

Beyond Sunday - Focus

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Our hope is that the living, breathing words of truth that are revealed to you become a part of your everyday life. In the book of James, we read about a key to living life with God. We are told that if we ask for wisdom by faith then we shall receive it generously from our Father in Heaven. One of the best ways to receive this wisdom is by preparing to receive it. We invite you to pray this prayer prior to the message and the study guide:

“God, thank you for your truth and wisdom. Help me to see what I need to see, hear what I need to hear and know what I need to know. Holy Spirit, help me to understand in a way that shows me the Father's true nature and heart. May this time help me to know you more and become more like Jesus. Amen.”

MESSAGE THEME

How to focus and stay focused on the present-day ministry of Jesus.

KEY CONCEPTS/TRUTHS

The Church is meant to be the place where your life is changed. You may come in one way, but you will exit another.

Jesus' present-day ministry is focused on God's kingdom here on earth and building the church.

We need to see with our spiritual eyes and live with an eternal perspective.

Our purpose is to make God's will a reality on earth now.

You are a part of God's will to build the Church.

God looks at us and sees us as belonging to Him. The Bible says that He bought us at a price. (1 Corinthians 6:20)

This world is full of distractions and anything can become a distraction from the Kingdom of God. We need to be intentional about seeking first the Kingdom of God, and then all else will be added.

The same measure that you use will be measured back to you. Give, and it will be given to you. (Luke 6:38)

Which one truth do you already have evidence of in your life today? Ask the Lord for new ways to see even more of it for you and others around you. Write your answers out.

Which one truth is the most challenging or least existing in your life today? Why do you think this is? Ask the Lord if there are any beliefs or barriers that are keeping you from believing that particular truth. Write it out.

REAL-LIFE APPLICATION

Do you remember back when you were a junior or senior in high school, and it was time to decide what your next step would be? Maybe your next step was entering the workforce, going to trade-school or traditional college, or even starting a family.

No matter where you were heading, do you remember that lingering question: "What's next?" Even worse, the follow-up question: "What if I choose the wrong path?" You see, so often we ask, "What's next?" and we forget to take it to God.

Maybe you do ask God but before you can give Him the chance to answer and allow peace to set in, fear kicks down the doors of your mind and asks, "What if you choose the wrong path?" The truth is that God created you with gifts, talents, and destiny that are a part of who you are. He created you with a plan and a purpose that includes both

the straight paths and the winding roads with curves that you won't be able to see around.

The great news, however, is that He will work all things for good when you faithfully follow Him.

THIS WEEK'S DECLARATIONS

Life is released when your words are in agreement with God. Intentionally speaking life and biblical truth out loud is extremely powerful. In fact, you have that very life in the power of your tongue. These words below, when spoken out loud, will cause an acceleration of the reality of God's words in your life. We encourage you to speak the following with an expectancy to renew your mind and see God's fullness.

My life has purpose in Jesus.

I trust God with my security, finances, family, career, and heart.

My focus is building the Kingdom and seeking the heart of God.

God will never leave me nor forsake me.

I am the local church and choose to be an active participant in building the Kingdom of God in my community today.

Kingdom of God, come. God's will be done on earth, and in me, as it is in Heaven.

GREATER THINGS STRENGTH & COURAGE FOR TOMORROW

Ask the Lord if there is an area in your life where you are not giving Him first priority. When/if you feel like He shows you something, allow Him into that area of your life and ask Him to come take His rightful place on the throne of your heart. Ask Him to show you what it looks like for Him to be first place in that area of your life.

As you do this you will experience the greater things that He has for you. Your focus will shift and you will begin to see things His way. The Kingdom way.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References from the message 'Focus'

Hebrews 7:25 NKJV

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Matthew 3:11 NKJV

...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matthew 16:18 NKJV

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

2 Corinthians 4:18 NKJV

while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Hebrews 11:25-27 NKJV

choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV

...and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price...

Acts 27:24-25 NKJV

'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' 25 Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.

Ephesians 2:10 AMPC

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which I've prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Revelation 22:12 NKJV

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me...

1 Peter 1:18 CEV

You were rescued from the useless way of life that you learned from your ancestors...

Mark 1:15 KJV

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Luke 1:31-33 NKJV

...and shall call His name Jesus . 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of his Father David 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. ”

Daniel 2:44 NKJV

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Job 42:10 KJV

And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before

Matthew 16:18 NKJV

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Mark 4:17 & 19 NKJV

Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Luke 12:16-20 NKJV

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink,

and be merry.” ’ **20** But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

Luke 12:20-21 NKJV

But God Said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ **21** “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God.”

1 Chronicles 29:3 NKJV

Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver:

1 Timothy 3:15 NKJV

...conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth

Ezekiel 46: 8-9 NKJV

When the prince enters, he shall go in by way of the vestibule of the gateway, and go out the same way. ...whoever enters by way of the northgate to worship shall go out by way of the south gate; and whoever enters by way of the south gate shall go out by way of the north gate. He shall not return by way of the gate through which he came, but shall go out through the opposite gate.

Ezekiel 41:18-20 NKJV

And *it was* made with cherubim and palm trees, a palm tree between cherub and cherub. *Each* cherub had two faces, **19** so that the face of a man *was* toward a palm tree on one side, and the face of a young lion toward a palm tree on the other side; thus *it was* made throughout the temple all around. **20** From the floor to the space above the door, and on the wall of the sanctuary, cherubim and palm trees *were* carved.

Revelation 7:9 NKJV

...clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Matthew 26:6-9 NKJV

And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, **7** a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. **8** But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? **9** For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.”

Luke 16:9 PHILLIPS

Now my advice to you is to use ‘money’, tainted as it is, to make yourselves friends, so that when it comes to an end, they may welcome you into eternal habitations.

2 Kings 4:1 NKJV

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord . And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves. "

2 Kings 4:2-7 NKJV

2 So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil." **3** Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. **4** And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones." **5** So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured *it* out. **6** Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "*There is* not another vessel." So the oil ceased. **7** Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you *and* your sons live on the rest."

Matthew 6:19-20 NKJV

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV

Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; **10** So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Psalms 37:25 NKJV

have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.

Luke 6:38 NKJV

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. "

Matthew 6:20 NKJV

but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Ephesians 2:10 AMPC

...[living the good life which I've prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Romans 14:17 NKJV

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.