

Beyond Sunday with Scripture References

The Gift We Don't Deserve - The Gift pt 1

A Sermon Application Guide

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

Preparing The Way.

Key Concepts/Truths

Christianity is God-initiated as He reaches down to us as humanity, offering us what we don't deserve. We were created to have a relationship with God. We cannot meet our needs or rightly live our lives apart from Him.

You cannot cheat the Kingdom of God. It is like a planted seed and its harvest comes in time through constant watering and tending.

God's timetable for answers to prayer is different than ours. We are to come to God through His grace in prayer not based on the good behavior that we may have.

None of us are justified by our own behavior and performance. We are justified and made righteous because of Jesus' behavior and performance.

The devil's goal is to distort our perspective as much as possible as we are growing by convincing us of lies, keeping us from realizing our God-given purpose. Don't let daily worry, cares, and desire for wealth take priority over the Kingdom.

We can hear the gospel but if we don't mix it with faith it won't profit anybody. We have the same spirit of faith that Jesus did, but we need to believe it and speak it to benefit the Kingdom.

All things are possible to the one who believes, and there is a miracle in your mouth.

Key Verses: Luke 1:5-17 • Zechariah 4:6 • Romans 3:20 • Mark 4:18-19 • Luke 12:15 • 2 Corinthians 4:13 • Mark 9:23

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

Complaining is one of the quickest ways to stop ourselves dead in our tracks when it comes to the Word's impact in our lives and our spiritual growth. It's like the polar opposite of a testimony. It combines the power of darkness with the strength of ourselves to try and do what only the power of God can. It's like saying "God, I know that you can, but..." When the focus of our days becomes the issues and worries of life, how can we expect to receive life from God when we are trying to receive life from our problems?

We know God. We know His power. We also know that He can do more than we are able to ask for or imagine. Take some time right now to thank God for His power in all your life situations that seem like they need it the most. We'll see our traditional attitude of complaining turn into a regular and instinctual joy based on who our Heavenly Father is and because of what He has done in and through us.

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.

- Thank you God for meeting all my needs.
- Thank you Jesus for justifying me and putting me into right relationship with God my Father.
- I accept the gospel and the life I receive because of what Jesus has already done.
- I seek first God's Kingdom over my own issues and worries in life.
- God's power is stronger than any power of darkness and I believe that all things are possible as I believe.
- I speak and release the miracle that God has placed in my mouth.

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

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Luke 1:5-17 NKJV

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, according to the custom

of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

John 6:63 NKJV

...the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Zechariah 4:6 NKJV

Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

Romans 3:20 NKJV

Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

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.

Luke 1:16-17 NKJV

And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Mark 4:26-29 NKJV

And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Matthew 6:33-34 NKJV

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Luke 12:15 NKJV

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Luke 3:10-14 NKJV

So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?" He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you." Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what

shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

Luke 1:17 NKJV

He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Malachi 2:15 NKJV

But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

Genesis 49:29-31 NKJV

Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

Luke 1:18-20 NKJV

And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

Hebrews 4:2 NKJV

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

2 Corinthians 4:13 NKJV

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,

Mark 11:12-25 NKJV

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. **13** Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. **14** Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it **15** On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, **16** and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. **17** And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" **18** The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. **19** When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city. **20** In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. **21** Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" **22** "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. **23** "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. **24** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. **25** And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Mark 11:23 NKJV

For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

Philemon 6 NKJV

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

Romans 10:6-10 NKJV

But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Proverbs 18:21 KJV

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Genesis 1:1-9 NKJV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:8 NKJV

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):