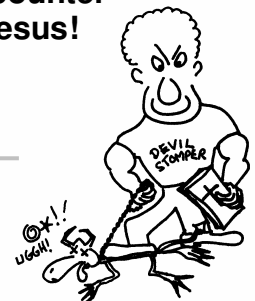
#### 2. Expect holy fire... **poured out upon us.**

Our tomorrows are divinely designed to be filled with incredible supernatural encounters with the one true, living God! Fire wants to fall from heaven - into our tomorrows!

**LUKE 3:16**  
**2 TIMOTHY 1:7**

- A supernatural encounter means supernatural intervention... supernatural integration... *and* a supernatural demonstration!
- There is a river of fire that will not burn you up! It's time for a deep encounter in this river. Anticipate it! Expect it! Swim in it! Catch the fire! Burn for Jesus!

**ACTS 3:1-10 & ACTS 19:11-12**



#### 3. Expect a significant outpouring of God's glory...

**poured from within us.**

**MATTHEW 5:14-16**

Love & Holiness - poured in us! Holy Fire poured upon us! All done with a purpose! So that He could pour it out of us. Together we are to be a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden. Shine for Jesus! It's been good, but it's going to get better!



# 67. WE CAN LOOK TO OUR TOMORROWS WITH HOPE!

Hope is made up of (1) Expectations, and (2) Beliefs.

Expectations  
Beliefs  
**hope**

- Expectation may be defined as “a confident assurance that what we look for in our lives will come to pass.”
- Beliefs are “those things we accept as fundamental truths.” Our beliefs control the outcomes of our futures.
- It is what we believe that takes us into our futures and brings our expectations to pass. Expect to experience the fulfillment of what you believe, whether it is positive and true or negative and false.

**JOHN 14:6**

The Lord fulfills godly expectations. Hope based on anything but belief in Him and His truth will never take you into the future that He has prepared for you.

## TWELVE SPIES

All twelve spies saw the same thing. Only two of them, Joshua and Caleb, had great expectations, because they believed God was faithful and that He would bring to pass all they expected - that in Him they could do all things! They would possess their promises! Their hopes would be fulfilled!

**NUMBERS 13:1, 2... 25-33**

Twelve Spies



## WE HAVE TWO CHOICES.

**CHOICE 1** - We can allow what we see to determine what we believe. If this is the case, any hope we have is based completely on what we see!

**CHOICE 2** - We can depend on what we believe to ultimately determine what we will see! It's not what you are looking at today that determines your tomorrow. It's what you believe and WHO YOU BELIEVE IN that determines your tomorrows!

**PROVERBS 3:5-6**

**JOSHUA 1:1-9**

**JOSHUA 14:6-14**

All twelve spies stood on the same physical ground. Only two made the choice to stand on holy ground! Let your faith in the Lord settle in your heart. Let your words be full of hope and then speak to your future!

## THE POINT

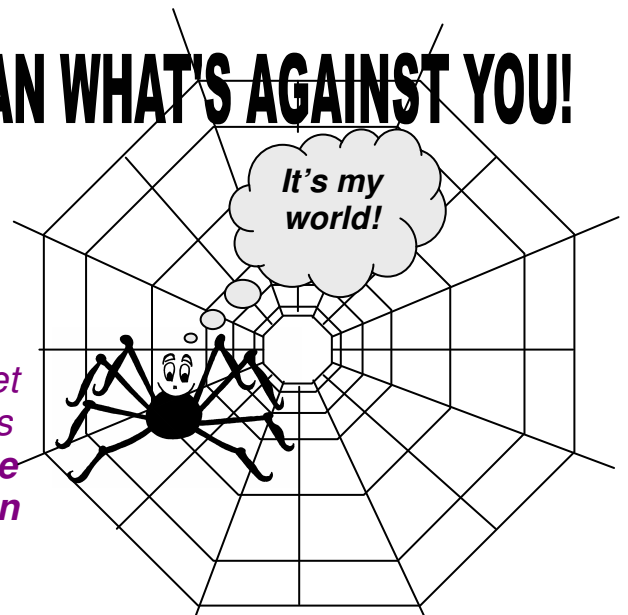
**Believe in Christ and trust in His Word today. You will step into your tomorrow on holy ground and claim all you hoped for!**



# 68. WHAT'S IN YOU IS GREATER THAN WHAT'S AGAINST YOU!

## PROVERBS 30:24-28

*“There are four things which are little on the earth, But they are exceedingly wise: {25} The ants are a people not strong, Yet they prepare their food in the summer; {26} The rock badgers are a feeble folk, Yet they make their homes in the crags; {27} The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks; {28} The spider skillfully grasps with its hands, And it is in kings' palaces.”*



**A spider skillfully makes his world out of what's inside of himself. He structures his life around the web he weaves with the silk that comes from within him. He does not depend on any outside element to provide his world.**

- All that composes his web (all that orders, or structures the context of his life) **comes from within the spider.**
- He makes his world wherever he wants - even in the king's palace! A spider understands that his destiny doesn't come from "who or what's around me." **He understands that his destiny comes from "what's in me."**

**How often do we allow what's around us to distract us from what's within us?**

- Your success or failure should not come from the stuff of life that happens around you or from what happens to you.
- Your success or failure should come from what happens **within you.**

**1. If you can get what's in you out of you, then you can live in a whole new world!** **1 JOHN 4:4**

## DEUTERONOMY 28:1-7

**It's time for you to break out of the cycles of disappointment in your life. It's time to believe in your destiny. There is a greater One at work in you. You may have to rethink... or reconnect... or rebuild the stuff of your life.**

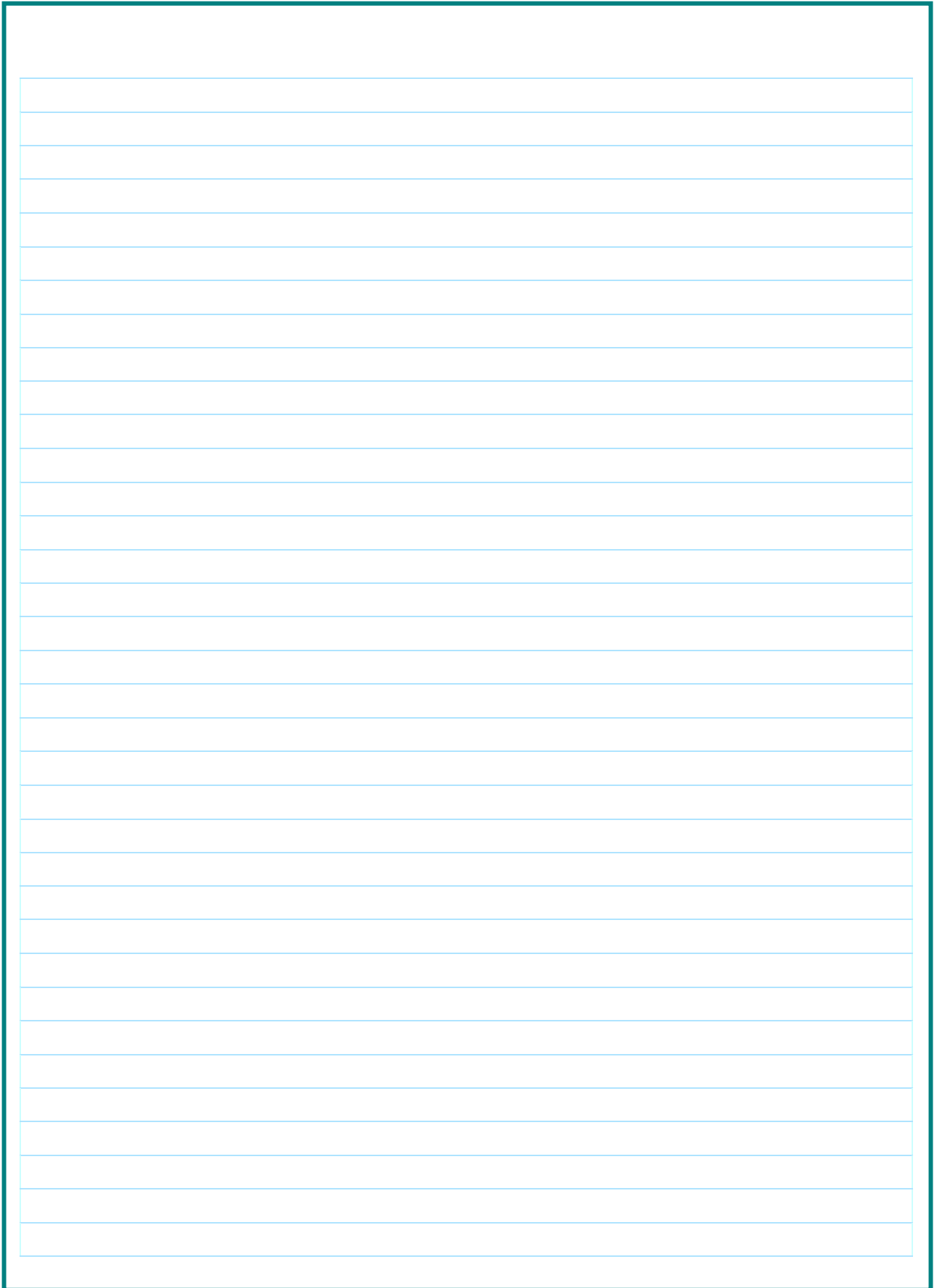
**NUMBERS 22:6, 12**

**NUMBERS 23:19-20... 24:9b**

**Reach down inside yourself and release the blessings of God into your destiny!  
What God has blessed cannot be cursed.**

**2. Refuse to be discouraged!  
Keep on building the stuff of your life!** **GALATIANS 6:9**

## Notes



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69.

# Finding the Presence of God

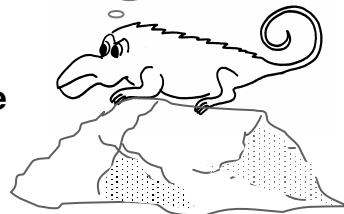
## PSALM 139:7-12

If a lizard basks in the sun on a rock long enough, a cloud will come. That does not change the fact that the sun is still there!

There will be times when the clouds of life darken your day. Even in these times, God does not disappear, nor does He increase His distance from you. He is close by. His presence does not depend upon what you see or feel. He's still there.

When the circumstances of life are overwhelming... When you feel the coldness of what seems to be God's absence... how can you encourage yourself, while waiting to rediscover His presence?

*It's really cold.  
Where's the sun?*



### PSALM 63:3-5

### PSALM 70:4

### PSALM 77:10-12

**1. Remember what the Lord has done in the past, and thank Him for His faithfulness in the present - even when you cannot feel it.**

He will sustain you until His abiding light once again warms your heart.

**2. Get back to a heart of worship - and you will get back to God!**

Worship blows away the cold clouds that have frozen your hopes and expectations. Worship brings the power of God back to your life.

Worship will stoke the fires that warm your soul!

Worship develops and releases your faith - your optimism - your hope... lights your fire!

### PSALM 34:1-3

### ACTS 16:22-27

If you can get some worship on the inside of you and then begin to bring it outside of you... there just might be an explosion of light in what used to be a dark place. God is still working on your behalf. He is still God.



*O, Magnify the Lord with me...*



*Send your light O Lord...*

Put a new song in your mouth and sing it to the Lord. He will flood your life with light and show Himself strong in your need. He will break the chains and take you from the darkness into His marvelous light!

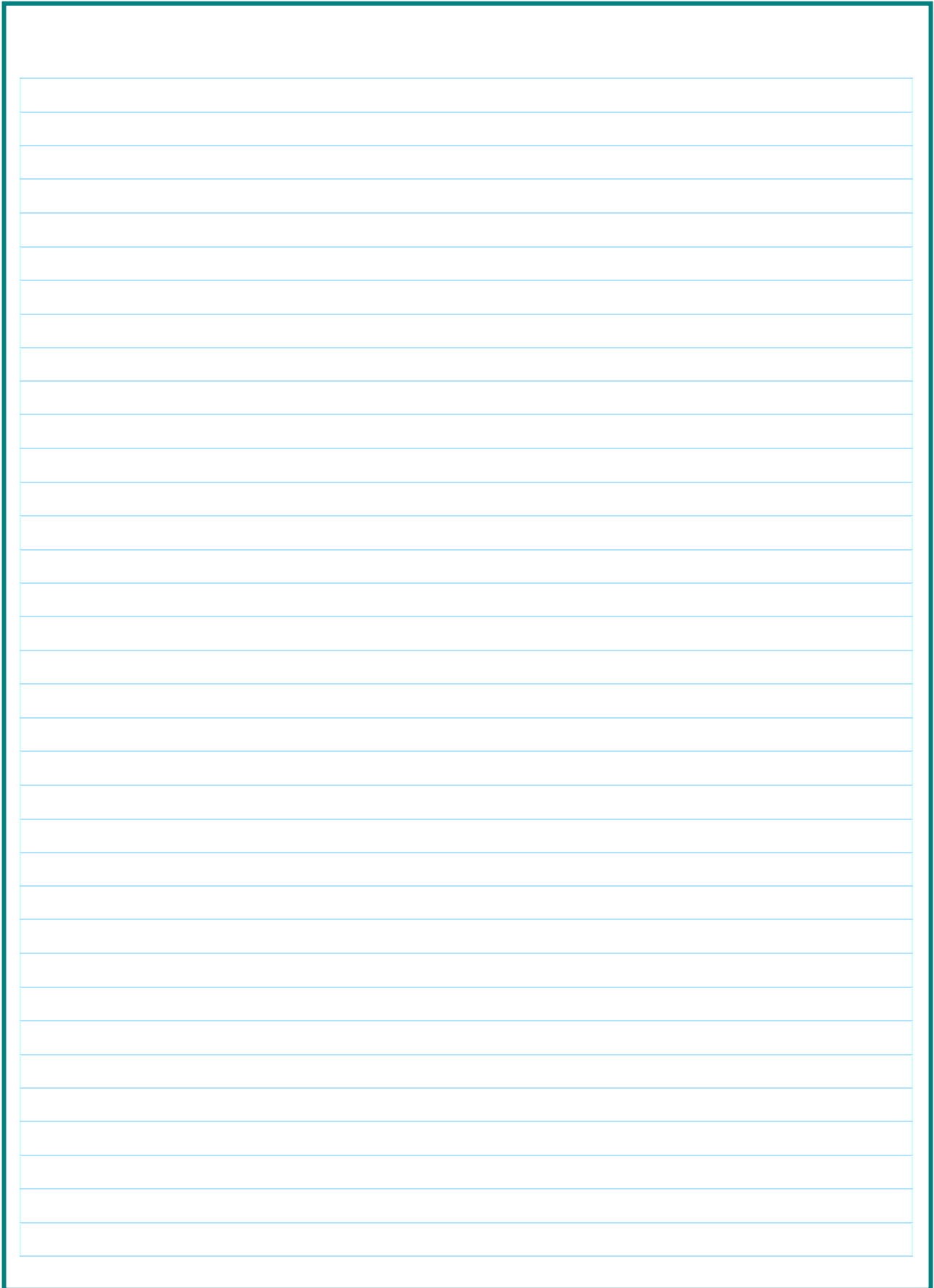
### PSALM 40:1-3

### PSALM 43:3-4



**3. If you can get what's in you out of you, then you can live in a whole new world.**

## Notes



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70.

# Follow Me



...But first, put  
down your nets!

**MATTHEW 4:18-22**

When Jesus asked Peter and Andrew to follow Him, what did He first require of them? Answer: They had to drop their nets and leave their boat!

**They were to become “net-less” followers.**

For Peter and Andrew, their nets represented the routines of their lives, their security, their expectations, their comfort zones, and the lifestyles they valued.

Jesus required Peter and Andrew (and all who would subsequently follow in their footsteps) to drop their nets - reorder their lives, and reconsider the source of their provision and security. **They were to become “net-less” followers.**

**PHILIPPIANS 3:8-11**

We are called to the same journey - to go beyond our nets - to get to know Him as we walk with Him. It is a journey to our destinies!

**MATTHEW 8:19-22**

- There is no convenient time to follow Jesus.
- There is no security in a self-made world.

**MATTHEW 8:23-27**

- There is something bigger we need to fish for!
- There is Someone bigger we need to know!

**Never be tempted to hang onto the security of a self-made world. The only true security is in the Lord! Do not be afraid to put down the nets of your world - and follow Jesus... by faith!**

**JOHN 21:1-14**

We will have to be constantly careful to cast our nets where Jesus tells us - and to fish the way He wants us to ... and for what (or who) He wants us to fish.

**Following Jesus means looking ahead to the path He sets before us and never looking back! It will be a journey to significance. It will be a journey to joy... and it will be a journey to life eternal - forevermore!**



# 71. Be a "Winning Water-Walker"

## MATTHEW 14:22-33

Here was Jesus, walking on the water through the storm at 3:00 AM to save His friends. Jesus will walk through the middle of your storm, in the middle of your night, in the middle of your trouble to save you and set you free.



- When the storm comes, don't just ride it out. Move toward Jesus.
- When we want to get to Jesus badly enough, nothing can stop us!

Some of us have started out in water-walking, storm-proof faith, heading for our victory, but somewhere along the line we got wet feet! Something got between us and our victory. We were making through the storm. Then, we lost our focus and began to sink.

*(Matthew 14:30 NKJV) "But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"*

As long as Peter put his eyes on Jesus, he put his faith in Jesus. Faith in Christ held him up. It was taking him to his destination. The moment Peter's attention turned to the water, all he could see was the stormy sea!

*(Matthew 14:31 NKJV) "And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

Jesus did not rebuke Peter because Peter was afraid. No, we all have fear. He rebuked Peter for his doubt. Doubt sees the natural and is blind to the supernatural. Faith keeps focused on Jesus - even in the midst of fear.

### THE POINT OF THE MESSAGE:

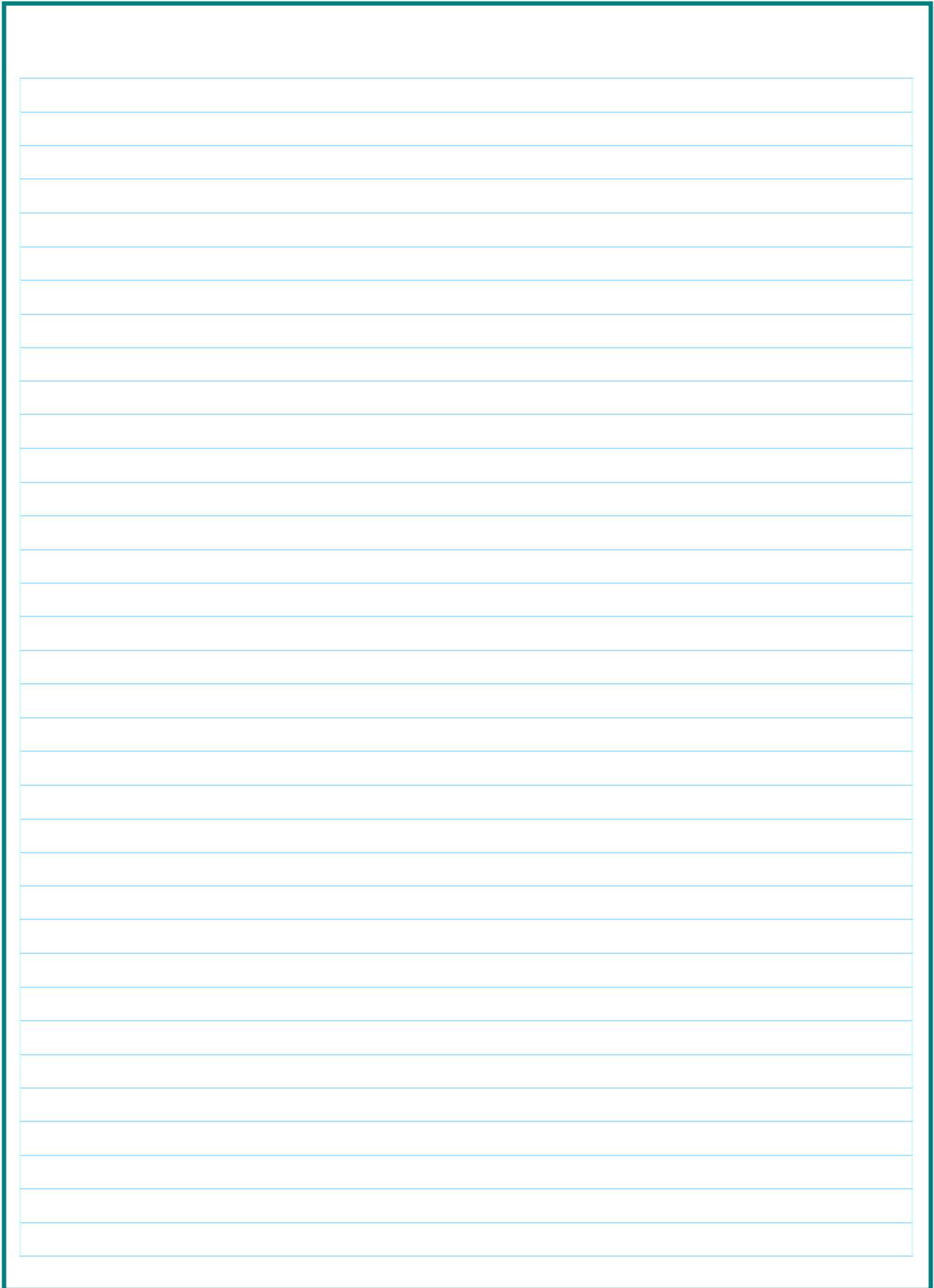
Faith steadily walks ahead, looking unto Jesus. Walk in faith and you will never sink. The Lord Jesus Christ and His Word remain true, regardless of the storm!

## JAMES 1:6-8



Be single-minded. Keep walking!  
You can do it! - You can make it! - You are looking good!

## Notes



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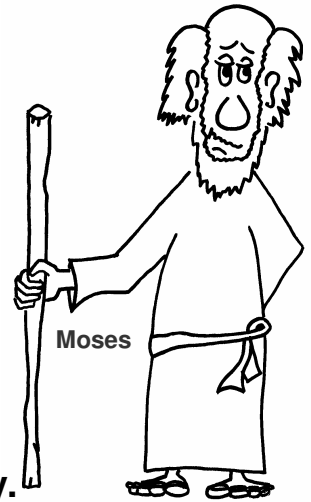
# 72. STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND!

## EXODUS 3:1-20



Burning Bush

- Life is not a path of random chance.
- God has prepared you for your destiny.
- God has prepared your destiny for you.
- It is within the grasp of your hand.



Your life is designed to be a journey of purpose and destiny. It is to be a close, obedient and responsive walk with God.

- Your journey through life is not about surviving one more day. It is about going all the way to your promises and beyond!
- God will go before you and He will watch your back! Trust Him. Do it His way!
- You have a destiny - to be a champion for God, as you journey with God.

God comes down and sets the flow of Moses' life. Moses will go from his isolation on the backside of the desert to the front of a great people. His journey will be so carefully watched over by God that even the Red Sea will part for him.



What ignites the fires that end the ordinary and release the extraordinary?

What ignites the fires of destiny that carry you to a place of great significance and full satisfaction?

*“Take off your sandals for the place where you stand is holy ground.”*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Step to Your Destiny

Put your feet on holy ground and listen for the voice of God!

## EXODUS 4:1, 2

Moses stretched out his hand in obedience. It became like a close-fitting glove on the mighty hand of God.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Step to Your Destiny

Take what's in your hand and use it for God's glory!

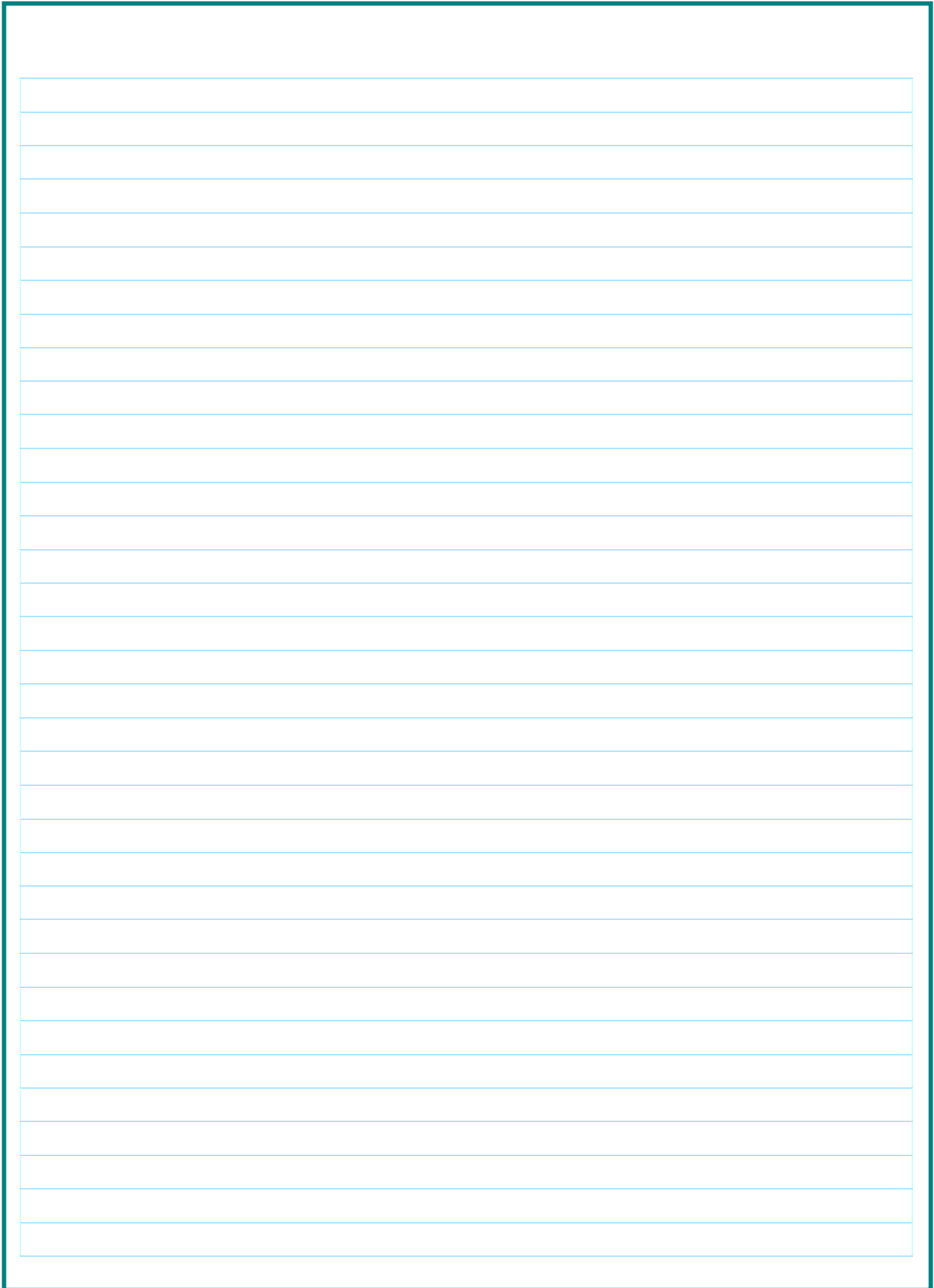
## EXODUS 14:13-31 EXODUS 15:1, 2

Walk to your destiny on the solid ground of trust and obedience... When you get there, you will see the glory of God, and you will praise Him forever.

*“I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”*

*(Philippians 3:12 New Living Translation)*

## Notes



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# 73. The Lord's Prayer: Part 1.

## The Physical Setting

### The Context of the Prayer: The Sermon on the Mount

*(Matthew 5:1, 2 NKJV) "And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them..."*



The slopes of the mountain were full of people. Jesus found an appropriate spot and sat down. His disciples gathered around Him. His intent was to teach them. It's likely that many others were within the sound of His voice.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) is presented by Jesus in the context of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:29). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructs His disciples on various attitudes and actions that please God, and on the true nature of living a godly life. In the midst of this instruction, Jesus begins to speak about the subject of prayer.

*(Matthew 6:5-8 NKJV) "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

*{6} But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

*{7} And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. {8} Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him..."*

Pray sincerely.  
Be humble.  
Focus on God.

Pray to the  
Father, not for  
the crowd to see.

Pray from your  
heart, with a  
sincere desire  
to touch God.



# The Structure of the Lord's Prayer

## MATTHEW 6:9-13

*"In this manner, therefore, pray:*

*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. {10} Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. {11} Give us this day our daily bread. {12} And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. {13} 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."*

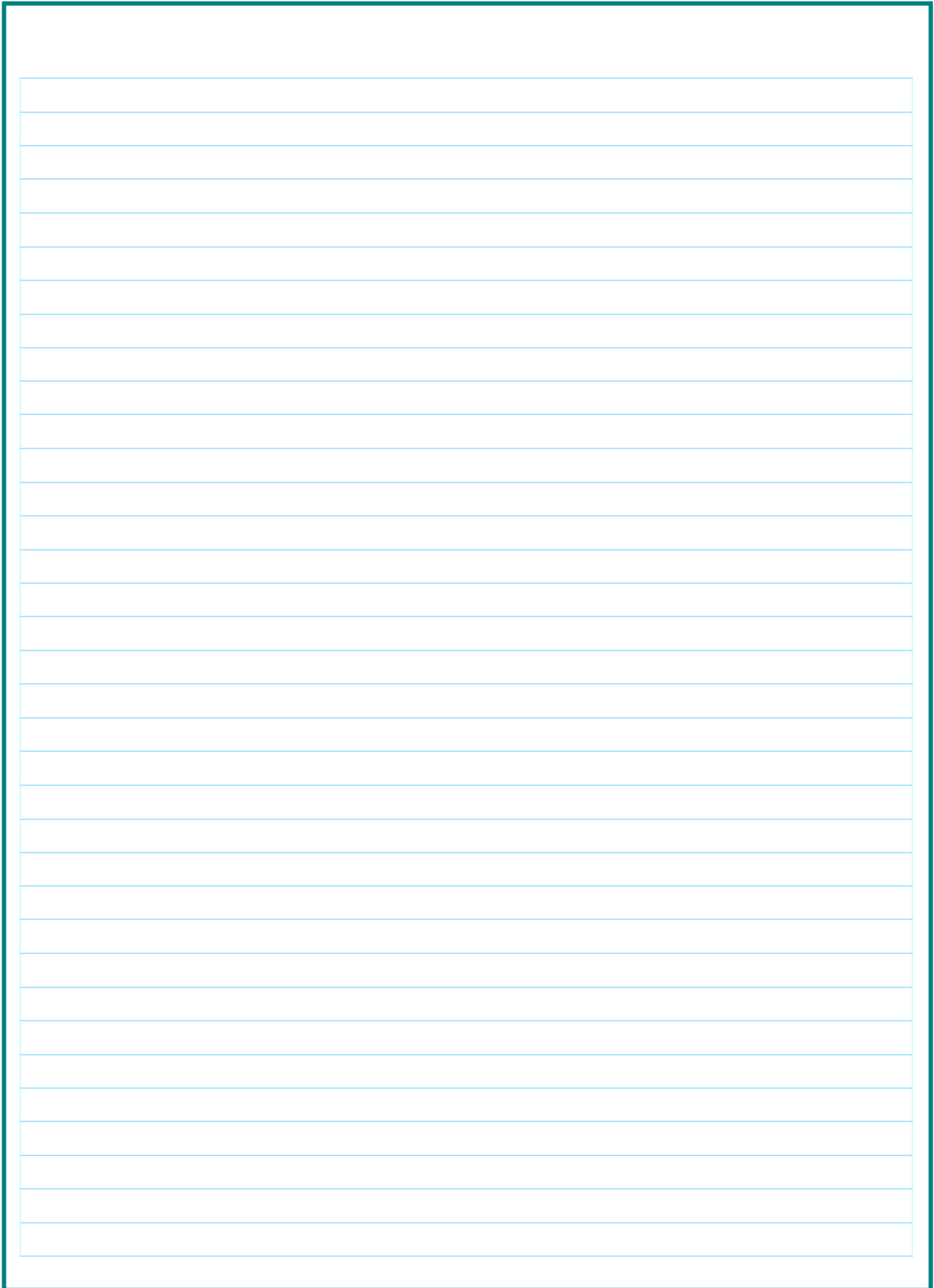
The Lord's teaching is that we are to pray in sincere humility to God the Father. Jesus was not speaking about prayer to Himself, or giving a format for a purely liturgical, repetitious religious form of prayer. He was teaching about modeling our prayers to be humble, gestures of our hearts as we petition our Heavenly Father.

Jesus said, *"So when you pray, you should pray like this..."* (Matthew 6:9, International Children's Bible) The intent of the Lord's teaching was to show us two things. First, He shows us the form and pattern of the prayer. Second, we are given a simple, but comprehensive list of the things we are to pray for.

The prayer has three divisions. The first two divisions are divided into two sets of petitions, totaling seven in number. The third division is a **doxology**, which can be divided into four distinct declarations or thoughts.

The Structure of the Lord's Prayer		
Seven Petitions		Four Declarations
<b>I. Giving Glory to God</b> 1. <i>Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.</i> 2. <i>Your kingdom come.</i> 3. <i>Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.</i> .	<b>II. The Good of His Children</b> 4. <i>Give us this day our daily bread.</i> 5. <i>And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.</i> 6. <i>And do not lead us into temptation,</i> 7. <i>But deliver us from the evil one.</i>	<b>III. Doxology</b> 1. <i>For Yours is the kingdom</i> 2. <i>and the power</i> 3. <i>and the glory forever.</i> 4. <b>Amen.</b>

## Notes



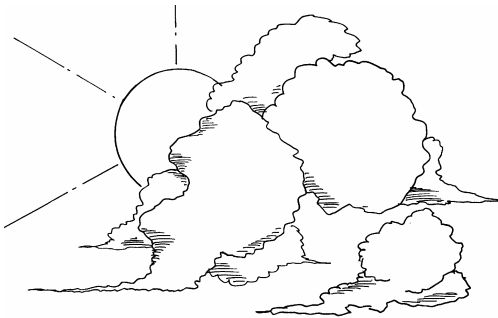
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# The Lord's Prayer: Part 2.

## Giving Glory to God

*"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. {10} Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven."*

*(Matthew 6:9-10 NKJV)*



### Biblical Principles

1. Our Heavenly Father is always ready to grant us an audience and hear our petitions with interest and affection.
2. We are to hallow the name of God, and set Him above all our personal issues in life. This becomes the legitimate basis for all other requests we make!
3. We are to express our confidence that He is able. We do this, not to encourage Him, but to build up our faith and encourage ourselves.
4. The death grip of Satan's kingdom has been broken. The mighty and victorious hand of Christ has set us free!
5. We are not to debate or define for ourselves what God's will is. We are to simply hear and obey!

### Paraphrase of Verses 9 & 10

- {9} Our incredible and perfect Father of Mercy and Grace, Who rules and reigns in majesty in that place of complete and undeniable authority, let your name be revered and worshiped in the beauty of your holiness.*
- {10} Father, let all that makes up your wisdom and accomplishes your divine purposes be fully done in this place, in this hour, just as it has always been done in heaven, which is the seat of your merciful, just and sovereign supremacy.*



# 75. The Lord's Prayer: Part 3.

## The Good of His Children

*"Give us this day our daily bread."*

*(Matthew 6:11 NKJV)*

### What is our "daily bread?"

#### 1. Those things necessary to sustain us throughout the day

The term "daily bread" specifically refers to our needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. It does **not** refer to wants, luxuries or the accumulation of wealth. We need to be nourished and provided for daily, and it is God's good pleasure to hear our requests and grant them.

**His Responsibility** (His covenant commitment)

To provide us with our daily bread

**LUKE 11:9-13**

**Our Responsibilities**

To live a life of service to Him and for others

To love mercy and to walk humbly with Him

To be good stewards of our bread, daily

To remain aware that God alone, is our source

**MICAH 6:8**

**LUKE 4:3, 4**

#### 2. The Word of God is also our daily bread.

#### 3. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Living Bread every day!

Receiving our daily bread is so much more than physical provision. We get our natural needs met from our daily bread; and we get our supernatural needs met by looking to the Living Bread - the Lord Jesus Christ!

**JOHN 6:47-51**



#### Biblical Principles

6. As we pray for our "daily bread," He will know exactly what we need and will not disappoint us!
7. Our Heavenly Father alone is the source of our "daily bread."
8. We shall be satisfied. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Living Bread!

#### Paraphrase of Verse 11

*Provide us with those things that will sustain our natural and physical needs throughout the day and give us your presence in our lives today!*



## The Good of His Children (continued)

### MATTHEW 6:9-13

Let's put Parts 3 and 4 together



*"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. {10} Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. {11} Give us this day our daily bread."*

#### Paraphrase - combining Verses 9-11

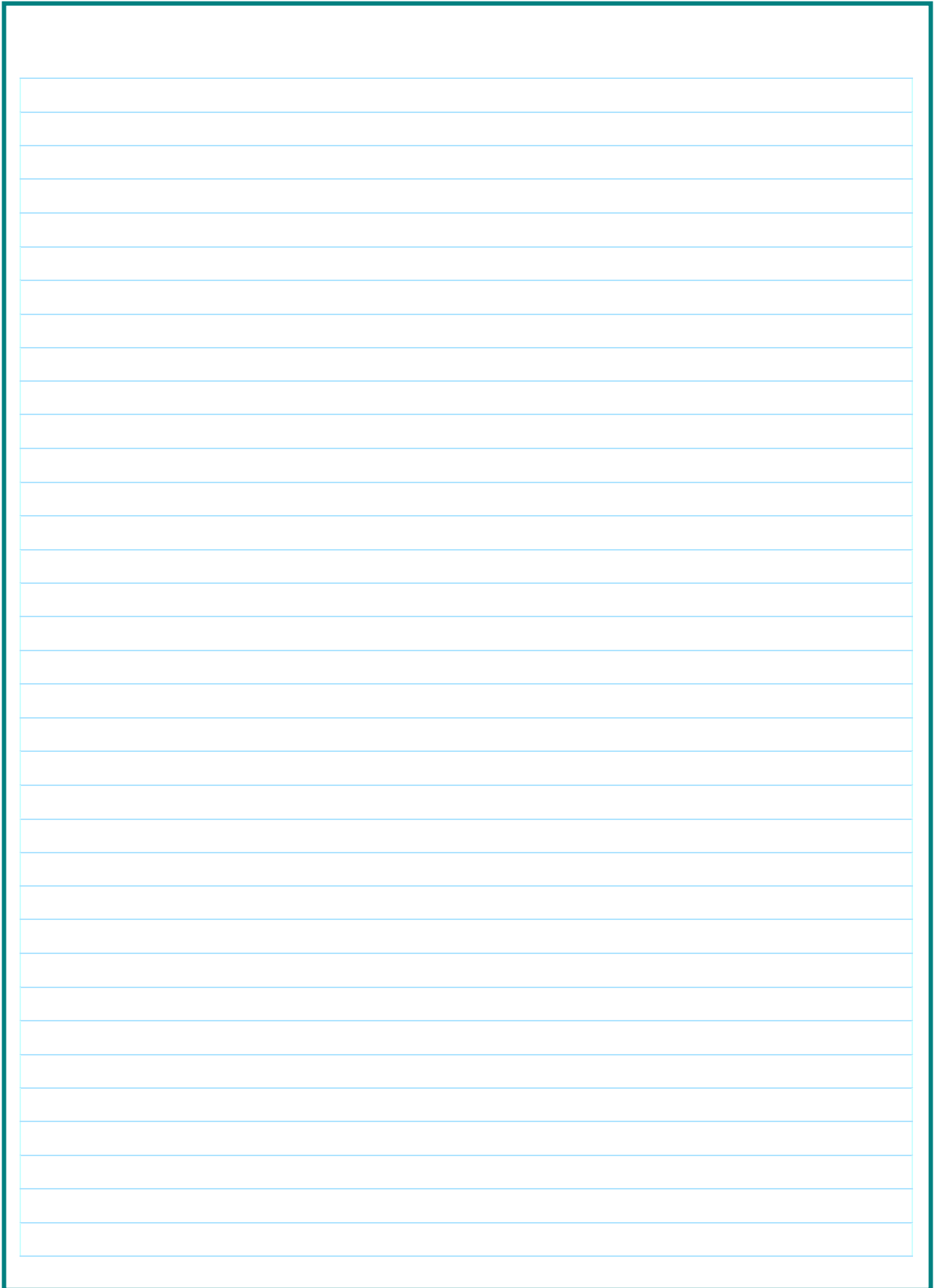
- {9} *Our incredible and perfect Father of Mercy and Grace, Who rules and reigns in majesty in that place of complete and undeniable authority, let your name be revered and worshiped in the beauty of your holiness.*
- {10} *Father, let all that makes up your wisdom and accomplishes your divine purposes be fully done in this place, in this hour, just as it has always been done in heaven, which is the seat of your merciful, just and sovereign supremacy.*
- {11} *Provide us with those things that will sustain our natural and physical needs through the day and give us your presence in our lives today.*

#### **Biblical Principles we have learned**

1. Our Heavenly Father is always ready to grant us an audience and hear our petitions with interest and affection.
2. We are to hallow the name of God, and set Him above all our personal issues in life. This becomes the legitimate basis for all other requests we make!
3. We are to express our confidence that He is able. We do this, not to encourage Him, but to build up our faith and encourage ourselves.
4. The death grip of Satan's kingdom has been broken. The mighty and victorious hand of Christ has set us free!
5. We are not to debate or define for ourselves what God's will is. We are to simply hear and obey!
6. As we pray for our "*daily bread*," He will know exactly what we need and He will not disappoint us!
7. God, alone, is the Source of our daily bread.
8. We shall be satisfied. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Living Bread!

(continued)

## Notes



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## The Good of His Children (Continued)

*“And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors”  
(Matthew 6:12 NKJV)*

*“and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.” (New Living Translation)*

**MATTHEW 18:21-35**  
**The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

Unforgiveness, with its many faces, is always a roadblock to God's blessings. It arrests us and holds us captive. Forgiveness, however, is God's cleansing agent. It frees us by removing the sin of unforgiveness from our lives, and establishes us in right standing before Him.

**1 JOHN 1:5-9 1 JOHN 4:7-11**

- Forgiveness is a choice we make based on what we know, not what we feel.
- Do not try to justify unforgiveness. It is a sin and a barrier to your blessings.
- Forgiveness has the potential to clear even the heaviest burdens from our paths. All it takes is to ask God to forgive us as we forgive others.
- He will help us with those whom we are unable or unwilling to forgive. He will be faithful to empower us with the strength and willingness to do so.

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



### **Biblical Principles (cumulative)**

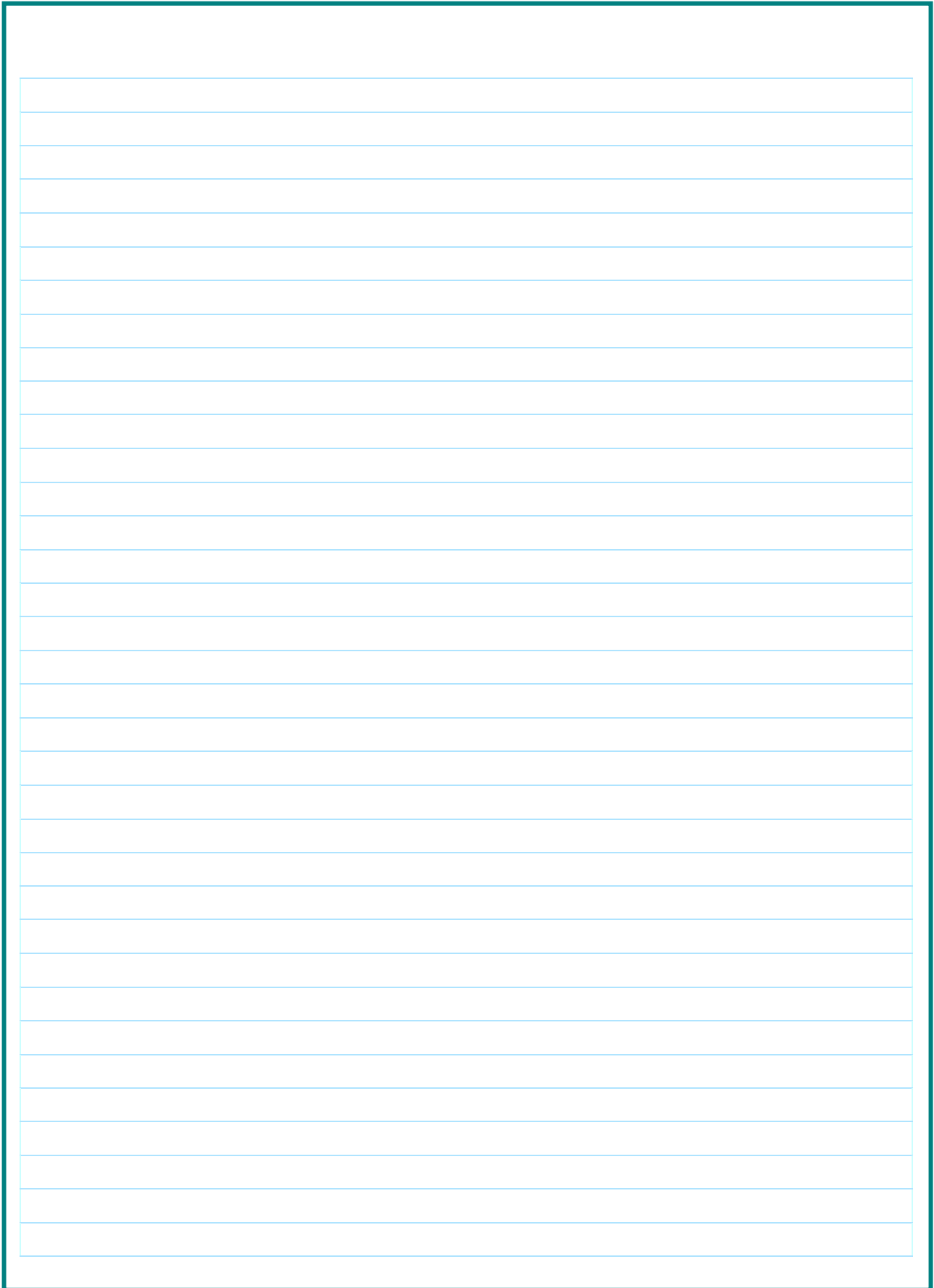
9. There is no forgiveness of our sins by God, as long as we hold onto feelings of unforgiveness toward others.
10. With forgiveness of sins comes right standing with God, which brings the favor and daily grace of God.
11. God's blessings and His provision go together with His forgiveness.

### Paraphrase of Matthew 6:12

*“And cancel the enormous debt we owe you, just as we willingly cancel and forgive every wrong and every debt owed to us by anyone.”*

(continued)

## Notes



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## The Good of His Children (Continued)

Let's put our first three lessons on the Lord's Prayer together.

Continued

*"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. {10} Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. {11} Give us this day our daily bread."*

*"And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. (Matthew 6:9-12 NKJV)"*

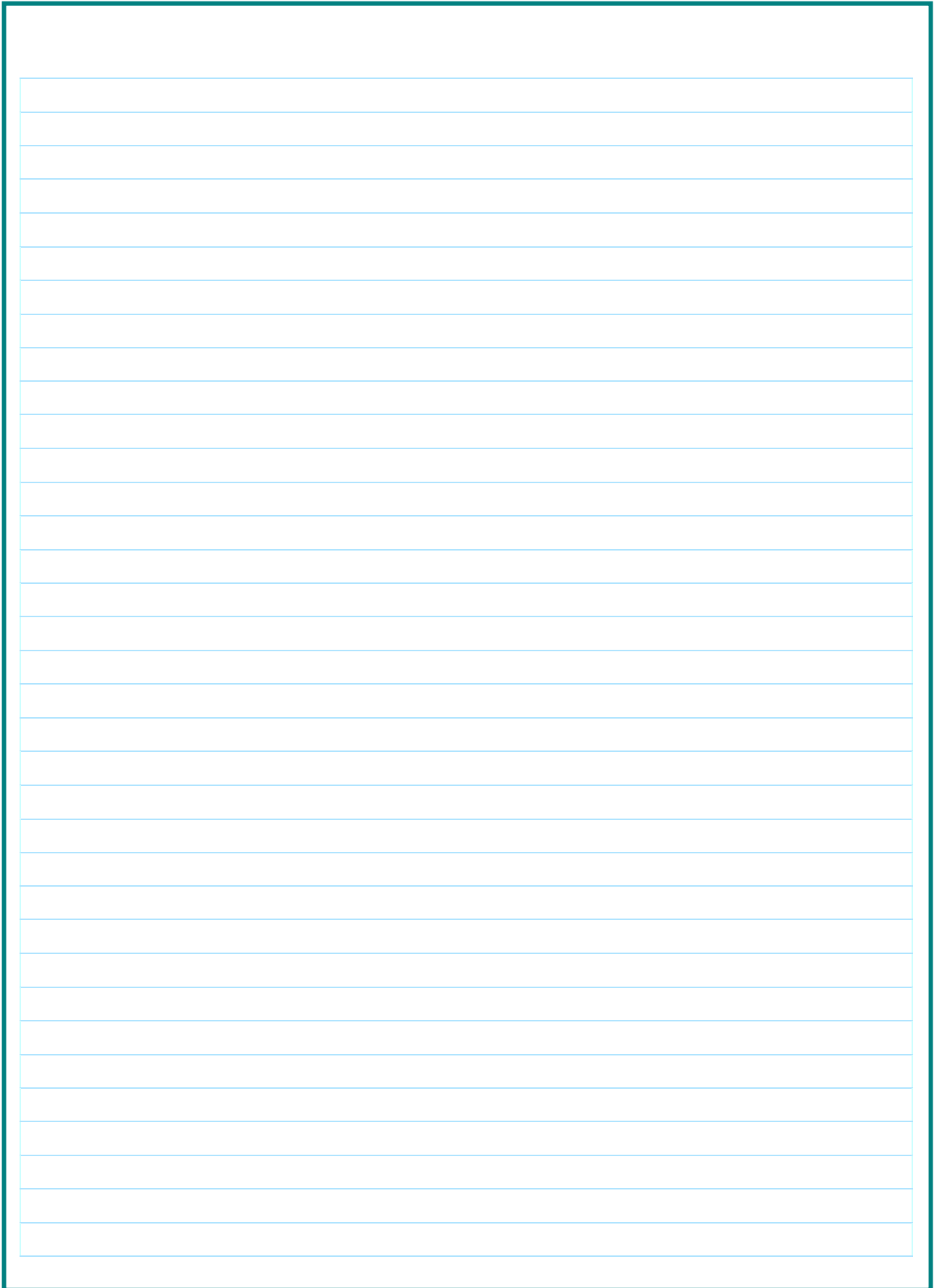
### Paraphrase of Verses 9-12

- {9} *Our incredible and perfect Father of Mercy and Grace, Who rules and reigns in majesty in that place of complete and undeniable authority, let your name be revered and worshiped in the beauty of your holiness.*
- {10} *Father, let all that makes up your wisdom and accomplishes your divine purposes be fully done in this place, in this hour, just as it has always been done in heaven, which is the seat of your merciful, just and sovereign supremacy.*
- {11} *Provide us with those things that will sustain our natural and physical needs through the day and give us your presence in our lives today.*
- {12} *And cancel the enormous debt we owe you, just as we willingly cancel and forgive every wrong and every debt owed to us by anyone.*

### **Biblical Principles (cumulative)**

1. Our Heavenly Father is always ready to grant us an audience and hear our petitions with interest and affection.
2. We are to hallow the name of God, and set Him above all our personal issues in life. This becomes the legitimate basis for all other requests we make!
3. We are to express our confidence that He is able. We do this, not to encourage Him, but to build up our faith and encourage ourselves.
4. The death grip of Satan's kingdom has been broken. The mighty and victorious hand of Christ has set us free!
5. We are not to debate or define for ourselves what God's will is. We are to simply hear and obey!
6. As we pray for our "*daily bread*," He will know exactly what we need and He will not disappoint us!
7. God, alone, is the Source of our daily bread.
8. We shall be satisfied. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Living Bread!
9. There is no forgiveness of our sins by God, as long as we hold onto feelings of unforgiveness toward others.
10. With forgiveness of sins comes right standing with God, which brings the favor and daily grace of God.
11. God's blessings and His provision go together with His forgiveness.

## Notes



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# 76. The Lord's Prayer: Part 4.

## MATTHEW 4:1-10 **Temptation**

**Temptation** is defined as,  
*Deception that presents a false promise - in order to deny what God has promised.*

Faith in God is always the principle thing tested.

**Trials** may be defined as,  
*Opportunities for the proving of our faith.*

Results & Rewards }

- Increase
- Promotion

**JAMES 1:2, 3**

**JAMES 1:13-15**



*“And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.”  
(Matthew 6:13a NKJV)*

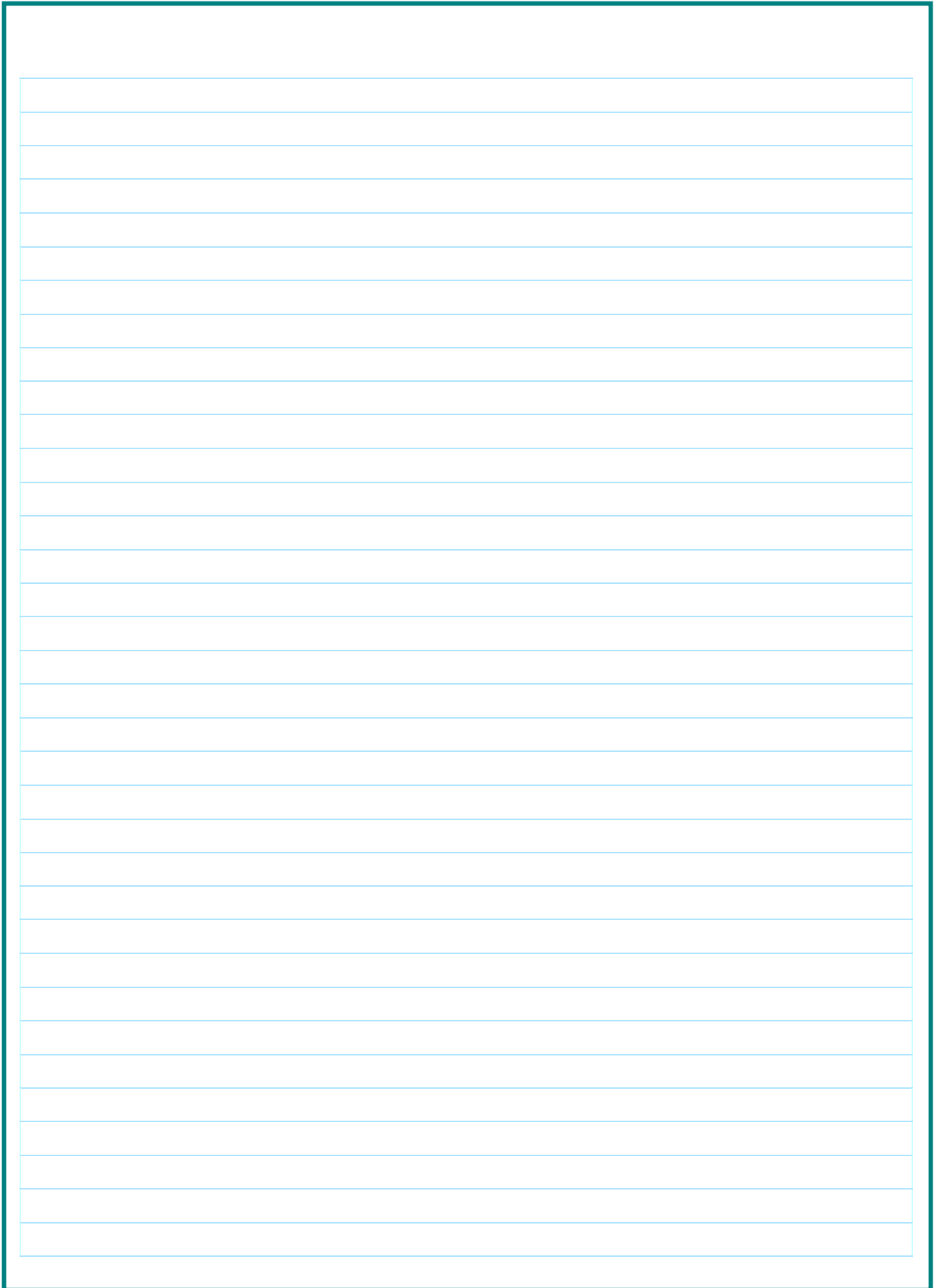
### **Biblical Principles**

12. The battleground is essentially the mind.
13. This is a not a prayer that allows for passivity. God expects us to do our part as He does His part.
14. We need more than bread for our lives. We must feed on every word of God.
15. Never challenge or tempt the Lord to gain some advantage.
16. Every trail or test we face is a test of our faithfulness. His faithfulness is never in question!
17. Worship and serve God and Him only!
18. We are to expect the assault to come, but we are also to expect the Deliverer to come, as we petition Him daily!
19. The Lord's Prayer is to be an unselfish one in which we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

### Paraphrase of Verse 13a

*{13a} And bring us through the trials and temptations that would test our faithfulness to you, as you set us free from the enslavement, devastation and destruction that come from our sinful natures and the evil works Satan brings to our lives.*

## Notes



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# Temptation (continued)

## The Three Temptations of Christ - All Common to Every One of Us

*(Matthew 4:1-10 NLT) "Then Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted there by the Devil. {2} For forty days and forty nights he ate nothing and became very hungry. {3} Then the Devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, change these stones into loaves of bread." {4} But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every word of God.'" {5} Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, {6} and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He orders his angels to protect you. And they will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.'" {7} Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'" {8} Next the Devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the nations of the world and all their glory. {9} "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will only kneel down and worship me." {10} "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him.'"*

The Scriptures reveal three temptations.

### 1. The Temptation to turn Stones into Bread

This temptation: *To rely upon our own abilities instead of trusting in God to be our provider for both natural and spiritual things - as revealed daily in His Word.*

*"If you are the Son of God, change these stones into loaves of bread." (Verse 3 NLT)*

Jesus replied, *"No! The Scriptures say, 'People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every word of God.'"*

### 2. The Temptation to put Pressure on God to Test His Goodness for Our Advantage

This temptation: *To give our will priority over His and expect Him to submit to ours*

*"If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He orders his angels to protect you. And they will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.'" (Verse 6 NLT)*

Jesus replied, *"Do not test the Lord your God."*

### 3. The Temptation to worship Satan (evil in the world)

This temptation: *To worship anyone or anything of the god of this world - To replace the Father with whatever seems right to us. In doing so, we will actually worship the devil!*

*"I will give it all to you... if you will only kneel down and worship me." (Verse 9 NLT)*

Jesus replied, *"Get out of here, Satan... For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him.'"*

From the three temptations, we learn the following.

- Trust in God for everything and feed on His Word daily.
- Avoid being tempted to test the Lord for our advantage.
- Worship and serve God only.



*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. {10} Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. {11} 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...”*  
(Matthew 6:9-13a NKJV)

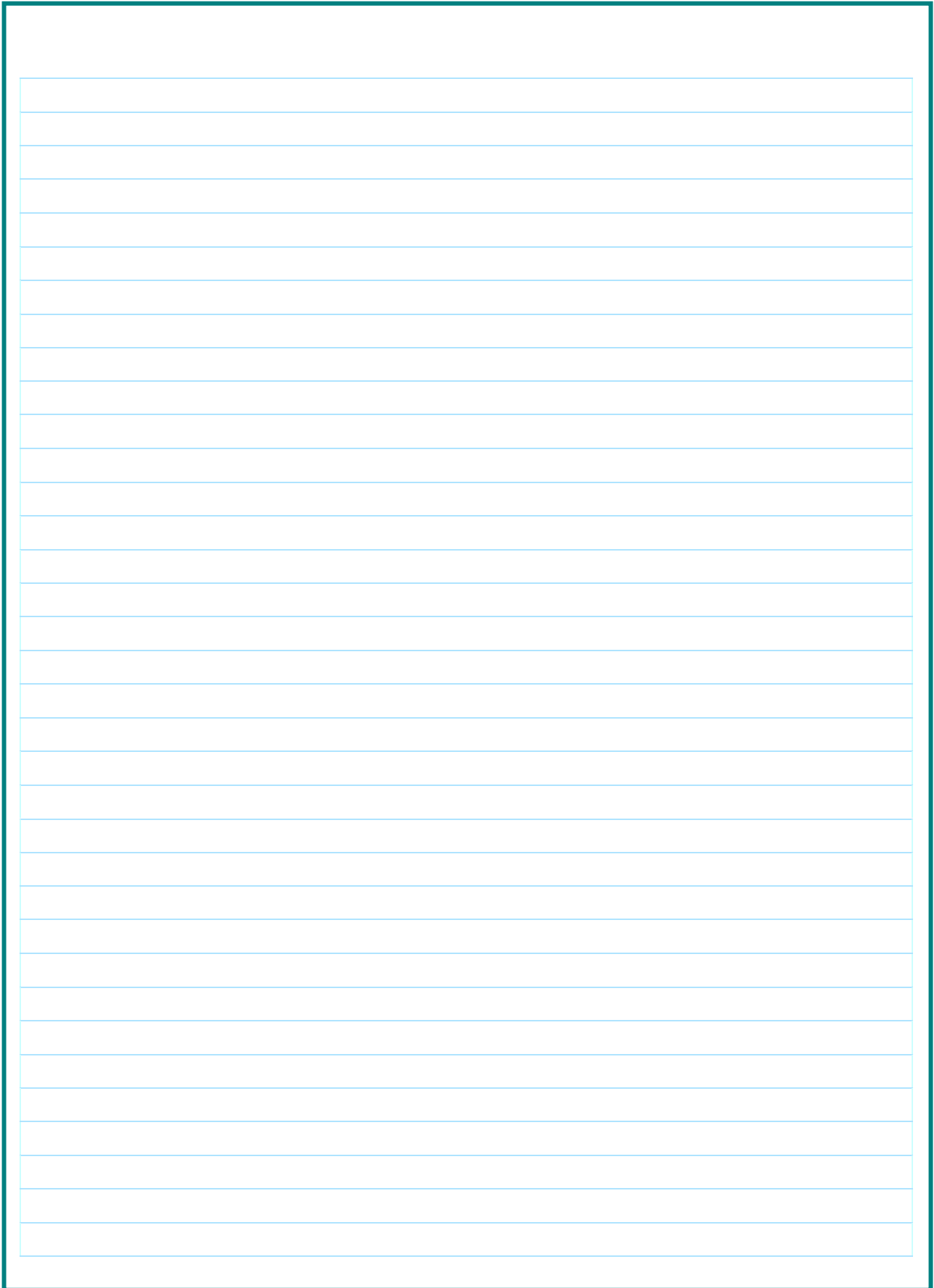
*Paraphrase of Verses 9-13a*

- {9} *Our incredible and perfect Father of Mercy and Grace, Who rules and reigns in majesty in that place of complete and undeniable authority, let your name be revered and worshiped in the beauty of your holiness.*
- {10} *Father, let all that makes up your wisdom and accomplishes your divine purposes be fully done in this place, in this hour, just as it has always been done in heaven, which is the seat of your merciful, just & sovereign supremacy.*
- {11} *Provide us with those things that will sustain our natural and physical needs through the day and give us your presence in our lives today.*
- {12} *And cancel the enormous debt we owe you, just as we willingly cancel and forgive every wrong and every debt owed to us by anyone.*
- {13a} *And bring us through the trials and temptations that would test our faithfulness to you, as you set us free from the enslavement, devastation and destruction that come from our sinful natures and the evil works Satan brings to our lives.*

**Biblical Principles (cumulative)**

1. Our Heavenly Father is always ready to grant us an audience and hear our petitions with interest and affection.
2. We are to hallow the name of God, and set Him above all our personal issues in life. This becomes the legitimate basis for all other requests we make!
3. We are to express our confidence that He is able. We do this, not to encourage Him, but to build up our faith and encourage ourselves.
4. The death grip of Satan's kingdom has been broken. The mighty and victorious hand of Christ has set us free!
5. We are not to debate or define for ourselves what God's will is. We are to simply hear and obey!
6. As we pray for our "daily bread," He will know exactly what we need and will not disappoint us!
7. God, alone, is the Source of our daily bread.
8. We shall be satisfied. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Living Bread!
9. There is no forgiveness of our sins by God, as long as we hold onto feelings of unforgiveness.
10. With forgiveness of sins comes right standing with God, which brings His favor and grace.
11. God's blessings and His provision go together with His forgiveness.
12. The battleground is essentially the mind.
13. This is a not a prayer that allows for passivity. God expects us to do our part as He does His part.
14. We need more than bread for our lives. We must feed on every word of God.
15. Never challenge or try to tempt the Lord so you can gain some advantage.
16. Every trail or test we face is a test of our faithfulness. His faithfulness is never in question!
17. Worship and serve God and Him only!
18. We are to expect the assault to come, but we are also to expect the Deliverer to come, as we petition Him daily!
19. The Lord's Prayer is to be an unselfish one in which we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

## Notes

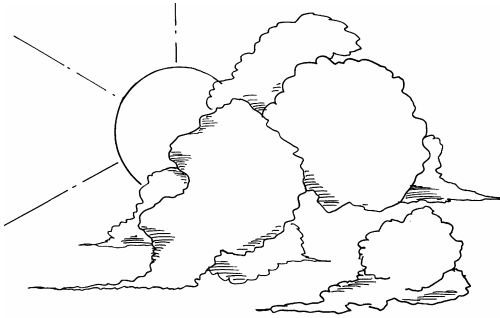


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# 77. The Lord's Prayer: Part 5.

## The Doxology

*"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."  
(Matthew 6:13b NKJV)*



### Biblical Principles

20. Surely if we ask God to bless us, the least we can do is to bless him. He truly is the King of the Kingdom, with all glory and honor belonging to Him alone!
21. As the children of our Heavenly Father the King, we have great privileges and great responsibilities.
22. Life is a constant battle against evil and the evil one. We have no power in ourselves to win this battle, but God has all the power we need!
23. Our Heavenly Father is able to enforce His will. He is able to care for, defend and provide for us against all odds and opposition.
24. He is a forever Savior, with a forever Word and a forever faithful heart. The twenty-four principles of this five sermon series are absolutely truthful. They stand on the strength and majesty of the One who taught us to pray this prayer.

### Paraphrase of Verse 13b

*"All that exists in creation, both the natural and supernatural, is under your sovereign rule. You alone have the completely dominant strength and ability to enforce your will against all odds or opposition. You alone possess all dignity and honor. To you alone belongs all praise and worship, without end. We say "Amen" to our prayer, declaring that what we have prayed is truthful and we stand in agreement with it. We affirm with our voices and believe in our hearts that it shall come to pass."*



# The Lord's Prayer: The Complete Paraphrase

## *The Lord's Prayer* *Matthew 6:9-13 Paraphrased*

*Our incredible and perfect Father of Mercy and Grace, Who rules and reigns in majesty in the place of complete and undeniable authority, let your name be revered and worshiped, as we behold the beauty of your holiness.*

*{10} Father, let all that makes up your wisdom and accomplishes your divine purposes be fully done in this place, in this hour, just as it has always been done in heaven, which is the seat of your merciful, just and sovereign supremacy.*

*{11} Provide us with those things that will sustain our natural and physical needs throughout the day.*

*{12} And cancel the enormous debt we owe you, just as we willingly cancel and forgive every wrong and every debt owed to us by anyone.*

*{13} And spare us from the trials and temptations that would test our faithfulness to you, as you set us free from the enslavement, devastation and destruction that come from our sinful natures and the evil works Satan brings to our lives.*

*All that exists in creation, both the natural and supernatural, is under your sovereign rule.*

*You alone have the completely dominant strength and ability to enforce your will against all odds or opposition.*

*You alone possess all dignity and honor.*

*To you alone belongs all praise and worship, without end.*

*We say "Amen" to our prayer, declaring that what we have prayed is truthful and we stand in agreement with it. We affirm with our voices and believe in our hearts that it shall come to pass.*

*For His glory - Dr. Bob Abramson*



# The Lord's Prayer: Twenty-four Biblical Principles

Add the Doxology and here are the Twenty-four Biblical Principles we have learned from the Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 6:9-13)

1. Our Heavenly Father is always ready to grant us an audience and hear our petitions with interest and affection.
2. We are to hallow the name of God, and set Him above all our personal issues in life. This becomes the legitimate basis for all other requests we make!
3. We are to express our confidence that He is able. We do this, not to encourage Him, but to build up our faith and encourage ourselves.
4. The death grip of Satan's kingdom has been broken. The mighty and victorious hand of Christ has set us free!
5. We are not to debate or define for ourselves what God's will is. We are to simply hear and obey!
6. As we pray for our "daily bread," He will know exactly what we need and He will not disappoint us!
7. God, alone, is the Source of our daily bread.
8. We shall be satisfied. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Living Bread!
9. There is no forgiveness of our sins by God, as long as we hold onto feelings of unforgiveness toward others.
10. With forgiveness of sins comes right standing with God, which brings favor and grace.
11. God's blessings and His provision go together with His forgiveness.
12. The battleground is essentially the mind.
13. This is a not a prayer that allows for passivity. God expects us to do our part as He does His part.
14. We need more than bread for our lives. We must feed on every word of God.
15. Never challenge or try to tempt the Lord so you can gain some advantage.
16. Every trial or test we face is a test of our faithfulness. His faithfulness is never in question!
17. Worship and serve God and Him only!
18. We are to expect the assault to come, but we are also to expect the Deliverer to come, as we petition Him daily!
19. The Lord's Prayer is to be an unselfish one in which we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

From the three temptations found in Matthew 4:1-10, we learn the following:

- Trust in God for everything and feed on His Word daily.
  - Avoid being tempted to test the Lord for our advantage.
  - Worship and serve God only.
20. Surely if we ask God to bless us, the least we can do is to bless Him.
  21. As children of our Heavenly Father the King, we have great privileges and great responsibilities.
  22. Life is a constant battle against evil and the evil one. We have no power in ourselves to win this battle, but God has all the power we need.
  23. Our Heavenly Father is able to enforce His will... able to care for us always... and in all ways.
  24. He is a forever Savior, with a forever Word and a forever faithful heart. The twenty-four principles of this five sermon series are absolutely truthful. They stand on the strength and majesty of the One who taught us to pray this prayer.