

Beyond Sunday

A Sermon Application Guide
Times of Darkness

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 starting 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

Our God, who delivered before, will deliver again.

KEY CONCEPTS/TRUTHS

God is always with us, working in us and through us, especially in the dark times.

God doesn't cause the dark times, but He can use it and we can grow.

Your character and faith grow by actively seeking God as you walk through the valleys.

We may not see direct evidence of God working, but that doesn't mean that He isn't.

He is working on our behalf, but we play a role too.

God speaks to us from our destiny.

Our faith grows in our victories over dark times.

We magnify God through our thankfulness.

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

Have you ever had a valley season? Maybe you are going through one right now. Either way, God can cause them to work for our good. How is that?

- Character development
- Learning to persevere
- Learning to trust God
- Drawing closer to God
- Praying more
- Cause us to re-evaluate priorities
- Cause a new appreciation for what we have
- Change our posture to total trust and leaning on God

We can celebrate this truth and His promises. Use this time to listen to Pastor Ken's song, "Believe (Psalm 23)" <https://youtu.be/RifeCAiXIo0>

As you let the words penetrate your soul, magnify the Lord with thankfulness. Remember where He has delivered you from. Have faith that He will do it again.

This Week's Declaration

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.

Psalm 23 (AMP)

"The Lord is my Shepherd [to feed, to guide and to shield me], I shall not want.

He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still and quiet waters.

He refreshes and restores my soul (life); He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the [sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort and console me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You have anointed and refreshed my head with oil;

My cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, And I shall dwell forever [throughout all my days] in the house and in the presence of the Lord.”

GREATER THINGS

Because we are fighting a very real enemy, there will be opposition to our faith; there will be dark times when we have to walk through valleys in life. But take courage. Do not be defeated. Do not stop or give in, but always persevere by seeking God in the darkness. He is making all things work together for the good of those who love Him. We are moving from strength to strength, faith to faith, and we could not reach our full purpose in Him without strengthening ourselves in the valleys. As we take courage we will see His greater things in our lives.

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.

Times of Darkness

Scripture References

Genesis 1:5 NKJV

...So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Psalm 105:17-18 TPT

But he had already sent a man ahead of his people to Egypt; it was Joseph, who was sold as a slave. 18 His feet were bruised by strong shackles and his soul was held by iron.

2 Corinthians 1:4 NKJV

who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Psalm 4:1 TPT

...Whenever I was in distress, you enlarged me...

Psalm 23:1-5 NKJV

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Job 13:15 NKJV

Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.

Deuteronomy 29:29 NKJV

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Romans 8:28 NKJV

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

James 1:16-17 NKJV

Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Judges 6:12 NKJV

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

Isaiah 61:7 MSG

Because you got a double dose of trouble and more than your share of contempt, Your inheritance in the land will be doubled and your joy go on forever.

Hebrews 13:5 NKJV

...For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Colossians 1:13 ASV

who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love;

Isaiah 54:17 NKJV

... And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord...

Psalms 84:6-7 NKJV

As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. ⁷ They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.

Mark 9:22-23 NKJV

And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³ Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Romans 1:16-17 NKJV

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Psalms 69:30 NKJV

I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving

Isaiah 61:3 NKJV

To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...

Psalms 116:7-8 NKJV

Return to your rest, O my soul, For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. ⁸ For You have delivered my soul from death, My eyes from tears, And my feet from falling.

Acts 22:8 TPT

... 'I am Jesus, the Victorious...

Exodus 17:15 NKJV

...The-Lord-Is-My-Banner;

1 Timothy 6:12 NKJV

Fight the good fight of faith...

Mark 4:15 NKJV

...Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Psalms 23:4-5 NKJV

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...

Philemon 6 KJV

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:13 ASV

who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love

2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.