

## DAY 7

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - John 10: 9&10

~ 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through ME **will be saved**. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (abundance).

~ Contrast the thief (Satan) with the gate (Jesus).

~ What is the difference in their two purposes for your life?

~ Describe how Satan has stolen, killed, and destroyed your life.

~ Explain how different **life** would be if you had followed and pursued Jesus totally?

### The Challenge

~ Read Romans 6:20-23. Meditate on what benefit you thought you were getting from your sin and how your sin lied to you. Going forward, you have the choice of death or life. Think about it! The choice is yours!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day. From today's devo, what does he want you to apply in your life...Be Still.....

1



# Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

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### Connection Passage - Romans 8:37-39

~ 37 In all these things (many hardships and trials) we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present or the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, **nor anything** else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the **love of God** that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

~ Many of us don't want God; we want a genie! I call this "Genie Theology". We want to rub our magic lamp and have our wish granted. If we get what we want, he is a **good genie**, and if not, he is a **bad genie**. Is this your thinking towards the difficult situations in your life that you want changed? What is this passage teaching us about living through our trials?

~ List the trials you're facing right now. Ask God how you can be a CONQUEROR with Him and His love. Write down what He lays on your heart.

>>> 1.

>>> 2.

>>> 3.

### The Challenge

~ Reflect on John 3:16-17 today. Think about the love the FATHER must have for us to send HIS SON for a bunch of self-centered sinners like me! Then meditate on how HE is walking through your struggles and your sin with you in HIS unstoppable love. Maybe listen to the song "Unstoppable Love" by Jesus Culture.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

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## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

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### Connection Passage - Isaiah 6:1-3

~ 1 I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "**Holy, Holy, Holy** is the Lord Almighty; the **whole earth** is full of His glory."

~ Describe how you **view God**?

~ Describe how you think **God views you**.

~ Do you believe these are **biblical views** or are they based on your feelings, experiences, and your own thinking? What should they be based on?

~ Do your answers line up with what the **Word of God** says? If you are not sure, ask a pastor.

### The Challenge

~ **Prayerfully**, ask God to change any wrong perception you have of Him. Living with wrong views of God can be the difference between living a joyful abundant life and being miserable and unhappy? Then **confess and repent** of anything you may have wrongly accused GOD of doing to you or your life! This is a huge part in walking free of your sin. Seek HELP if need be!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

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## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

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### Connection Passage - 2Cor 7:9-10

~9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but **your sorrow led you to repentance**. For you became **sorrowful as God intended** and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves **no regret**, but worldly sorrow brings **death**."

~"**Sorrow**" is defined as: "a feeling of deep distress caused by hurting or disappointing someone or one's self." Godly sorrow brings true repentance from being unfaithful to God and a spouse - and leads to **freedom!** Worldly sorrow is when someone is upset because they got caught. They are mad at how much havoc their sin has produced in their lives and their main concern is getting life back to normal. Scripture says this leads to **death!**

~What type of sorrow do you believe you're experiencing over your sin? Why?

~Read 2Cor 7:11 and list the "7 character qualities" that are **proof** that you have true Godly sorrow. Give a short explanation of each.

- > 1.
- > 2.
- > 3.
- > 4.
- > 5.
- > 6.
- > 7.

### The Challenge

~If you don't believe you've experienced true Godly sorrow, **ask God for it**. Think deeply about the hurt you have caused God, your wife, others, and yourself. Think about the time, money, and energy wasted on your pursuit of fulfilling your lust. This often generates **tears and a deep brokenness**. This may be painful but necessary! It is one of the **keys for freedom**, and even if it takes weeks or longer, don't give up! Then don't stay there; accept God's forgiveness and walk **free!** Write a note to God as you seek **GODLY SORROW** telling HIM what you're feeling.

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## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

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### Connection Passage - Proverbs 16:25, 9 & 3:5-6

~ Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that **seems to be right to a man**, but in the end it leads to death.

~ Proverbs 16:9 In his heart a man plans his way, but the **Lord determines** his steps.

~ Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge HIM, and **HE will** make your paths straight.

~What are the common themes of these "3" verses?

>>> 1.

>>> 2.

>>> 3.

~Do you really trust God to guide your steps in every situation?

~How has following your **own thinking** lead you into trouble? In sexual sin?

### The Challenge

~ Read Psalm 139:13-18. Reflect on His love for you and how much He has been watching over your life since the beginning! This world has dealt all of us some hard blows, but someday God is going to right all these wrongs and we will be experiencing eternal pleasure. This, my friends, is what we are living and waiting for!

~ Confess and repent to God, asking Him to forgive you for not believing **HIS way** is best, and for **not trusting** HIM in every aspect of your life. He won't let you down!

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## DAY 3

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### Connection Passage - Daniel 4:34-36

~34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was **restored**. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" 36 At the same time that my sanity was **restored**, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and **I was restored** to my throne and became even greater than before.

~In V31, God removes the king from his position and V34 **He restores** his kingdom to him. From these verses of the king we can clearly see God has **authority over his creation**.

~If God can **restore** a king to his position, can he **restore** your marriage? Can he **restore** YOU? Is there anything in all creation he can't do? Is he in complete control? Can he make your life greater than it's ever been?

~**Some of God's restoration plan** includes your response to your sin and the choices you make going forward. This is called: cooperative sanctification! Write a short note to GOD telling HIM how you want to live for him from now on!

### The Challenge

~**Believe** this in the heat of the storm, GOD'S HEART is always to restore the broken hearted! Read Isaiah 41:10 & 55:8-11 and Joel 2:25 before going to bed. God will help you! Meditate on trusting him!

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## DAY 4

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### Connection Passage - Psalm 27:4

~4 One thing **I ask** from the Lord, this only do **I seek**: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

~What is the major question you probably ask yourself after reading this passage?

~Where are you on a scale from 1 – 10 in regards to how much you desire to be in the **Presence of God** daily? Really? Why?

~The word "**seek**" means: got to have it, begging for it, a craving for it. How would it **change your life** if this was the attitude of your heart and the way you sought CHRIST? Describe with some detail!

~What is choking out or holding back **this desire in your life**?

### The Challenge

~Spend a moment now memorizing this passage and ask yourself daily for the rest of your life, **is this my top priority**, my one desire? If it is, it will change you forever!! This is a KEY attitude of the heart and mind!

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Connection Passage - Isaiah 55:10-11

~10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is My Word that goes out from my mouth: **It will not return to me empty**, but will accomplish **what I** desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

~Describe in your own words what God compares **His Word** to and why?

~What **promise or truth** from this passage can you stand on to help you fight against sexual sin in your life? Can you **trust GOD'S WORD**? Do you? Why or why not?

~What does this passage teach that you need to do with GOD'S WORD?

The Challenge

~Based on what you stated above about God's Word, read Gal. 6:7-9. You may have sown a bad crop for a long time, but what does this verse say will happen if you start planting a **good crop** now? Jot down what you can do today to start planting **good seed**. Stand on this promise and start sowing good seed. He promises you will reap a harvest but it takes time for a new crop to grow! **BE PATIENT! TEND TO YOUR NEW CROP!**

Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

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2



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

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### Connection Passage - Matt. 6:25-27

~25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about **your life**, what you will **eat** or drink; or about **your body**, what you will **wear**. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you** not much more valuable than they? 27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life ?

~The scriptures teach we will have **much tribulation and many problems in this life**. Today's passage tells us how to deal with these challenges. How do you currently deal with them?

~How does this passage say you **should** deal with them?

~How **shouldn't** you deal with them?

~Read Matthew 6:33 & 34. What **promise from God** do you see in V33? What does V34 tell you about how to deal with worry?

### The Challenge

~Practice living **one day** at a time, trusting God for all you need. God doesn't want us living in anxiety and all stressed out. Remember His promise to feed the birds? How much more will He take care of you. Trust Him and not yourself! **Ask HIM for help** right now if you're struggling to trust Him.

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## DAY 6

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### Connection Passage - Ecc 4:9-12

~9 **Two are better than one**, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

~Wow! List 5 reasons why "2 are better than 1."

- >>> 1.
- >>> 2.
- >>> 3.
- >>> 4.
- >>> 5.

~If two of the strands represent a relationship, who is the **third strand**? What happens when we add a **third strand** to our relationships?

~Write down why you think you may have many friends or no real friends.

### The Challenge

~You **MUST prayerfully** find at least one other person of the same gender to walk through life with, aka **a friend**. Practice openness, acceptance, and transparency in the relationship. It would be good to have one person who is in the same place as you and someone else who is more mature in the Lord. Don't stop until you find someone! **Remember**, to have a friend you must be a friend. Make sure the third strand is the center of your relationship!!

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### Connection Passage - Psalms 19:7-11

~7 The law of the LORD is **perfect**, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are **trustworthy**, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are **right**, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are **radiant**, giving light to the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is **pure**, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are **sure** and altogether **righteous**. 10 They are more **precious** than gold, than much pure gold; they are **sweeter** than honey, than honey from the comb. 11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

~List at "least 5 things" God says about His laws, His ways, and His commands from this passage and **what benefit** they are to you?

- >>>> 1.
- >>>> 2.
- >>>> 3.
- >>>> 4.
- >>>> 5.

~What are two things that **God's Word** does for us? (see V11)

~Based on these two things, why would you want to know what God's Word says about our sexual lives here in the USA?

~After reading today's passage, what is the feeling or thinking impressed upon you?

### The Challenge

~Make an effort to wake up "15-30 minutes" earlier every morning to spend time **reading** God's Word and **reflecting** on how you're living it out. This is a lifelong principle to practice with great rewards! This is one of the **Keys** to victory over sexual sin!

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## DAY 2

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### Connection Passage - Gen. 3:6

~6 When the woman **saw** that the fruit of the tree was good for food and **pleasing to the eye**, and also **desirable** for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

~What do you think Eve's first mistake was? What do you think Eve was **thinking** as **she gazed** at the fruit? Was it because of her thinking or because of what she looked at? Or both?

~Read Gen. 3:1-7. Notice how **Satan deceived** Eve **in her thinking** and created doubts about God. Satan and your flesh will also lie to you! How did Satan twist the truth of what GOD had said?

~ Identify and list at least "3 lies" you believe in your lust for women and write next to it what God's Word says.

>>>>1.

>>>>2.

>>>>3.

### The Challenge

~It is important to apply "bouncing the eyes" or "the one second rule," but ultimately you need to go to **the root** of what's causing you to look. You must identify the lies and false beliefs behind your self-medicating practices. Look at your self-talk and replace it with truth-talk. **Practice** this everyday!

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### Connection Passage - 2Thess 3:11-13

~11 We hear that some among you are **idle**. They are not busy; they are busybodies. 12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. 13 And as for you, brothers, **never** get tired of doing what is right.

~Someone defined **idleness** as, "Nothing to do that is worthy of my time!" In these passages, we see Paul command the people **not to be idle**. Why?

~What happens to you when you're **alone and idle**?

~What can you do to **plan ahead** for idle or alone times?

~When do you typically fall into sexual sin? Time of day? Location? Day of the week? What are you doing?

~What can you do to have a "battle plan" before these times arrive? What is that plan?

### The Challenge

~It is always best to have a **plan**. Write a plan above of what you're going to do with your idle or alone time or typical times of temptation. Making phone calls to prayer partners during those times is **extremely helpful!** Start writing now!

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## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

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### Connection Passage - Heb 3:12-14

~12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be **hardened by sin's deceitfulness**. 14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly until the end the confidence we had at first.

~**How** do we become sinful according to this passage?

~**How** can we help to prevent our heart from becoming unbelieving and hard?

~Why do you think this biblical principle works?

~Write down "3 people's" names and cell numbers you can contact in times of **temptation**. Write down the guys you want to be calling to **encourage them** in their walk and battle against sin!!

### The Challenge

~**Practice encouraging someone everyday!** Be purposeful and intentional! Having relationships with other Christian men who are on fire for God will melt away a cold, hard, calloused heart. This **must be practiced** to ever get any real, true freedom. Call someone everyday if possible! BE PROACTIVE!

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Connection Passage -2 Tim. 2:22

~22 **Flee** the evil desires of youth, and **pursue** righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

~What do you think is more important: the **fleeing** or the **pursuing**? Why?

~Why does God tell us to both **flee** and **pursue**?

~What does **fleeing** evil desires look like in your life?

~What does **pursuing** “righteousness, faith, love, and peace” look like?

The Challenge

~1 Tim. 6:11 Paul tells Timothy to flee other temptations and pursue things of God. But, he also adds an encouragement to “fight the good fight.” Spend a few moments considering if you truly realize that this life is a battle; a fight for souls to be won or lost for eternity. Are you fighting?

Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

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3



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

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### Connection Passage -Psalm 119:33-37

33 **Teach me**, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. 34 **Give me** understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart. 35 **Direct me** in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. 36 **Turn my heart** toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. 37 **Turn my eyes** away from worthless things; **preserve my life** according to your word.

~Write in your own words the “six things” the psalmist **asks of God**.

~The key to these verses lies in the **psalmist’s attitude**. His main desire is to **seek God for His help!** Read Jer. 29:13-14 and Prov. 2:1-5. Where are you on a scale from 1 to 10 on letting God completely direct your life? Be real..... think about it before you answer.

### The Challenge

~Today, make this Psalm a prayer from your heart. It is only God who can turn your heart, but it is your sincere desire for God to turn your heart that opens the way for Him to do so. Pray this Psalm now from your heart....

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

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## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

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### Connection Passage - Matt. 5:27-30

~27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. **It is better** for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. **It is better** for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

~This passage is God’s set of boundaries for lusting after women. How would you feel if everyone around you **knew** how much you lust after women?

~How will it hurt you and others around you if you continue to look and lust?

~What do you need to do practically to **cut off** (remove) from your life things that lead you to sin?

~Is the problem of looking lustfully at women an eye issue or a heart issue?

### The Challenge

~**Be purposeful and intentional** about not checking out women lustfully. Then take action to set up boundaries in areas causing you to sin. (Ex. filters on the computer.) Lastly, work with God on a real heart change! Pray and ask GOD to help you with this.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

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## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

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### Connection Passage -Deut. 6:3-9

~3 Hear, O Israel, and **be careful to obey so that it may go well with you** and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today **are to be upon your hearts**. 7 Impress them on your children. **Talk about them** when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as **symbols** on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 **Write them on** the door frames of your houses and on your gates.

~This passage in the bible is called the SHEMA (hear) and is the most important prayer in Judaism, spoken daily. In verse 6, it tells us God's Word (His commands) are to be in our hearts. Tell, in your own words, how this happens.

~In V7-9, how does it describe the type of lifestyle God desires us to live? In V3, why does God tell us he wants us to live like this?

### The Challenge

~Hebrew people were very successful at making their faith in God an integral part of life. The main reason they had success was that **their faith** was intertwined into every aspect of life. It was not information oriented but it was integrated into their life! **Write out how you can do this in your life**. Use verses 5-9 as a guide. To break the cycle of addiction, there must be a change of lifestyle in and out of the home, at work, and at play. Take this seriously!

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## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

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### Connection Passage -Rom. 12:1-2

~1 ...**I urge you**, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer** your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform **any longer** to the pattern of this world, but be transformed **by** the renewing of your mind. **Then** you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

~Explain what **God's mercy** has to do with offering our bodies as living sacrifices.

~Do you want to be **transformed** in your thinking? How are you going to do that?

~What is the result of **offering your body** in V1 as a living sacrifice and **transforming your mind** in V2?

~If you actually practice these verses in your life, how would your life be different one year from now?

### The Challenge

~Write out a short prayer to God about **wanting to be** a living sacrifice for Him!

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Connection Passage - Romans 12:1-2

~1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer** your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of **worship**. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. **Then** you will be able to test and approve what **God's will is**--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

~We know this scripture is a repeat from Week 3, but it is so crucial in our battle against sexual sin that we wanted to examine it further! Write out what **actions** God is asking you to take from today's reading.

~Write out the **result** for each of these actions.

~Do you think understanding **God's will** for your life will be helpful in actually living this life? Why?

The Challenge

~ Rom 12:1-2 is not optional! **Memorize this passage**. **YOU MUST** have this scripture in your tool box for daily living!! (Write on a 3x5 card, on your home screen, on your phone, taped to your mirror, etc.) Read over it again and again and think about the **words individually** as you do this. Don't stop until this verse is embedded in your mind and heart.

Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

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5



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

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### Connection Passage -James 2:17-20 and Romans 1:32

17 ... **faith** by itself, if it is not accompanied by **action**, is **dead**. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." **Show me your faith** without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder. 20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that **faith without deeds is useless**?

~How have your actions changed since you gave your life to Jesus (through FAITH)? Or have they? **What actions show your faith to others?**

~People say they know the Lord but often **their lives don't reflect it**. People at their work don't even know they are Christians. Their spouse or kids aren't even sure. If you're a Dallas Cowboy football player, the people around you will know that! You're on a much bigger team... Team Christian. This is God's team and there is no shame in that, only HONOR!

~ The big question, "**Who is God to you?**" Does your life reflect Jesus? Why or why not?

Even the demons **know Jesus** was the Savior of the world. It's more than knowing, it's surrendering. It's realizing you no longer live but now it's JESUS living through you. It's realizing you're a new creation!

~Write out how Jesus' death on the cross has or is changing your life!

~Pretend you're God. What would He want to say to you right now where you are in your life? Write it out!

### The Challenge

**Romans 1:32** - Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things **deserve death**, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

~After reading Rom 1:32, are you continuing in your sin? Do you realize and ever think about the fact that you deserve death? Reflect on what an incredible gift Jesus gave you on the cross!! Repent now of taking advantage of His free gift if necessary. Then **walk free**!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day. Ask him what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Romans 10:8-10

~8 But what does it say? "**The word** is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the **word of faith** we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**. 10 For it is with your heart that **you believe** and are JUSTIFIED, and it is with your mouth that **you confess** and are SAVED.

### EXAMINE YOUR FRUIT - MATT 3:8

### ANY EVIDENCE OF A NEW CREATION? - 2COR 5:17

### ANY FRUIT GROWING IN YOU? - GAL 5:22

### SAVED BY GRACE NOT WORKS! - EPH 2:8

~Eventually you should see signs of the new creation and fruit growing on your tree~

### IS HE LORD OR JUST SAVIOR? - ROMANS 10:9

### The Challenge

~Read Romans 8:12-14. **Are you ready** to live out this passage? Talk to God about your belief in Him! Is it real or merely fire insurance? **Are you ready** and **willing to deny** yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Him now as a true disciple? These could be the **most important** questions you ever ask yourself!

~The goal today isn't to make you doubt your salvation but to challenge you to **examine it** to be sure you are in the faith so you don't get to the end of your life and hear, "Away from me. I never knew you." (Matt 7:23)

~If you need to **recommit** your life to Jesus, or if you think you have never **really committed** to Him, this is the time to do it! **Take time to pray now!!!**

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day. Ask him what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage -Romans 8

~Read **Romans 8** in your Bible.

~Write out V1&2. For you perfectionists, look up the meaning of the word "No" and the word "condemnation." Write out in your own words why there is "**NO CONDEMNATION**" for you as a Christian.

~V5-8 states that **you have a choice** to make on how you're going to live. Write out what your two choices are and the result of choosing to live them out.

~How does V12 say we **put sin to death** in our lives? Explain what that means.

~In V14, who is led by the Spirit of God? To be led by the Spirit, do you think you need to hear from God?

~What is the main thing you got out of Romans 8 and how does GOD WANT YOU TO APPLY IT?

### The Challenge

~ Think about how you have lived your life up to now and consider that God says that **nothing** can separate you from **His love**. **Nothing! Nothing!** Give thanks to God for His amazing **LOVE** and think about what this means for you going forward!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day. Ask him what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Romans 5:1-5

~1 ...since we have been **justified through faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by **faith into this grace** in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also **rejoice in our sufferings**, because we know that **suffering** produces perseverance; 4 **perseverance**, character; and **character**, hope. 5 And **hope** does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

~Write out a definition of God's "GRACE."

~ V1-2 tells us we should have peace because God looks at you and me "**just as if I'd**" **never sinned**. (We're justified!) If this doesn't cause us to jump up and down and get excited about living for God, then you possibly haven't grasped **His grace and what it means for you**. Seek God and write out why **His grace** should change you radically!! Think about it!

~Are you able to rejoice in your **sufferings**? Write out why you should rejoice in suffering based on V3 and 4.

~Is there always purpose in **your suffering**?

### The Challenge

~Spend a few moments thinking about any areas in your life where you may feel hopeless. Why is there **always hope in Jesus**?(V5)

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day. Ask him what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Romans 6

~Read **Romans Chapter 6** in your Bible. Romans 6, 7, and 8 could arguably be the most important chapters in the Bible for overcoming sexual sin. Make some extra time over the next 3 days to reflect deeply on them.

~Have you **died with Christ** based on V5-7? If you have, what does V7 say about you?

~What is the most important take away for YOU in V11-14?

~God asks you in V21 what **BENEFIT** are you experiencing TODAY from your past sins? What **BENEFIT** do you reap from living in freedom in CHRIST according to V22?

~What jumped off the page and spoke loudly to **you** as you read this chapter?

### The Challenge

~This week start walking out these three commands under the grace and power of God.

>1. When tempted, **remind yourself** that you are dead to sin!

>2. When tempted, **remind yourself** you are eternally alive because of God's Son!

>3. When tempted, **remind yourself** that you will no longer allow sin to reign in your body! You have a choice and the power to say, "NO!"

**Pray and commit to doing these three things.** Practice these under God's guidance and "your freedom" will be well on its way.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day. Ask God what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Romans 7

~Read **Romans Chapter 7** in your Bible.

~This "**concept of being dead**" is critical to your recovery and your walk as a Christian. Research and then define what it means to be **dead** to something.

~V6 clearly states you are dead to sins that **used to** bind or hold you. V21-23 tell us why we **still battle** sin and V24-25 explain that Jesus is the **solution**. Do you believe this is true for your life? Why or Why not?

~What is GOD wanting you to learn from today's reading?

### The Challenge

~How does your "**new identity**" as a Christian change what you think about and what you do? **How will you put this into practice?** Will you choose to believe it despite what you think or feel? Does your flesh keep looking back to your past failures and tell you that you've tried this before and it didn't work? Romans 12:2 says your mind has to be renewed until you are transformed and believe these truths. It takes time and effort meditating on the words God is speaking to you! **DON'T GIVE UP!**

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day. Ask God what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

DAY 7

Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

1 4

Connection Passage -Philippians 4:8-9

~8 Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable**--if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy**--~~think~~ about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--**put it into practice**. And the God of peace will be with you.

~This is another "key verse" for freedom from sin. List the "8" things that **God lists** for you to think on in V8.

- > 1. > 5.
- > 2. > 6.
- > 3. > 7.
- > 4. > 8.

~What is the truth?? If GOD tells you to think only on this list of "8" things in your thought life, **can you?** **Can you control your thoughts??**

**~STATEMENT OF FACT: IF YOU ACTUALLY PRACTICE V8, YOUR LIFE WILL CHANGE ON SO MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS!!**

~V9 is rarely talked about. Paul says if you "**practice thinking**" on these things and don't let your mind think on whatever garbage it wants, then the God of peace will be with you. Write out why you would ever want to let your mind ponder anything outside the list in V8 with the promise given in V9?

The Challenge

~Write out a list of things you think about that **don't** line up with V8. Write next to each one what you're going to "switch your thinking to" from the list above the next time that wrong thought pops in your head!

>>>

>>>

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Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day and ask what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

6



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Philippians 2:3-4

~3 Do **nothing** out of **selfish ambition** or vain conceit, but in humility consider others **better** than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the **interests of others**.

~This is not a popular teaching in the world. **What? Consider others more important and more significant than myself?** Preposterous! The world teaches us if we don't take care of "**#1,**" who will? But God, in His wisdom, knows if we focus on ourselves, it will destroy us and our relationships with others.....especially our marriages!

~Why is looking at porn or checking out women **SELFISH?** How does it hurt your relationship with Jesus, others, and yourself? (J.O.Y.)

>>> **JESUS** -

>>> **OTHERS** -

>>> **YOURSELF** -

### The Challenge

~**Pray** about how God wants you to make **others "more important"** than yourself. (Wife, friends, co-workers, relatives, kids, etc.) Spend some time listening closely to His direction. Write down a **few practical steps** of what He says to do. Listen!

>>> 1.

>>> 2.

>>> 3.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day and ask what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, **repent**, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Philippians 3:13b-14

~13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting** what is behind and **straining toward what is ahead**, 14 I **press on** toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

~This is one of the **KEY** verses in "**walking in freedom**" from addiction. Your addiction doesn't define the rest of your life or who you are!!! You are a child of God who is free and forgiven in Christ. You have the power to let go of the past! "**List**" anything from your past that continues to haunt you with guilt, shame, fear, anger, feelings of stupidity, unforgiveness, sorrow, hurts...etc. **To be free**, you must break these chains by the blood of Christ and WALK in your "**New Identity.**"

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>>

### The Challenge

~Pray through your list above, deal with each situation, and then leave it behind. If your brain (or the enemy) tries to resurrect it, go to God for strength and say to the lie (or liar), "Away from me in **JESUS name!** I have dealt with this \_\_\_\_\_ at the cross and it is dead. I will not allow it to dictate my life any longer! **I'm Free!**" HE has given you authority over your past! Ask GOD to help you change your focus from the past to looking forward! **LIVE FREE!!!!** (WARNING: it may take a while for your emotions to catch up with **the truth**. Don't let your emotions dictate your life any longer.)

~If you can't think of anything, spend some time giving **thanks to GOD**. Deal with anything from your past that is still hindering you from "**running your race**" going forward!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day and what from today's devo does he want you to apply in your life...Be Still.....

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage -Philippians 3:10-11

~10 I want to **know Christ** and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, **becoming like him** in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

~ Write out the definition of "KNOW" and what it really means to know someone!

~You can feel **Paul's love for Christ** in this passage and his desire to experience Him and life eternal. Write out "4" things you would like to experience in your walk with Christ on this earth.

>>> 1.

>>> 2.

>>> 3.

>>> 4.

### The Challenge

~Think about "if" you really want to become like HIM? Write out your own prayer to God today expressing your desire to live for Him, your desire to experience Him here on earth, and why you're excited to meet Him face to face.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day. Ask him what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Philippians 2:5-9a

~5 **Your attitude should be** the same as that of **Christ Jesus**: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but **made himself** nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself** and **became obedient** to death-- even death on a cross! 9 Therefore, **God exalted him** to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name...

~Jesus **made Himself a servant of all** and **humbled Himself** to the ultimate obedience....allowing Himself to be put to death on a cross. What would the result have been for us if He hadn't done this, if HE hadn't obeyed!?

~What has the result been to your family and to those around you when you **don't humble yourself** to the point of obeying God? Why does it have that effect?

~According to V9, what did God do for His Son, who obeyed Him. What will HE do for you when you lay down your life and desires?

### The Challenge

~Think about how **you would want to "bless someone"** who continually follows and does exactly what you ask them to do? (Pick someone.) Think about how that would change the person.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day. Ask Him what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Philippians 1:9-11

~9 And this is "my prayer"(Paul): that **your love may abound** more and more in **knowledge and depth** of insight, 10 **so** that you may be **able to discern** what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

~This was Paul's prayer for the Philippians and this is my prayer for you today. List the "4" main things that I am praying for you! List WHY each of these is helpful in **overcoming sexual sin**.

>>> 1.

>>> 2.

>>> 3.

>>> 4.

~What is the main purpose for God filling you with righteousness according to V11? Then, how do you do this?

### The Challenge

~Write out a prayer that you would pray for a man who is stuck in sexual sin.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day and ask what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Philippians 3:7-9

~7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss **for the sake of Christ**.  
8 What is more, I consider everything a loss **compared** to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, **that I may gain Christ** 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by **faith**.

~Do you have the same excitement of "**knowing**" Christ that Paul describes in verse 8? Think about it!?

~Based on verse 9, do you **earn** your right standing with God by how you have behaved? How does this truth affect your desire to live for God?

~What is GOD speaking to you about today's lesson?

### The Challenge

~Take time now and throughout the week to reflect on why **knowing** Christ should surpass all of life. DOES everything else in life seem like a waste compared to knowing HIM? Think about it! Pray about it LONG AND HARD!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day and what from today's devo does he want you to apply in your life...Be Still.....

## DAY 7

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

1 4

### Connection Passage -1 Cor 6:12-20

READ THIS VERSE IN YOUR BIBLE TODAY. Wow! What a powerful passage!

~Write out what God emphasized to you in this passage and how it **applies** to your life.

~In V15, V16, and V19 it says three times, "DON'T YOU KNOW!" After reading and really thinking about these verses deeply, ask yourself..... "DO YOU CARE!?" Think about it.

### The Challenge

~A couple of the clearest commands from God about our sexuality lies in these passages.

1. Flee sexual immorality. (V18) 2. Honor God with your body.

(V20) Write out how **you plan** to live these out in real life and ask God to give you the strength to live these out **one day at a time!!!** Try to practice this everyday for the rest of your days on earth!!!

>>>1.

>>>2.

~ In Romans 12:1, what does God say we are doing when we honor HIM with our body?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Pray, then .....Be still & Listen.....Be still & Listen.....Be still & Listen.....

7



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 1Cor 1:27-30

~27 But **God chose** the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; **God chose** the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 **He chose** the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 **It is because of him** that you are in Christ Jesus, who has **become for us** wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

~In these "4" verses, we hear God say He chose us "4" times. The dictionary's **definition of chosen** is "to be preferred above all other." Wow! **GOD PREFERRED YOU** above all others! Write a short prayer thanking Him for "**choosing you**" and then write how you want to live from this point forward because of HIS choice!

~He chose you with a **plan and a purpose!** How may you have hindered this plan and how can you right this wrong from this time forward?! Reflect on Rom 8:28 and Joel 2:25.

### The Challenge

~V30 tells us that we are identified with Christ because He is in us and He (**God**) **made us** 1. righteous 2. holy and 3. free from sin. Think about V30; then, write down, **according to these three areas**, how you will "**reflect**" His Identity in your life to the rest of the world... At HOME? At WORK?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day and ask what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still right now .....

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 1 Cor 6:9-11

~9 Do you not know that **the wicked** will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived:** Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were **sanctified**, you were **justified**, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

~Today's verses reveal a "**harsh truth**" that people who persist in ungodly lifestyles for a lifetime (with no remorse or repentance from their behavior) will not inherit the kingdom of God! If you have not stopped your sexually immoral lifestyle and **yet call yourself** a Christian, it is time to do business with God right now! You are practicing a deathstyle! (Jas 1:15) Write a letter of "repentance" to God of any Godless characteristics in your life (anger, selfishness, etc) and ask for HIS wisdom on what you need to overcome sin?!

>>> **DEAR GOD, my Lord and Savior, I repent of.....**

### The Challenge

~In V11, it implies that as Christians we should no longer be any of the things on this list. It's time for the **GREAT NEWS!** It doesn't matter what you've done! By the power of the Holy Spirit, JESUS has **washed** you, **sanctified** you, and **justified** you! (look up the meanings of sanctified and justified if need be). Now spend time **worshipping God** and **thanking** Him for doing this for you so you can start with a clean slate!

>>> **DEAR GOD, I love you Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit for.....**

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Pick out a couple of **worship songs** this morning and listen to the words. Sing (or imagine yourself singing) them to your Savior!

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage -1 Cor 5:11

~I am writing you that you must not associate with **anyone who calls himself** “a brother” but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With **such a man** do not even eat.

~Reread today’s verse and ask yourself what is **your reaction** to this verse? Write out your thoughts!

~Do you look at your sexual sin as “**this serious of an offense**” that God would say to not even eat with a man such as this who call himself a Christian and is willfully sexually immoral? **I “WAS” this man!!** Are you? Why do you think this is such a big deal to God? What does this passage state is our real relationship to HIM as a Christian? (Read Rev 19:6-9)

~Is faithfulness a fruit of the Spirit? (Gal 5:22) Define “faithfulness.”

~Do you think this is an “all inclusive list” in today’s passage or are there other sins that could be added?

### The Challenge

~You may not have heard a church leader say to the people in the church not to eat with you because of your sexual sin; however, you may have felt or seen the impact sexual immorality can have on the unity of your family, your church, your relatives, your friends, your soul. **Pray today** that God would restore what you may have lost because of your sexual sin! (Joel 2:25) Don’t let the enemy shame you with what your behavior has caused but look forward to what GOD wants to do with your restoration story!! All for HIS GLORY!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Feel the LOVE HE HAS for you today!

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

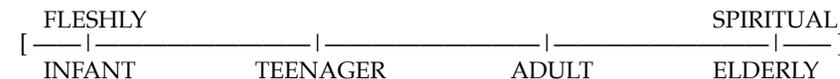
1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage -1 Cor 3:1-3a

~1 **Brothers**, I could not address you as **spiritual** but as **worldly**--mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly.

~Paul is addressing “**brothers**” whom he calls “**worldly, mere infants**” in their walk with Christ. Mark where you are on the “Maturing in Christ Scale”? Infant, teenager, adult, elderly? Be real about this. Where do you want to be?



~**Don’t shame yourself** over where you are on the scale, but resolve within yourself to pursue righteousness to get where you want to be! What is the one main thing you can do to get this process rolling in your life!?

~ Write what a “mature spiritual man” in Christ **should** look like in your opinion.

~ Write out how a “**spiritually mature man**” should view women when he looks at them! Are you ready to start practicing this in your life consistently?

### The Challenge

~**Pray now** about what you wrote above. Ask God how you can make sure your growing up on the SPIRITUAL GROWTH chart? Write a short letter from God to you on what you think HE is saying to you about **how** to do this.

### Cultivating a Relationships with Your Creator

How does this happen best for you?

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage -1 Cor 3:16-17

~ 16 Don't you know that **you** yourselves are **God's temple** and that **God's Spirit** lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

~Kings live in palaces but GOD lives in HIS temple which is HIS home. Read 1Cor 6:19 and Matt 21:13. What does God desire HIS house to be? Would you say HIS house is to be SACRED?

~What does God say we are according to V16? List the **types of behavior** that God brings to mind that may be destroying God's temple in you. (i.e., criticalness, anger, lust, pride, etc.) Remember, "No Shame, Just Change!"

### The Challenge

~Spend a few moments today thinking about what **God's temple** was used for in the Old Testament. Write down at least "3" ways your life should change because of this truth!

>>>

>>>

>>>

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day today. Be Still...!!!

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage -1 Cor 4: 15-17

~15...for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

16 Therefore, I urge you to **imitate me**. (Paul) 17 For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is **faithful in the Lord**. He will remind you of **my way of life** in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

~This is the goal of our lives and the direction we should all be heading. Would you tell your family, your kids, your friends, to "**imitate me**?" LIST a few of your qualities you would **want others to imitate!!**

~ List the areas you don't want to be imitated. What you are going to do about these areas? Remember we all have areas to work on! NO SHAME!!

~ What did Paul say was one of Timothy's godly qualities in V17? Describe what that quality should look like in in someone's life?

### The Challenge

~Today, set some goals! You'll notice in V15 that Paul was someone's **spiritual father**, and in V17, Timothy was his **spiritual son**. Pray about whose "spiritual father" God may want you to become. One of the goals of your life should be to start making **spiritual babies** and then help them grow to maturity. Ask God to help you make this a focus of your life when you're ready.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Ask GOD am I ready? .....Be still.....

## Wednesday

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage -2Cor 5:14, 15, 17

~ 14 For Christ's love **compels us**, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for **themselves** but for **Him** who died for them (you) and was raised again.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!

~Write out a dictionary definition of the word compel.

~ IN YOUR OWN WORDS, write what Christ's love compelled Paul to do in V15?

~What does Christ's love compel you to do?

### The Challenge

~Since repenting of sexual sin, **HOW** can you draw strength from knowing **you are a new creation**? V17 says the old is gone, **the new has come**. Spend a few minutes today thinking seriously about how this should affect you when you wake up each day and walk through the rest of your life!?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about **why HE created YOU!**.....Be Still.....

8



## Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 1Cor 9:24-27

~ 24 **Do you not know** that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into **strict training**. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a **crown** that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

~Each of us has been given a **race to run** with obstacles in the way. Consuming sexual sin is like a huge cloud of smoke; it is so enticing and pleasurable that we can't even see the road we're supposed to be running on. It clouds and blurs the lines between even what is right and wrong! List "**5**" **character qualities** it takes to run and win a race in the Olympics.

- > 1. > 4.
- > 2. > 5.
- > 3.

~Now list "**5**" **character qualities** we should develop in running the race of life to the end. Write out how each of these qualities will impact and change your life?

- >>> 1.
- >>> 2.
- >>> 3.
- >>> 4.
- >>> 5.

### The Challenge

~Paul said he didn't run **aimlessly**. He had to discipline his body and beat it into submission. What are you going to do to start running your race to win **God's Way**? Write this out. Start your training **today!**

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day and ask what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still right now .....

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2Cor 5:9-10

~ 9 So we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

~Write out what it means to you "to make it your goal to please God." (Write at least three sentences.)

~How would **YOU FEEL** about standing before the judgment seat of Christ today and giving an account for the good and bad that you've done on earth?

### The Challenge

~In prayer time today, ask God what you need to change in your lifestyle to be prepared for "that day." Also, ask yourself, "Do I really even care about that day?" If not, why? Is the attitude of your heart right before GOD? If it isn't, ask God to change your heart in a short note to HIM.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time "talking and listening" to God. **HE loves you and wants to be with you** more than you can **IMAGINE!**

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2Cor 4:16-18 & 5:7

~ 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we **fix our eyes** not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is **unseen is eternal**. ... 7 We live by faith, not by sight.

~ Explain what God is saying about our trials compared to what we will experience in ETERNITY in V17!? Do you think about your trials like this?

~ How can this help you deal with your trials? Write how this would help you to deal with a current trial?

~How does God tell us to live in V18 and what should we focus on in order to keep our trials in perspective? Give a **practical example** on how this actually plays out in real life!

### The Challenged

~Spend time asking God today to help you live with **Eternal Perspective Daily** (EPD). Should you focus on your problems or the eternal God who wants to help you with your problems? **Keep an EPD** and walk in the light! Think about it!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about your day and ask what he wants you to apply in your life from today's devo. Be Still.....

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage -1Cor.10:12-13

~ 12 ... if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 13 **No temptation** has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But **when** you are tempted, he will also **provide a way out** so that you can stand up under it.

~List the five promises that God gives you in V13 and why they should be comforting to you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

~ What happens to us if we get overconfident in our own strength according to V12?

~Summarize what you believe God wants you to learn from this passage?!

### The Challenge

~V13 is a "3x5" memory card MUST! The challenge today is small. Practice this verse daily for the rest of your life. :-) Notice the verse says "when you are tempted" not "if." When tempted, practice standing on these five promises! Go read Romans 4:20-21 and ask yourself, "**Do I believe this? Do I really believe?**" Only when you stand on **Christ's promises** by the power of the finished work of Christ, will you overcome!!! Write to God a note stating that you are **committed to stand in belief** on HIS Word.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Ask God to give you this type of belief! Then STAND!..... Be still and listen!

### DAY 3

#### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

#### Connection Passage -1Cor 13:4-8a

~ 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, 7 it always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails

~God told us in 1Cor 12:31 that walking in love is the absolute best way to live life. Write next to each "attribute of love" how you feel God wants you to live them out.

1. Love is patient -
2. Love is kind -
3. Love does not envy -
4. Love does not boast -
5. Love is not prideful -
6. Love is not rude -
7. Love is not self-seeking -
8. Love is not easily angered -
9. Love keeps no record of wrongs -
10. Love does not delight in evil -
11. Love rejoices with the truth -
12. Love always protects -
13. Love always trusts -
14. Love always hopes -
15. Love always perseveres -
16. Love never fails -

#### The Challenge

~**True love**, biblical love exercised in your life, is one of the main ways God frees you from sexual lusts. True, **intimate love** for God, your wife, and others is life changing. Love turns our focus off of our needs and on to the needs of others. Spend a moment in repentance to God for ways you have not been loving in your life. You're not alone here..... we have all fallen short in walking in love..... Seek His face now!

#### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God about LOVE!! .....Be still.....shshshsh!

### DAY 4

#### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

#### Connection Passage -2Cor 1:8-11

~ 8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we **despaired even of life**. 9 Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might **not rely** on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On HIM we have set **our hope** that HE will continue to deliver us, 11 **as you help us by your prayers**. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

~Paul and his friends got to a place of such great suffering that it was beyond their ability to endure. Write out in your own words **why this happened** to them and why it's important that it also happens to **you** according to V9!!

~ Write an example from your own life why relying on God instead of yourself was important.

~ In V10, whom does it say they set their hope? Where is your HOPE set?

~ In V10-11, what else does Paul turn to for help in his trials?

~ Why do you pray the amount that you do? Whether a lot or little!

#### The Challenge

~**Find a few people** who will be faithful to pray for you in your trials. **A prayer team!!** Have them pray that you would learn to walk through the trials of life with a joyful attitude of dependence on God realizing that you are powerless without Him!

#### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Reflect on your trust level in GOD to bring you through your trials.....Be Still.....

## DAY 7

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2 Cor. 11:2b-3

~...V2 I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. V3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was **deceived** by the serpent's cunning, your **minds may somehow be led astray** from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

~I think we often forget that God calls us (you, me, and the church) the "Bride of Christ." From V2, describe this concept of Christ being your husband. What should the effect be (in your sexual life) as you live for him each day?

~What can happen to our minds according to V3? What method does the serpent (Satan) use to attack us?

~List at least "3" lies Satan has used to deceive you and keep you bound in sexual sin.

> 1.

> 2.

> 3.

### The Challenge

~Prayerfully ask God to give you "**the truth**" to overcome the deceptive lies you have been believing. Practice this exercise in all areas of your life: 1) Identify lies. 2) Replace them with the truth. 3) Ask GOD to help you walk this truth out on a daily basis. Now write down the Truth of God for each lie you have believed above!!

> 1.

> 2.

> 3.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Be Still.....Reflect.....on today's devo and why it's so important to know the word!!

9



## Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## Day 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2 Cor. 5:17-21 (Personalized to You)

~ V17 If **YOU** are in Christ, then **YOU are a new creation**; the old is gone and the new has come. V18 All this is from God, who reconciled **YOU** to Himself through Christ and gave **YOU** the Ministry of Reconciliation: V19 that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting **YOUR** sins against **YOU**. And He committed to **YOU** the message of reconciliation. V20 **YOU** are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through **YOU**. We implore **YOU** on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. V21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for **YOU**, so that "in him" **YOU** might become the righteousness of God.

~ This whole passage is about who you ARE if you are **IN CHRIST!** This is your identity passage! You have a Ministry! Your sins are forgiven! You are the Creator's ambassador to the people on earth! You are righteous! You have a message to deliver! You have purpose!! You have a focus!! THINK ABOUT IT!

~ V20 says, "YOU are Christ's ambassadors, not IF, but ARE! This is mind blowing!! Write out what it means for you to be God's ambassador on earth.

~ Write the definition of "**ambassador**" from the dictionary:

~ According to V18, you have been given a ministry to reconcile people to God. Welcome to the ministry! Come up with your "ministry's name?"

~ Write the definition of "**reconcile**" from the dictionary:

### The Challenge

~Think hard about this! V21 says the only way to really be reconciled to Christ is to be **IN HIM**. He is the one who took your sin to the cross and became sin for you! This is the grace of God! God says your righteousness is because of Christ and not anything you do or have done (or how you feel!) Are you "**in him**?" Do you believe you are righteous? If not, why?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend 15 minutes with GOD TODAY thinking about your calling as an ambassador!

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2 Cor. 10:12

~V12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they **measure themselves** by themselves and **compare themselves** with themselves, they are not wise (fools).

~What does God say about comparing yourself to other people?

~**Why does God say this is not wise?** What do you think the dangers are in comparing yourself to other men?

~ What is the danger of comparing yourself with where another man is at in his battle with sexual sin?

### The Challenge

~The real question is, "How does "my life" measure up to God's standards and Jesus' life?" We can become jealous of what other people have, how talented they are, how quickly they overcome their sin, and we can start to feel like a failure and lies enter our minds!! Write a prayer asking God to form CHRIST in you and to help you trust him for his timing in the process!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking with God about how HE made you and how HE wants to use YOU for HIS Glory!!..... then listen to what HE has to say to you.....shhhhh!

## Day 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1

4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2 Cor. 10:3-5

~V3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. V4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have **divine power to demolish strongholds**. V5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take **captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ.

~ What terms does God use to describe what life is like in this world according to V3-4?

~ Do you look at life as if you are in war?

~V3-4 say that we are in a war in this world and that our enemy can develop strongholds in our lives. V4 says we have a special type of weapon to destroy strongholds. What is our secret weapon? Do you believe you have it? Describe **how you will use this** to break strongholds in your life.

\*\*\*WRITE THIS VERSE ON A 3X5 INDEX CARD AND CARRY IT WITH YOU EVERYWHERE YOU GO! READ IT OVER AND OVER UNTIL IT'S ETCHED IN YOUR HEART FOR LIFE!

### The Challenge

~What is going on in your thought life? Do you let your self-talk control you? List "3" thoughts or lies you think the Lord wants you to start taking captive in obedience? Ask God how to replace your self-talk lies with truth-talk. (Truth-talk is what the Word of God says!!!) Write God's truth next to the "3" lies you listed!

>>>1.

>>>2.

>>>3.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ You're at WAR.....Go into Battle now with God and fight the things that are warring against your soul..... !!!!!

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1

4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage -2 Cor. 6:14-15

~V14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? V15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

~ In your own words, what does this passage mean?

~This passage has nothing to do with sexual sin directly, but any of God's commands that we break affect us (a little yeast, Gal. 5:9). Do you have close relationships you need to cut off or decisions you need to make that include being yoked with someone? Consider your closest friends you hang out with, partners in business, people you make deals with, and women you're dating that may become your wife!? List the questionable relationships you have and write a plan of what you're going to do with each!?

~ Is there a Christian you know that perhaps God wants you to challenge them to break off a unGodly relationship?

\*\*\* WARNING: JUST BECAUSE A PERSON CALLS THEMSELVES A CHRISTIAN, DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY MAKE THEM EQUALLY YOKED! BEWARE!

### The Challenge

~This is such an important verse in living life, and I believe it is really important to ask yourself if the people you're yoking yourself with are truly believers. Are they believers in which you see the fruit of the Spirit and a changed life? Is there Godly fruit you see in their lives? Be prayerful today about this. I have seen this passage be the difference in a life of blessing and a life of turmoil. **Are you a believer** that someone would want to be yoked to? **Be real!**

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Prayerfully listen to God about your relationships today!

## Day 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2 Cor. 7:1

~V1 Dear friends, let us **purify ourselves** from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

~ Do you see the **personal responsibility and action** that God desires us to take?

~**Make a list of things** that God brings to your mind that could potentially contaminate your body and your spirit. Then make a plan to get rid of them! Don't beat yourself up over this. We can all make a list here... **I started my list with character defects.**

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>>

~ Write down the definition of **Holiness**:

### The Challenge

~**Perfecting Holiness**... Hmmmmmm! It must mean becoming **holy is a process**. Write down how you think holiness is perfected through a reverence and fear of God.

Do you feel you have a proper reverence and fear of God? Explain.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Worship God now in a way that would make Him feel loved!!

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2 Cor. 9:6-8

~ V6 **Remember this**: Whoever **sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and whoever **sows** generously will also **reap** generously. V7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. V8 And **God is able** to make all "grace" abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

~ This week is another passage that has little to do with sexual sin directly but deals more with the attitude of our heart and can ultimately affect other areas of our lives. **What does a willingness or unwillingness to give of your money and your time reveal about your heart?** Write your thoughts down.

~ What does V8 say God is able to do for you?

~ How could your life change as a result of God pouring all His GRACE on you?

### The Challenge

~Remember, all we have is from him. In prayer, ask God if you're "**doing what He wants you** to do" with the time and the money he's given you? This may be all it takes to be set free from the sin that binds you because your focus shifts off of yourself and on to others. Your purpose, life goals, and the things that bring you joy and fulfillment start to change! This is "**key**" in living an abundant Christian life!!! Write down where you would like to give "your" time and money, then do it!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! Be Still.....Listen.....

DAY 7

Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

Connection Passage - Gal 5:16-18

~ V16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the **desires** of the flesh.

V17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

V18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

~ Write out the definition of **DESIRE**:

~ Your **flesh** has real desires that want to be "satisfied." They scream out at you in times when you're feeling sad, bored, tired, anxious, hurt, frustrated, etc. You are a normal Christian when you're having these urges but a right response is to cling on to what the **Spirit** is saying to you to do instead. List a couple examples from your life about how this actually plays out at times.

~There is a war for your soul, a battle between your flesh and the Spirit! Is the Spirit stronger than the flesh? V16 says "If you live by the Spirit, you won't gratify your lustful desires." List four ways you believe God wants you to live and be led by the Spirit.

>>1.

>>2.

>>3.

>>4.

The Challenge

~ Spend time today talking with God about what gives you a passionate desire to live by the Spirit. Notice how it says you won't gratify your lusts if you're living by the Spirit. Think and pray about this!

Lord, I pray today that you will help me constantly be aware that there is a battle for my SOUL going on inside of me. Remind me when my flesh is screaming out in a wrongful desire to be satisfied that I would rather follow after what the Spirit desires, because at the end of the day, I KNOW it will ultimately satisfy me more than my sin!! Help me to retrain my mind to be in submission to the Spirit. I love you, Jesus! Thank you for your patience with me. **I NEED YOU! Amen**

Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ **Be Still.....Reflect.....!!!!**

10

2Cor & Gal



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2 Cor 12:7-10

~ V7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given to me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. V8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. V9 But he said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. V10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

~This passage is so countercultural. We live in a society where being strong and successful is achieved by smart, healthy, hard-working people. Write out what you can learn **about yourself** from Paul’s struggle with this thorn in the flesh..

~ What two things did Jesus give Paul to deal with his weakness in V9?

>> 1.

>> 2.

~ What was God’s purpose in not fully removing the thorn from his flesh according to V10?

### The Challenge

~Read V10 again very closely! Now talk to God about how you can get Paul’s same attitude toward his personal challenges and how this could actually be walked out in your life. Write it down!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend at least 15 minutes with GOD TODAY JUST BEING WITH HIM in His presence! Talk to HIM about your weakness being embracing to you, maybe your easily offended, or you fear witnessing because of what people will think of you. We all have different weaknesses. give your’s to God now.....His grace is sufficient.....!

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Gal 5:1, 13-15

~ V1 It is for **freedom** that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. V13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your **freedom** to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. V14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” V15 **If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.**

~ How does V1 describe our sin?

~ What did Jesus die for so you could have “it” in V1?

~ What are **you to do** in response to what **Christ did for you** in V1?

~ What is the main thing you are to use your freedom for according to V13? What does that look like with your wife in light of V15 if your married?

~ How does God want you to serve and love others? What changes does He want you to make?

### The Challenge

~ Think and pray about this! Let’s say you are a slave and someone comes and pays off your master and sets you free. How would you want to live for the guy that set you free? Would you want to hurt him? Ask God to give you a clear picture of how to live for the one who has “**set you free.**”

~ Write a short prayer to Jesus “**thanking Him**” for what He has done for you!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! Be Still.....Listen.....

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Gal 2:20

~ V20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

~ This is one of the “fundamental doctrines” of the Christian faith. Summarize in your own words what this verse means.

~This is a verse that needs to be **memorized**. Write it on a 3x5 card. Repeat this verse over and over. Write out the three “I” statements from V20. (the third has two I’s)

> 1.

> 2.

> 3.

### The Challenge

~ Go through each of the three “I” statements and ask yourself: Do I really believe this about myself and how should this change how I live? What does living this out in everyday life look like? Jot down your thoughts.

>> 1.

>> 2.

>> 3.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Tell Jesus today how “**deeply you long**” to be with Him and to meet Him face to face!!

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2Cor 12:21

~ V21 I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be **grieved** over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin, and debauchery in which they have indulged.

~ Paul is writing this to the Christian church about the **sexual sin** among them. What did Paul say he would feel if the people had not repented of their sin? How does God feel? How does your wife feel? How does this make YOU feel? Think about this in **any area of sin** in your life.

~ Look up the word debauchery in the dictionary. Write down two definitions.

> 1.

> 2.

~ How is **debauchery** different from sexual sin or impurity?

### The Challenge

~ To **REPENT** (metanoeo’) means “to change your mind and think differently about, to turn 180 degrees from what you’re doing and go the other direction.” YOU may need to repent before God of your past improper view of how you think about and treat women. Ask God to completely change how you think about women. **What is a proper view of a woman. Write down your “new way” to view women. This is extremely important!**

**ATTENTION: AS YOU CHANGE YOUR THINKING ABOUT WOMEN FROM BEING OBJECTS OF PLEASURE TO SEEING THEM AS GOD’S CREATION TO BE PROTECTED AND HONORED. REREAD EVERY DAY WHAT YOU WROTE ABOVE UNTIL IT’S INGRAINED IN YOU!!!**

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Reflect on this with Jesus, Daddy, and the Holy Spirit....Let it sink in!!

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2Cor 13:5

~ V5 **Examine yourselves** to see whether you are in the faith; **test yourselves**. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

~ Paul is speaking to people who call themselves Christians in this verse. Why do you think Paul asks them/ us to examine ourselves?

~ “Examine Yourself! “ “Test Yourself!” How do you think you do this?

~ **OK, time to do it!** Write out why you believe you are in the faith or not! Here are a few scriptures to help you to test yourself: Rom. 8:9, 16; 1 John 2:3-6; 3:9-10; Matt. 3:8

### The Challenge

~ **Read Psalm 51**. After his fall with Bathsheba, David could have questioned if he was really in the faith. Study and think about how David went about his **restoration** from his sin. He was a great model for all of us! Write down what you learned from David on how you would like God to **restore** you.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God..... about real change!!

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2Cor 13:9, 11

~ V9 We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection. V11 Brothers...aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

~ What is important to do and have others do for you as you “**aim**” for perfection, completeness, wholeness, and a maturity in Christ according to V9?

~ Growth from childhood to adulthood is a lot of hard work. It is the same with spiritual growth. What “3” steps does God want you to apply in your life to grow in your spiritual maturity toward HIS perfection?

>>> 1.

>>> 2.

>>> 3.

### The Challenge

~ Remember, this “**perfection**” is not performance or being perfect now!! Accept where you are! This is not to be better to please God more! This goal is so you can enjoy your life here more and be useful and effective in your faith. (God knows the closer we walk with him, the happier we’ll be!) Some of Paul’s last words in V11 are “**live in peace**” not in anxiety over your sins. He wants you to walk in **FREEDOM**! Sit still and talk with God about where you are in your spiritual growth and where you want to go. Jot down any thoughts.....

**Reflect on this quote from Francis Chan, “Our greatest fear should not be of failure BUT of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter!”**

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Rest peacefully with him in his loving presence right now.....:-]

## DAY 7

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Eph 3:16-20

~ V16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, V17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, V18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

~This is another prayer that Paul prays for the Ephesian people. Notice in this prayer that it's important for all of us to be asking God for these things in our lives through prayer. **THEY ARE NOT AUTOMATIC!!**

~ Three times he mentions "**power.**" What was the "**power**" for in V16-17?

~In V18 -19, what was the power for?

~According to V20, is God able to handle our requests? How much can He handle? How can we we do this? Put these answers in your own words.

### The Challenge

~There is a progression to this prayer. First, we need His power in us. Second, we need to understand the depth of His love for us that surpasses knowledge. And third, we need to trust Him that he has our backs and will accomplish what concerns us today. Prayerfully go through these three steps and ask yourself how you're doing in walking out these principles. Write them out.

1.)

2.)

3.)

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Tell Jesus how "**deeply you long**" to be with Him and to meet Him face to face!!

11

Gal & Eph



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Gal 5:19-21 (NASB)

~ V19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, V20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, V21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

~Look up and write two definitions for the word “**debauchery**”.

> 1.

> 2.

~List “3” sins from the list above you’re a little surprised to see. List “3” sins you’re surprised are not listed.

>> 1. >> 1.

>> 2. >> 2.

>> 3. >> 3.

~The warning is to those in V21 who “**practice**” such sins. The question is: **Are you** practicing **any** of these sins (or others) in your mind or physically. Are they hindering your destiny or at the least your walk with God and others in your life?

~ List which ones you have been trying to stop or feel you need to stop. Write next to each why you think you do them.

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> **Will you heed HIS warning to us in these verses starting today?**

### The Challenge

~If you listed some of the sins from today’s reading above, find someone this week to confess to and ask them to hold you accountable to overcome these strongholds in your flesh. Ask them to work & pray through these with you “until you experience freedom” in Christ. **This is a MUST for freedom! You won’t break free alone!**

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Tell Jesus how “**you long**” to RID YOURSELF of sin and its effects! He Loves you!

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Eph 2:8-10

~ V8 For it is by grace you have been **saved, through faith** — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— V9 not by works, so that no one can boast. V10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

~According to V8 were you saved because you were such an awesome person? How does it say we are saved? How does this “grace to be saved” come to us?

~Are you seeking the presents (gifts) of God or are you seeking his presence (His closeness)? Write a note to God describing how you would really enjoy walking with Him in a close, intimate relationship and then thank HIM for saving you and making you HIS kid!

~ What does an intimate relationship with HIM look like?

### The Challenge

~In V10, God says He created you to “do good works” that He has prepared **for you**. Pray and ponder this with God for a while today! List what good works you love doing for GOD!

>>>

>>>

>>>

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Tell Jesus how “**deeply you long**” to be with Him and to meet Him face to face!!

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Eph 1:16-19

~ V16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. V17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. V18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, V19 and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength,

~ Paul prayed and asked God to give certain qualities to the Ephesians in V17. Pretend Paul is writing this to you.

> V17 - Explain what you believe the **Spirit of wisdom** is. Why does he want you to have it and for what purpose?

>>> Explain what the **Spirit of revelation** is. Why does he want you to have it and for what purpose?

> V18-19- Explain why he wants the **eyes of your heart** opened and enlightened and for what purpose.

*Notice that these "3" things Paul prayed for do not come naturally or he would not have had to pray for them for the Ephesians. How valuable would these be for your walk with the Lord in your life? Think for a minute how these would practically change your life. Write it down!*

### The Challenge

~Ask someone to pray this prayer for you everyday for 30 days. Pray this prayer for yourself for 30 days. Write it out and carry it with you on a 3x5 card.

**ACTUALLY DO THIS!!**

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Tell Jesus how "deeply you long" to be with Him and to meet Him face to face!!

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Gal 5:22-26

~ V22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, V23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. V24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. V25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. V26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

~Write out a description of what you think it means to "**crucify the flesh**" in V24. What does that look like in your own life?

~Read Rom 6:6, Matt 16:24, Col 3:5. Write out how each of these should change you!

>> V6 - YOU WERE CRUCIFIED WITH HIM -

>> V24 DENY SELF, PICK UP CROSS, FOLLOW JESUS -

>> V5 PUT TO DEATH WHAT BELONGS TO THE FLESH -

~ Summarize what you need to do daily in your life to keep in step with the Holy Spirit?

### The Challenge

~Spend a few minutes thinking about each fruit of the Spirit individually and how much different life would be if you had been walking in the Spirit and enjoying its fruit as opposed to the fruit of your sin. Think about each of these individually. Use these "9" character qualities to measure where your at with the Lord when your frustrated at people or life. They will reveal what area of your life is out of sync with the Holy Spirit!

LOVE	JOY	PEACE	PATIENCE
KINDNESS	GOODNESS	FAITHFULNESS	
GENTLENESS		SELF-CONTROL	

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Be Still..... listen to what HE wants to teach you today.....!

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1

4

~ Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Gal 6:7-10

~ V7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. **A man reaps what he sows.** V8 The one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. V9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. V10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

~Write out a definition from the dictionary of:

>> To Deceive -

>> To Mock -

~ How do you mock God?

~ Do you really believe you will reap from stuff you sow even if no one knows about it? Explain.

~ Have you been deceived in your belief of sowing and reaping in regards to GOD?

~If you do what God says to do, even if it doesn't feel good initially, what does V8 say you will reap? How do you sow to the Holy Spirit?

### The Challenge

~ There is a **WARNING** to us in V9! GOD knew we could become weary from trying to be nice to people, trying to work hard to pay the bills, to be honest when it costs us, and to try to deny our lustful urges in a sex charged society. Sometimes we want to just give up and say, "Forget it!" All this hard work and it never seems to pay off!! That's why V9 is in the Bible..."Don't grow weary because GOD promises to reward your efforts. Would you rather enjoy the fruit of your sin or a harvest of blessing from the LORD! It's your choice! Pray and ask God to help you stay the course when you don't FEEL LIKE IT. Commit your intentions to God now.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Ask God to forgive any way you have mocked Him over the years. Receive His Grace! It's never ending!

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1

4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Eph 1:3-5

~ V3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. V4 For **He chose us in him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love V5 He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will...

~When did **God choose to save you** and choose you to be his child according to V4?

~ According to V4, what did God choose you for? Put this into your own words.

~ Did this make God happy to choose you according to V5?

~Why do you think God "**predestined**" you to be his son?

~ What do you think should be your response to **God's loving act of choosing you** to be His Child?

### The Challenge

~ Remember what an honor it was to be chosen to be on a team as a young school kid. Think about the honor you should feel for **God choosing you** to be on his team?! Pray and think hard how you want to represent your team starting today! The famous preacher A.W. Tozar said, "If God gives you a few more years, remember they are not yours. Your time must honor God, your home must honor God, your activity must honor God. Everything you do must honor GOD." Our lives are not ours once we become God's child. We are part of a team with very specific goals. How do you think God wants to use you for HIS GLORY!?

Let's pray: Lord, thank you for choosing me to be your child. How can I ever repay you! Teach me how to obey your Word and follow your voice. I want to be pleasing to you! Lord, use me to bring people to know you. Help me not to fear what others will think. Let me love others like you love me. Change any wrong way in me. All for your Glory!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! Be Still.....Listen.....

DAY 7

Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

Connection Passage - Ephesians 5:25-28

~ V25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her V26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, V27 and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but Holy and blameless. V28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

~ Focus on the first ten words of this passage. Write in your own words what this should look like in your marriage. Instead of "Do you love your wife as Christ loved the church?" Ask yourself, "Will I?" (If single, think about your future wife and what that will look like)

~ Are you willing to sacrifice your life for your wife? Really? This also includes any sins that affect her.

~Is YOUR WIFE'S wellbeing "#1" importance to you? What does that look like in your life? Or are you more concerned about your well being? Was Jesus more concerned about HIS well being or yours?

~ Do you care for her as your own body? (V28) How? ARE YOU PREPARING TO PRESENT HER TO JESUS SOMEDAY? (V28) Have you cleansed her with the washing of the WORD?!

***Don't beat yourself up on what you have or have not done!! This is all about learning from your mistakes and starting do the right things!!***

The Challenge

~ GOD uses 2x's as many words telling husbands how to love their wives as He does talking to wives about submitting to their husbands. Ask God to give you unconditional love for your wife and other people. If necessary, go back and read the love chapter in 1Cor 13. Spend a few moments with God asking Him how He wants you to love your family members closest to you. Are there any changes you need to make? This may require some tough, humble reconciliation of relationships. Do you need to ask **forgiveness** for anger? Blaming!? Ungracious attitudes? Complaining? Being a jerk? Critical? Selfish? Proudful? Being all knowing? Not valuing others?...

Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Be Still.....Reflect.....

12

Ephesians



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Ephesians 4:17-19

~V17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. V18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. V19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a **continual** lust for more.

~Paul is writing to Christians here not to live like the world. In fact he says, "I insist on it!" How does it say in V18 we can get "separated" from the life of God?

~In V19, what does it say can happen to a person with a **hard, calloused heart**?

~What does this "loss of sensitivity" from a **hard heart** open us up to in V19?

~ Do you realize according to V19 your lusts will never be satisfied. So it's not an option if you're going to deal with your sin or not. It is when are you going to face up to it!? If not dealt with James 1:12 says it leads to death! Pour out your heart to God in a letter about the things that don't seem to be changing in your life and how you want to leave them behind!!

### The Challenge

~ Francis Chan was quoted to have said, " Lukewarm Christians don't really want to be saved from their SIN, they only want to be saved from the PENALTY OF THEIR SIN." Most people have so hardened their hearts they can't feel the severity of their sin and how God really views it!

~To get rid of a callous that has formed on your hand, you would need to stop the repetitive activity that caused it. Our heart gets the same way from bad repetitive behaviors. Pray today about any calloused areas of your heart and what you need to do to remove the callouses once and for all!! Sit with God and reflect on what you wrote above.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Ask God to tenderize your heart that it would be sensitized to the Holy Spirit's leading!!

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Ephesians 5:15-20

~ V15 Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, V16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. V17 Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the Lord's will is**. V18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. V19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, V20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Let God speak to you today through the words of this scripture. Before you start, pray, "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." Psalm 119:18

~ What did God impress on you in V15-20 today?

~ How can you practically apply it in your life?

~What should the result be from applying it in your life?

### The Challenge

~ There is that giving THANKS thing again in V20. This passage today has kind of an overall feeling. Can you put your finger on it? What can you challenge yourself with today in this passage? Ask GOD some questions then listen!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! Be Still.....Listen.....

## Day 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Ephesians 5:8-14

~ V8 For **you were** once darkness, but **now you are** light in the Lord. Live as children of light V9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) V10 and **find out what pleases the Lord**. V11 Have **nothing to do** with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. V12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. V13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, V14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and **Christ will shine on you.**"

~ We see all through this devo a contrast between "darkness and light." We are called by God as Christians to "live as Christians." What is keeping you from living in the light, where nothing is hidden? What is it? THINK HARD ON THIS!

~ V10 says to find out what PLEASES the Lord. Write out what does PLEASE and doesn't PLEASE the Lord in V11?! How do you actually do these!

~ V11 says our sin is "fruitless!" It's like a fruit tree that bears no fruit. There is no lasting benefit to us from our sin! Write out your reaction to V12 is!?

~ Do we need to preform for GOD? Do we earn HIS love more when we DO what's right and pleases HIM? If we don't earn HIS love, then why do we need to obey HIM?

### The Challenge

~Do you call yourself a Christian? V14 says to "**wake up**" and walk in the light! Your sexual sin may be a life or death situation. WAKE UP!! Take it seriously! God is not saying we have to be perfect, but He is saying there should be nothing that you keep hidden in the dark. Think about that! Are you living life.....AWAKE?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Tell God you want to reflect HIS light to this dark world....Then ask HIM HOW....listen...

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Ephesians 4:20-25a

~V20 You did not come to know Christ that way. V21 Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. V22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off** your "old self," which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; V23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; V24 and to **put on** the "new self," created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. V25 Therefore each of you must **put off** falsehood and speak truthfully....

~How have you been "taught to live" since your commitment to Jesus as Lord and Savior based on V22-24? Write out in your own word how you have been tough the ways of God.

~How would you tell someone to put off the old self and put on the new self based on V22-24?

~ You are to be made NEW IN THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR MIND according to V23.

Using the dictionary:

>> Define ATTITUDE -

>> What are some of the Attitudes of your MIND? Towards your wife? Kids? Relative's? People at church? Life? Work? Are they trending "NEW"?

~ V25 is one of the "key principles" for walking free from the bondages of sexual sin. List the "2" must qualities from this verse and describe how this should look in your life!

>> 1.

>>2.

### The Challenge

~V25 tells us to put off falsehood and to stop lying. If this has been a pattern in your life, confess, repent and ask God to help you to be a man of honesty and integrity going forward. Then, notice in V22 there is a "former way of life" verses your current life in Christ. There should be a big difference as your mature in Christ. Give your self a little grace here!! Sit quietly before God and think about it. How have you changed and what future changes are you looking for?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Be honest with God this morning on how your feeling about your life with HIM.... :-]

## Day 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Ephesians 4:29-32

~ V29 **Do not let** any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for **building others up** according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. V30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. V31 **Get rid of** all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. V32 **Be** kind and compassionate to one another, **forgiving** each other just as in Christ God forgave you.

~ What is the only type of talk that is to come out of our mouths according to V29? This is a high standard, but it is what we are called to and for good reason. This is key to your relationships being strong! How are you practicing this with your family and others?

~ Write out a definition of the word “grieve” from the dictionary. How do you grieve the Holy Spirit?

~Write out in your own words the “3” commands God gives you in V31-32

1.

2.

3.

—— IF WE PRACTICE THE COMMANDS IN TODAY'S READING THE WORLD WOULD BE A MUCH BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. IT NEEDS TO START WITH YOU!——

### The Challenge

~ Realize not living out these “3” commands from God can snowball into being triggers for our sexual sin. For example, if we have unforgiveness and bitterness then anger can grow in us and we no longer respond to people in love. The result is we then turn to a fantasy life to escape our feeling of frustration toward people. In other words we medicate the pain with the drug of SEX. Ask God to show you how to rid yourself of this cycle of sin that uses sex to bring comfort, relief, excitement, etc. HE WANTS TO BE YOUR DRUG OF CHOICE!! Think about it.....

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Ask God how HE wants to change how you build new relationships in the future .....

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Ephesians 5:3-5

~ V3 But among you there must **not** be even a **hint** of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are **improper for God's holy people**. V4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather **thanksgiving**. V5 For of this you can be sure: no immoral, impure or greedy person—**such a man is an idolater**—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

~ How much sexual sin does it say is ok to have in your life according to V3?

~ Instead of the sins listed in V3-4, what does God say we should change our focus to?

~List some things you are thankful for in your life.

>1.

>2.

>3.

>4.

>5.

>6.

~ How does focusing on “thankfulness” have a way of scrubbing your soul of sin?

~ Write out two definitions of “improper.”

>>> 1.

>>> 2.

~ How seriously do you take V5? How do you react to this this verse?

### The Challenge

~ These verses really hit the core of our identity issues. Do I want to be known as an idolater and the consequences that go along with that lifestyle? Or do I want to be known as a man of God? It is your choice how serious you are about being a Christian who brings Glory to GOD. Tell God today how ready you are to get rid of even a “hint” of sexual sin and other improper behaviors in your life that do not reflect Jesus to the world.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Let today's lesson sink in like a soaker hose. Be drenched in these words.....Listen!

## DAY 7

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Colossians 1:9b-12

~...V9 We have not stopped praying for you and **asking God to fill you** with the knowledge of "His will" through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. V10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life **worthy** of the Lord and may **please** Him in every way: **bearing fruit** in every good work, **growing** in the knowledge of God, V11 **being strengthened** with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have **great endurance** and patience, and joyfully V12 **giving thanks** to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

~It's amazing how often the epistles mention **praying** and the specific **prayers** that they were saying for people. This is an example of what we are to do for others and what we need done for us! Is it possible to know God's will for us according to V9? (See also Psalm 32:8) What must we grow in to know it? What does V10-11 tell us the purpose of knowing His will is? (List 6)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

>> TAKE NOTE: V12 TALKS AGAIN ABOUT "BEING THANKFUL!" WHY IS THIS A CONSTANT THEME TALKED ABOUT IN THE BIBLE?>>

### The Challenge

~"Knowledge" of **God's will** for you in and of itself is empty. Francis Chan said, "The world doesn't need Christians who tolerate the complacency of their own lives and aren't madly pursuing God's will for their life!!" Knowledge of God's will should lead to a changed life and right living in order to be fruitful. Pray this Colossian's prayer for yourself today, and find one other person who will commit to pray this for you consistently over time! Ask God to help you live out his will for your life.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Pray the above prayer and ask God to reveal a new aspect of HIS will for your life....Then

13

Eph, Phil, Col



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1

4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Ephesians 6:10-12

~ V10 Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. V11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take **your stand** against the devil's schemes. V12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but **against** the rulers, **against** the authorities, **against** the powers of this dark world and **against** the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

~What are "3" things you need to do according to V10-11 against the devil's evil schemes?

>1.

>2.

>3.

~What does it mean in V12 that our struggle isn't against flesh and blood? Explain this in your own words.

What is your struggle against? Again, put this in your own words!!

~Do you often think about how serious the battle is against Satan and his evil army? Do you realize there is a constant war against you to destroy you and your testimony? To destroy your marriage? To tempt you? Write out how you should live in this constant "war zone."

### The Challenge

~Ask God to remind you daily of the war that you are in and to prepare you for the daily battle. Pray for God to protect you and your family, and that spirits of lust that are harassing you would be destroyed! Write out a commitment letter to the Lord that will help you remember you're "not fighting against flesh and blood" but a spiritual war that's waging against you, your relationships and your soul!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God about how the devil plans to attack you!! Listen intently...

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1

4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage -Philippians 4:11b-13

~ V11 ...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. V12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. V13 I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

~This is a "key principle" for defeating sexual addiction but is also a key to loving and enjoying life overall! Do you think you need to be discontent at times to learn how to be content?

~Based on V12, do the "**personal situations and circumstances**" of our life make us content? Why or why not?

~In V13, God gives us the secret of living a life of contentment. Write out this secret in your own words.

List "5" areas of discontentment in your life that come to mind. Then, next to them list truths from scripture or a way God shows you how to be content in the midst of them?!

>1.

>2.

>3.

>4.

>5.

### The Challenge

~V12 contains a special word, "every!" Some translators say "every and all circumstances" to emphasize your ability to be a content person. Read Psalm 18:28-42 and then spend a few minutes praying through the areas of discontentment in your life and contemplate deeply why you are discontent. Ask God how His power can help you live a life of contentment and **write down His answer**. Remember, this is an ongoing process!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! Be Still.....Listen.....

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Philippians 4:4-7

~ V4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! V5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. V6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. V7 And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~Let God speak to you today through the words of this scripture. Use Psalm 119:18 as your prayer before you begin.

~What did God impress on you in these verses?

~How can you practically apply it in your life?

~What should the result be from applying it in your life?

~ Write out a prayer about what God has laid on your heart from the passage above!

### The Challenge

~The key concept of this passage may be in V6 in the word "everything!" Let's live a life of prayer, in constant communion with our Lord throughout the day, when we sit in traffic, when temptation knocks, when going into a business meeting, during the business meeting, before you step into your home to see your family at the end of a tough work day, etc. Walk *constantly* with your best friend...in everything! Ask HIM to help you never feel alone or abandoned.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! Be Still.....Listen.....

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Ephesians 6:13-18

~(Read this passage from your own bible today!)

List each piece of armor:      Write below how you will use each piece of armor to fight Satan's attacks:

1. Belt of Truth      -

2.                              -

3.                              -

4.                              -

5.                              -

6.                              -

7.                              -

### The Challenge

~**Practice** putting on the armor of God daily as a way to prepare yourself spiritually to fight against the schemes of the devil who is trying to tempt you and destroy your life. It has been said, "Satan targets your MIND. His weapons are LIES. His purpose is to MAKE YOU IGNORANT OF GOD'S WILL. Your defense is the inspired WORD OF GOD!!!!" Reflect on the strategic war coming against you! Put on YOUR ARMOR NOW prayerfully and confidently!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Tell God your desire to fight for your freedom..... are you willing to die for it...?

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Philippians 1:6

~V6...*being confident* of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

~This is another 3 x 5 memory card verse! This is a promise you need to stand on for the rest of your life. Who does it say began the good work in you? **Why you?**

~What does it mean that He began a "good work in you?"

~ **God is not done with you, yet!** In fact, this may just be THE START of your real impact for Him on this earth. How long has God promised to stay with you? How does this make you feel?

~ How do you think God wants to use you as you start to walk in complete freedom in HIM!?

### The Challenge

~The challenge is to remember this promise in the middle of your mess ups, your sin, and your failures. Typically, these are the very things He is using to show you your need for Him and are His way of bringing you to TO THE END OF YOURSELF and to maturity in Him. Remember, He is not done with you until you meet Him face-to-face! REFLECT ON THIS QUESTION: Do you feel like you're sometimes not making any progress in your spiritual life or you're learning how to walk in freedom in CHRIST? You're not alone! But God's not in a hurry! He knows when, how, and why HE is doing it the way He is carrying on HIS PROMISE TO FINISH THE GOOD WORK HE STARTED.....IN YOU!!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time giving the control of this work HE is completing in you ... over to HIM..

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Philippians 2:13-16a

~ V13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose. **V14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, V15" so"** that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe V16 as you hold out the word of life"

~Why, in V13, does it say, "God is at work in you?"

Notice that it does not say "once in a while" or that "He *may* be at work!" Write out an example of what this actually looks like in your life?

~Why are complaining and arguing so harmful for you (V14)? Think about it!!

~How have you seen complaining and arguing affect YOU? OTHERS AROUND YOU?

~What do you think about Christians you see who argue and complain regularly?

### The Challenge

~ Ben Franklin said, "Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do." OUCH! Joyce Myers said, "BEWARE OF THE JOY KILLERS: GOSSIP, COMPLAINING, CRITICISM, FAULTFINDING, AND A NEGATIVE JUDGMENTAL ATTITUDE!" Ask God today to remove all joy killers from your life!! What will it take for you to get to a place where you "shine like the stars" for Him on this earth. The answer **may** be found in the verses in today's reading. Pray about this for yourself and then just listen to Him as intently as you would listen to hear the blowing wind.....

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! Be Still.....Listen.....

## DAY 7

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Colossians 3:12-14

~ 12 Therefore, as **God's chosen people**, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them together in perfect unity.

~For some of us this can be one of the "**most important passages**" on overcoming our sexual lusts. You may be driven to your sin for relief of frustrations with people. We can start to feel like others are stupid. We can be hurt and hold grudges! Bitterness builds....

~In V12, who does God say you are? >>THIS IS YOUR IDENTITY!<<

~In V13, how does God say we are to forgive?

~Write out what God has forgiven you of?

~So, what do you need to forgive others of? If you are having a hard time forgiving - read below for help!

~**FORGIVENESS** is not simply trying to forget. It is not just letting time pass after an offense happens. It is not just disregarding the wrong another person has done against you or even pretending that an offense did not matter. This is not true forgiveness and you will not experience freedom. Here are "4" Steps to Forgiveness from VCLI.

- >1. IDENTIFY THE OFFENSE THE PERSON HAS COMMITTED AGAINST YOU.
- >2. HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL EMOTIONALLY? Rejected? Angry? Belittled? Etc....
- >3. IDENTIFY HOW THE OFFENSE AFFECTED YOU AFTERWARDS? The ramifications!!
- >4. WHAT ARE YOUR SINFUL REACTIONS TO THE OFFENSE? Unforgiveness? Slander?

"Don't be the one stuck in the Prison of Unforgiveness"

### The Challenge

~In V13, it says we are to "bear with each other." You may not like some people, but you are called by God to still love and forgive those people who sometimes hurt you daily! Listed below are the qualities you're **supposed** to clothe yourself with as a Christian from V12. Take each of these Godly qualities and pray how you want God to work them into your life. How you are going to put on the "Clothes of Godly Character?" Take a couple of moments on each quality.

KINDNESS<

&GENTLENESS

>COMPASSION

#HUMILITY

PATIENCE!!

@Forgiving

^LOVE

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Have you forgiven yourself of things you have done?..Listen..Receive HIS cleansing now!

14

Colossians



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...



## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Colossians 3:5-8

~ V5 **Put to death**, therefore, whatever belongs to your flesh: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. V6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. V7 You “used to walk” in these ways, in the life you once lived. V8 “But now” you **must rid yourselves** of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

~What “2” **ACTIONS** does God ask you to do in this passage?

>1.

>2.

~**WHY DOES GOD ASK YOU TO DO THESE “2” ACTIONS?** (choose one)

- A. He is a kill joy and is taking all the fun out of life.
- B. He loves you and knows life will ultimately be so much better w/o these behaviors.
- C. He doesn't understand how hard it is to stop these behaviors and that you've tried to stop them but this is just the way you are! He is a demanding God!
- D. He asks you to do things that you can't. When you ask Him for help to stop, He never listens, never answers, and doesn't help you to stop.

~You got it right! The answer is “**B!**” But ask yourself, do you have a little bit of the attitude of the other three answers. What is the truth about God in each of the three wrong answers above?

>> A.

>> C.

>> D.

### The Challenge

~ List the “6” Behaviors you are put to death in the left column and the “5” you are to rid yourself from in the right column:

>1.	>1.
>2.	>2.
>3.	>3.
>4.	>4.
>5.	>5.
>6.	

~ These are “11” behaviors that V6 says are bringing God's wrath. These are not pleasing to God, yet we all deal with some of them at one time or another. Make a commitment to yourself and your accountability guys to do whatever you need to do to **NUKE** them out of your life! Why would you want to hold on to them?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God about how much He loves you..... !!!!!!!

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Colossians 2:6-9

~ V6 Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live in him**, V7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. V8 See to it that “no one” takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world **rather than** on Christ. V9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

~How do you know you received Jesus Christ as LORD & SAVIOR?

~Now, how do you show that you are rooted and continue to live in Jesus? Give some examples!!

~ Would you say your life is “**overflowing**” with the thankfulness talked about in V7?

~How have the basic principles of this world deceived you in your sexual behavior? How about, “Everyone is doing it,” and “I am not as bad as other guys”? What does God say?

### The Challenge

~In V8 it refers to secular advice and manmade philosophies on how to stop addictions. The problem with these is we may stop the addiction, but if we are not changed to be more like Christ, have we gained anything? You carry inside of you Jesus who was the “fullness of God,” according to V10!! Pray and think about what this should mean for you and how it should change how passionately you live your life for Christ today! Is there really anything else of lasting, eternal value on this earth?? What rewards are you seeking? Consider the time you invest in this life with no reward in the next. Is it worth it?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Simply talk to God about this devo today.....He loves Quality Time with YOU!!

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Colossians 2:20-23

~ V20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: V21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? V22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. V23 Such regulations indeed have "an appearance" of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they "lack any value" in restraining fleshly indulgence.

~"Don't walk on the grass!" "Don't touch the wet paint!" "Don't get angry!" "Don't look at porn!" What does V23 say these statements have the appearance of and what do they lack?

~ What is missing in the way V21 says to "attempt" to stop a behavior? Why doesn't this work? HINT: The part of the answer is back in V20.

~ What should your "**FOCUS**" be on instead of "don't do \_\_\_\_\_?" Why?

~ We know from science today that what the Bible teaches is true. You can't change by just trying harder if you have strongholds in your life. Your brain has created deep pathways that have to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Realize it will take work, commitment, and the power of the Holy Spirit to see old, stinking thinking turn into a fragrant aroma that is pleasing to GOD! **Write a letter to God** about your commitment to do this!!!

### The Challenge

~There are things you can and cannot do that help stop addictive behavior for a time. They are biblically based principles but at the end of the day the only thing that really brings lasting change is Jesus changing your heart, receiving HIS grace, changing the way you think, & changing false beliefs into the truth of God. Today, ask God to change your heart, your thinking, and the lies you are believing. Ask someone to pray with you about these changes. There is "**real power**" to change! DON'T STOP PURSUING UNTIL YOU ARRIVE!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God about how HE wants to form you into HIS LIKENESS.....!!

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - Colossians 3:1-4

~V1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, "set your heart" on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. V2 "Set your mind" on things above, not on earthly things. V3 **For you died**, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. V4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

~ What are some examples of "**things above**" from V1-2. Write out in your own words what it looks like to set your heart and mind on things above.

~ Give some personal examples of how you're setting your mind on "**things below**" (V2).

~The next few days are devoted to the fundamentals of how to live a holy life in Christ. Since you gave your life to Jesus, have you practiced consistently setting your heart and mind on things above and not on empty things? Explain. Why or why not?

~The key word in V3 is "**died**". This principle of being dead and alive in Christ is all through the epistles. Explain in your own words why this realization is so important in living the Christian life. What are you dead to?

~Do you really think about those principles (of being dead and alive in Christ) on a frequent basis? How does this affect your walk?

### The Challenge

~ V4 says "Christ is your life." Note it says that he is not just *in* your life but that **He IS your life!** Think and pray if He has that place of importance in your life. How does that change how you will live from this day forward? PRAY!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! Be Still.....Listen.....

## DAY 7

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - 1 Timothy 1:18-20

This passage is God speaking to Timothy, but we are going to personalize it to you and paraphrase the scripture today.

~ V18 (Your name,) my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, V19 holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. V20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

~List the "3" things in V18-19 that God says Timothy will experience if He follows the prophecies spoken about him:

>1.

>2.

>3.

~Think about what you can do to apply and demonstrate these "3" qualities into your life?

>1.

>2.

>3.

~In V19, what does it say happened to those who did not obey practicing these "3" qualities?

~In V19, it talks about a guy named Hymenaeus who shipwrecked his faith. (Read more about him in 2 Tim 2:16-19) Write out what you can learn from Hymenaeus' mistake and his shipwrecked faith. What would this do to you and your testimony as a Christian? How do you REPAIR YOUR BOAT AND SET SAIL AGAIN IF YOU HAVE HIT SAND BARS OR AN ICEBERG ALONG THE WAY!?

### The Challenge

~Read 2Tim 2:16-19. If you have never confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life, the time is now. Everyone wants to be "known by God" as His child, but few surrender to it because of the last part of V19, "*Everyone who confesses Jesus as Lord must turn from wickedness.*" Decide today if you want to fully submit to Him, turning from all wickedness. There is a cost! Ask the Lord to help you fully surrender to Him and leave everything else behind.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Does God have a prophetic word for you today to follow? He maybe speaking.....Listen...!

15

1&2Thes, 1Tim



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

1

4

### Connection Passage - 1 Thessalonians 2:13

~V13 We thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you “**accepted it**” not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

~People often question if the Word is accurate because it was written from God through men. If God can hold the stars in place, don't you think He can keep His Word from being distorted. Would you want to serve a God who is incapable of that small of a task? Why?

~Do you “**accept**” the Word of God with the respect and reverence it deserves? How can you demonstrate this in your life?

~Read Psalm 19:7-11. List the “4” main points that really touched you from this passage:

>1. >2.

>3. >4.

~ Read James 1:22-25. What are the most important aspects of these verses written to you from Jesus' brother, James?

### The Challenge

~ God says in V13 that the WORD OF GOD IS AT WORK IN YOU! Think about that! Billy Graham had a lot of famous quotes about God's Word. He said, “If you are ignorant of God's Word, you will always be ignorant of God's will for your life.” Ouch! He also said, “The Bible is not an option, it's a necessity. You cannot grow spiritually strong without it.” Lastly, “I've read the last page of the Bible. It's going to turn out ALL RIGHT!” Billy obviously has accepted the Word of God as it should be, the words from the One who made and designed everything! WRITE OUT a plan of how you will PUT GOD'S WORD IN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN YOUR LIFE.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Be Still.....Listen to what God wants to say to you about today's devo.....!!

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

1

4

### Connection Passage - 1 Timothy 1:15-17

~ V15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom **I am the worst**. V16 But for that very reason I was shown **mercy** so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his **unlimited patience** as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. V17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

~What is the “trustworthy saying” Paul is talking about in this passage? Write it out and think about the individual words as you write.

~How does Paul describe himself in this passage? Does that surprise you? What can you learn from Paul's perception of himself and how he dealt with it?

~What are the “3” things in V16 that God gives freely to even “the worst of sinners?”

>>1.

>>2.

>>3.

~ Do you believe He offers these “3” to you, too? How does that make you feel?

~ One of God's many amazing attributes is “**unlimited patience**.” (V16) Reflect a few moments on this now. Do you extend the same type of patience to others that God extends to you? How about with your wife? Friends? Kids? Co-workers? Relatives? Be real.

### The Challenge

~Paul was an accomplice to many murders, a hater of Christians, and his life purpose was to stop Christianity. When he turned to Christ, he had to leave behind the things he did and who he was in order to walk freely in Christ! Do this for yourself today because, like Paul, **your identity is not** the “worst of sinners!” Now give to God your PAST because HE is your new Present and Future!! Read Matthew 11:28:-30 to help you find rest for your soul.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~You're forgiven! All your sin is gone...Glory to God! Be Still! Listen to God's loving voice!

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

~ Here is "another prayer" that Paul prays for people. It's amazing how much Paul talks about prayer! Today, you are going to pray the scriptures for yourself. You can do this for any scripture in the Bible. This is a **great practice** so get into the habit of doing it. I'm going to write out one way you may pray this scripture for yourself today, but feel free to do it yourself, your way.....PEOPLE OFTEN CALL THIS, "PRAYING THE WORD."

#### THE ACTUAL SCRIPTURE

~ V11 ...we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you **worthy of his calling**, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. V12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be **glorified in you**, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### THE PERSONALIZED SCRIPTURE

~ V11 God, I ask You today that You would count me worthy of the calling You have on my life, and that by Your power, You will fulfill every good purpose You have for me and the power to do all the good things my faith prompts me to do. V12 I pray this so that the name of Jesus would be glorified by how I live and made possible only by the grace you give me through Jesus, my Lord and Savior.

~**Compare this to the original prayer above and now try it for yourself. As you read the prayer, rephrase it in your own words. Practice this often as you read the scriptures!**

~ Do you feel worthy of His calling? (V11) Why or why not? How could you change this, if at all?

~ Do you feel your faith directs your actions and decisions in your life? (V11) Why or why not? How would you change this, if at all?

~ Do you feel your life brings glory to God! (V12) Why or why not? How would you change this, if at all?

~**WARNING: DON'T CONDEMN YOURSELF BY WHAT YOUR BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN. LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE!!** God will help!

### The Challenge

~**It's a challenge** to pray scripture for yourself but learning to do this will personalize the Bible and make it real to you. When you're worshipping, it's really cool to personalize songs as you sing. Instead of, "How great is our God," sing, "How great is my God!" This practice will change your relationship with the Lord and make WORSHIP NEW and fresh!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

Be Still.....Listen.....ask God wants to say to you today.....

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

~V12 **May the Lord make your love increase** and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. V13 **May he strengthen your hearts** so that you will be **blameless and holy** in the presence of our God and Father "when" our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

~This is another sweet **prayer** from Paul for the Christian brothers he so loves. He constantly models "**how important prayer is**" not just for ourselves but also for others. According to V12, who "makes" your love grow and increase for others? Do you believe He will do this in your life and marriage?

~In V13, who strengthens your heart so you can be blameless and holy? Notice how you can make these qualities grow in you and others from PRAYING! .....**Get it!**

~ We are already "positionally blameless" as a Christian from Jesus' complete work on the cross, but Paul is referring to our actual behavior. What is your response to being able to live this type of life?

~ **Read Paul's "4" other major prayers in the New Testament.**

>1. Eph 1:17-19a >2. Eph 3:16-19 >3. Phil 1:9-11 >4. Col 1:9b-12

### The Challenge

~**ASSIGNMENT:** Find someone that will commit to praying Paul's prayers for you daily. They can rotate his prayers almost daily throughout the week. Then, list two people whom you will commit to pray for!

>>>1.

>>2.

>3.

Write out how you want to be living now and when Jesus appears with all His Holy ones (V13). Don't give the pat answer....think about this!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Practice praying the prayer above now for you and others...Then...Be Still.....Listen...

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage -1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 6b-8

~ V3 It is **God's will** that you **should** be sanctified: that you **should** avoid sexual immorality; V4 that each of you **should** learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, V5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God...

V6b The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. V7 For God did not "call us" to be impure, but to live a holy life. V8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

~ Write out a definition of sanctified, avoid, and holy!

> SANCTIFIED -

> AVOID -

> HOLY -

~Everyone wants to know what is **God's will** for them. Well, here it is! List the three "you should" statements from verses 3-5 in your own words and what they mean to you!

>1.

>2.

>3.

~What does God say He will do to the Christian men who "sin sexually" in V6? Write out your reaction to this?

~Write in your own words what V8 means to you personally!!

### The Challenge

~ Charles Spurgeon said, "If the Savior has not sanctified you, renewed you, given you a hatred of sin and a love of holiness, He has nothing in you of a saving character." God said it this way, "For God has not called you to be unclean, but called you to Holiness." Think about these two statements and write down your reaction and how today's reading affected you? Do this prayerfully!! :-]

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God about his love for you and His calling on your life.....!!

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect with God.

### Connection Passage - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

~V16 Be joyful always; V17 pray continually; V18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is **God's will** for you in Christ Jesus. V19 Do not **put out** the Spirit's fire; V20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. V21 Test everything. Hold on to the good. V22 Avoid "**every kind**" of evil.

~ These may be the most powerful "7" verses and "45" words in the Bible. Short and concise!! What are "3" things in V16-18 that God says are **His will**? Personalize your response AND how they will "change your LIFE." THEY REALLY WILL!

>>1.

>>2.

>>3.

~HOW DO YOU LIVE OUT THESE "3 WILLS" OF GOD?

>1. When you don't feel joyful.... "Be joyful always."

>2. How is this possible in your life...."Pray continually."

>3. When life is hard...."Give thanks in all circumstances."

~List "3" ways you can think of that may quench or stifle the Spirit in your life? First read 1Peter 4:7.

>>>1.

>>>2.

>>>3.

### The Challenge

~In V22, some translations say to not just "**avoid**" but "**abstain from evil**" and others say not to just "**avoid evil**" but avoid even the "**appearance of evil**." The key words that are the same in all translations is "**every kind**" of evil. Pray seriously about what you may need to change in your life to actually apply this verse. (Consider the TV you watch, the music you listen to, the places you go, etc.) Are you really willing and ready to do this for the One who gave it all for you? THIS IS THE COOPERATIVE SANCTIFICATION PROCESS!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Let God challenge you today with these verses.....not condemn you!! Listen to HIM.....

DAY 7

Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

Connection Passage - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

~ V16 **All Scripture** is God-breathed and is **“useful”** for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, V17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

~ **Did God write**, “All Scripture is God-breathed and would have been useful if man hadn’t translated it wrong? Those puny humans! I can’t do anything with them!” NO! Psalm 19:7 says the law of the Lord is perfect! What are the “4” things God says his Word is useful for? Next to each, write how the Word of God equips you for “every good work.”

>>1.

>>2.

>>3.

>>4.

~ In V17, what do you believe God wants to accomplish in and through YOU?

~ Are you equipped as a man of God to “do” His **work**? Why or why not?

~ Can you teach others how to live according to GOD’S Word? Do you know how to live everyday life according to HIS Word? If not, what do you think God is saying you need to do to change that?

The Challenge

~If you don’t know God’s Word, it doesn’t matter if it’s useful or not, and you certainly can’t be properly equipped for helping others grow in their faith. Don’t beat yourself up over this, but it is time to commit to reading through the Bible, cover to cover in the next one or two years. You can do it, one day at a time, “20 minutes a day!” Pray about this today. This is LIFE CHANGING TO YOU AND OTHERS! IT MAY BE LIFE OR DEATH TO SOME.....

Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Lord, give me a passion to read Your WORD. I know it’s life changing. Now reflect.....

16

1 & 2 TIMOTHY



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 1Timothy 4:1,7-8

~ V1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons...V7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, *train yourself to be godly*. V8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

~Write out what jumped out at you today in God's Word. (It can be more than one thing.)

~How could you apply it in your life in a practical way?

~ What should the result be in your life if you actually applied this?

#Train yourself to be Godly- This is key for overcoming any type of stronghold in your life!

### The Challenge

~ Our fight is not just against our sinful nature (the flesh), but it is also against a spiritual realm that "deceives us" into ignoring our faith and tempts us to sin. This is REAL! There are many ways to be deceived in our culture, e.g. professional counselors teaching secular techniques, info on the internet, ungodly friends, schools, etc. Write a prayer of repentance if you have followed any deceiving spirits and ask God to protect you from those demons. Remember, God wants the Glory for your deliverance. When "He sets you free you will be free indeed."(John 8:36)

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend at least 15 minutes with GOD TODAY JUST BEING WITH HIM in His presence!

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2Timothy 3:1-7

~ V1 But mark this: **there will be** "terrible times" in the last days. V2 **People will be** lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, V3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, V4 treacherous, rash, conceited, "lovers of pleasure" rather than lovers of God V5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. V6 They are...V7 **always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.**

~ We are obviously in the "last days." Is the culture today going to assimilate you or are you going to be the one who stands in the gap for Jesus, even if you're standing alone? Write down the top "5" of these "18" last day "qualities" you are battling and **WHY** God wants you to work on removing these from your life?

>1 -

>2 -

>3 -

>4 -

>5 -

~ Do you have a "form of godliness"(acting religious) but have rejected or don't experience the "power of God" that could make you Godly? Would you say you're just playing Christian? If yes, it is time for repentance! It is time to get real with yourself - **CHRISTIAN.**

### **#WARNING: U.S.A. CHRISTIANS BATTLE A CULTURE OF PLEASURE**

### The Challenge

~ Ask God to help you to be a "**lover of HIM**" more than a "**lover of the pleasures**" in this life. This is not easy in our culture, but God "chose you" to bring the message of the Christian life to those around you. Write out a prayer and ask God for the *power* to carry this out starting today!! This is harder than it sounds!!

~ St. Augustine wrote, "To fall in love with God is the **greatest romance**; to seek Him, the **greatest adventure**; to find Him, the **greatest human achievement.**" Do you feel the same?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! ...Be Still.....Listen.....Cry.....Rejoice....Whatever.....

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2Timothy 2:19b-21

~ ...V19 "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "**Everyone** who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." V20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for **noble purposes** and some for **ignoble**. V21 If a man "cleanses himself" from the latter, he will be an **instrument for** noble purposes, made holy, "useful" to the Master and "prepared" to do any good work.

~ What does it say in V19 that every professing Christian has to do?

~ Write down the dictionary definition of WICKEDNESS -

~ Explain how getting rid of wickedness in your life will make you more "useful to God" and prepare you for the good works he has "FOR YOU TO DO."

~ What has God asked you to do in V21 to be useful to HIM? What is HE preparing you to do?

~What do you want to be for your Lord and Master, a instrument for noble purposes or ignoble? (Ignoble is not being honorable in character or purpose.) What can you do to show this in your life? Are they things you have to do or you get to do?

### The Challenge

~ ***Let's pray together today.*** My Lord and my God, I ask that you would help me cleanse myself from all unrighteousness in my life! I confess all my sins and the wickedness that I have been battling for so long. I repent and turn from them and I am going to head as far from them as possible with no regret. Make me into a vessel that is useful to YOU! Show me the purpose you created me for and what you want me to accomplish while I am here on this planet! I surrender all my life to you now! Do with me what you would like and help me to be willing to do whatever you ask!! I love you and want my life to reflect you. If there is any other unpleasing way in me, show me and heal me of that now! In Jesus name, Amen!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ We were created to do good works.....reflect on this before the ONE who made you....

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 1Timothy 4:11-12

~V11 Command and teach these things. V12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but "**set an example**" for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

~ Paul commanded Timothy to reflect Christ in five areas as as example to believers. List them below:

>>1.

>>2.

>>3.

>>4.

>>5.

~ In the spaces above, describe how you would tell someone to live out each area in a way that would be a "good example" to others.

~ Do you spend much time thinking about how your life is an example to everyone around you? Write out a dictionary definition of:

> EXAMPLE -

### The Challenge

~ Pray about each of the five topics above and ask God to help you start living these out in your life so you can be a "**good example**" to your family and those around you! It doesn't matter how you've done in the past, but from now on, how are you going to set the EXAMPLE? Write a short commitment to God reflecting your desire to do this!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ God Loves you and understands your past. He has a plan for your future. Think about it!

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 1Timothy 6:11-12

~ ... V11 You, man of God, “flee” from all this (speaking of the love of money), and “pursue” righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. V12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

~ Do you think of yourself as a “man of God?” EXPLAIN!

~ Paul is telling Timothy to FLEE from things that can cause discontentment and wrong thinking in his life and to PURSUE “6” **Godly qualities** that will keep him and others on the pathway to a profitable, effective life. List these six qualities below. Then write how you will pursue each of these qualities in your life!

>1.

>2.

>3.

>4.

>5.

>6.

~ Which “1” of the “6” qualities is the most important for you to seek change in?

### The Challenge

~Do you really believe that if you pursue these “qualities,” your life will really change for the better? Do you pursue GOD to **get more** or do you pursue GOD because **there is more**? Someone said, “Too often we spend all our time seeking God for answers to our problems when what we should be doing is JUST SEEKING GOD! What do you do? These qualities are necessary for living a Victorious Christian Life! Pray deeply about these thoughts today!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God..... about real change!!

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2Timothy 2:14-16

~ V14 **Keep reminding them** of these things. **Warn them** before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. V15 **Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved**, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. V16 **Avoid** godless chatter, **because** those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

~ OUR WORDS must be very important to God for Him to say, “Keep reminding them,” “Warn them,” and “Avoid” all godless talk and arguing. Many of your relationships and especially marriages have been ruined over the “quarreling about words.” Paul tells Timothy to warn people that quarreling will destroy relationships and their lives. Duh! So, why do we do it? Why do you do it?

~ What happens to those who “listen” to arguing according to V14? What does V16 say will happen to those who “do” the arguing?

~ V14 in the NIV translation says arguing is of “NO VALUE.” Write down how “3” other Bible translations translate NO VALUE.

>1.

>2.

>3.

~ Why do you think God inserted V15 in between V14 and V16?

### The Challenge

~ Read Ephesians 4:20-32. Ask God to help you correctly “handle the word of truth” by applying these verses in your life. You can do it! God never asks you to do something you can’t do without His help! You need to read the Bible to correctly handle it! :)

~ List “3” of the things V20-32 instructs you to do that you feel you need to work on.

>1.

>2.

>3.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Reflect on what God is saying to you about your devo time this morning! Be Still. Listen!

DAY 7

Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

Connection Passage - Hebrews 4:12-13

~ V12 For the WORD of God is living and active. (some translations use the word **powerful**) Sharper than any double-edged sword, "it penetrates" even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. V13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. **Everything** is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom **we must give account**.

~In your own words, give "5" descriptions of the Word of God according to V12?

>1. >2.

>3. >4.

>5.

~ "*No other book ever written is living and as powerful*" in our lives as the Bible! No other book rightly judges our heart and attitudes. Write out in your own words WHY you should read the Word and why reading it is beneficial to your life. Then answer the question, "WHAT will it take for me to become consistent feeding on God's Word?"

~ Why does V13 not rock your world? This verse should put the "fear of God" in you! Do you believe you have a healthy fear and reverence for God? Why or why not?

The Challenge

~ How you live and what you will give account for is going to be measured by what the Word of God says. You will become more **GODLY** if you not only read the Word but let it shape your life! Spend some quiet time with God thinking about how the Word is alive and how you want it to change you so you're "**prepared**" to give a good account!!

*LORD, I NEED YOU. I TRY TO CHANGE BUT NOTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN. I CALL OUT TO YOU BUT I HEAR NO ANSWER! I AM DESPERATE FOR YOUR LOVING TOUCH. I AM READY FOR YOU TO TAKE OVER ALL OF MY LIFE. I'M DONE TRYING TO LIVE IT ON MY OWN. BRING BROTHERS AROUND ME TO HELP ME GET THROUGH THIS TIME OF CHANGE IN MY LIFE. I LOVE YOU, MY LORD AND SAVIOR. I AM YOURS!! I AM YOURS!! I AM YOURS!! I NO LONGER LIVE BUT IT IS YOU NOW REALLY LIVING THROUGH ME. I WILL FOLLOW YOUR WAYS FOR MY LIFE AND MY DECISIONS FROM NOW ON. AMEN. AMEN.*

Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

17 2Tim, Titus, Hebrews



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## Day 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2 Timothy 4:7-8

~ V7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. V8 Now there is in store for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

~ There are some real challenges in this short passage today. Paul is nearing the end of his life and he was ready to face death. Are you living "your life" in such a way that it is preparing you for DEATH!?

~ Do you have Paul's confident expectation of meeting Christ face to face? Are you eager for Jesus' return? Why or Why not?

~ How important is it to you to receive the "CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?" EXPLAIN.

### The Challenge

~ Thank God for your "**crown of righteousness**" that you will receive on the DAY you meet HIM face to face after you fought the fight and kept the faith. It was purchased for you with Christ's blood. It WAS FREELY GIVEN because of his great love for you and not because of anything you DID or DID NOT do! May this encourage you to keep the faith each day until he appears and when we will all fall on our knees in great gratitude! Write a short note to GOD telling Him how you **plan** on finishing the race!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend at least 15 minutes with GOD TODAY JUST BEING WITH HIM in His presence!

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Hebrews 3:12-14

~ V12 See to it, **brothers**, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that **turns away** from the living God. V13 **But** encourage one another DAILY, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be **hardened** by sin's deceitfulness. V14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

~ Who is this passage written to? Christians? What are two end results of the brother who has a sinful, unbelieving heart in V12-13?

>>>1.

>>>2.

~ Can you feel when you are getting "hard hearted?" What are we to do in V13 so our hearts don't get hard?

~ What does it say hardens your heart? LIST "3" ways that your sexual sin has misled you!

>>1.

>>2.

>>3.

~Why do you think a "sinful heart" is accompanied by an "unbelieving heart" in V12?

~ Read V14 and then jot down a couple of things you experienced when you first made a commitment to surrender your life to Jesus.

### The Challenge

~ Outside of surrendering your life to God from Godly sorrow, this may be the single "**most important**" practical step you can take to get free from any addiction. God knows the importance of us connecting with other practicing Christians daily! Live this out daily and you will see change in your life!

~ Write down "3" men that you will commit to checking in with daily, until you have at least 90 days of freedom from your sexual sin. Then you can reduce it to weekly. This should be part of your routine for the rest of your life as God has directed in HIS word!!!

>1.

>2.

>3.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time listening to God!! Be Still.....Listen.....

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Titus 3:3-8

~ V3 At one time we too were **foolish, disobedient, deceived** and **enslaved** by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. V4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, V5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He saved us through** the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, V6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, V7 **so** that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. V8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, **so** that those who have trusted in God may be careful to **devote themselves** to doing what is good. These things are excellent and “profitable for everyone.”

~ What spoke to your heart today as you read this passage?

~What do you believe God wants you to apply from this passage in your life?

~ What should the result be, if you apply this in your life?

### The Challenge

~ Write out a challenge for yourself today.

~Why God saved you..... “*God wanted to turn your mess into a message, your tests into a testimony, your trials into a triumph, and a victim into a victory!*”...*God is GOOD!*

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Thank God for saving you.....You’re a King’s kid.....Reflect on who you are in CHRIST...

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - 2 Timothy 4:16-18

~ V16 At my first defense, “no one” came to my support, but everyone deserted me. **May it not be held against them.** V17 But **the Lord stood** at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth. V18 **The Lord will rescue me** from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever.

~ V16 tells us that Paul understands what it is like to be deserted and rejected by all of his friends when he was on trial for his beliefs and heading to jail. What can you learn from Paul’s response to their betrayal?

~ How did Paul get through this time according to V17? Have you learned how to rest and trust in the Lord to handle your problems? Explain.

~ In whom did Paul put his confidence to save him from his attackers in V18? Where was Paul’s focus in V18? Was it on what would happen to him in this world or what would happen to him in the world to come? Is this your focus? Why or why not?

~ Think about this truth.....“SOMETIMES GOD DOESN’T CHANGE YOUR SITUATION BECAUSE HE’S TRYING TO CHANGE YOUR HEART.” How can **YOU daily apply** to your life this truth and the truths above?

### The Challenge

~ Your sexual sin may have caused “some attackers” to pop up in your life in disapproval of your behavior. Maybe some who were closest to you abandoned you! Reread this passage and see what you can learn from Paul about dealing with “attackers or deserters.” Write down what “**ways of thinking**” may need to change in you to maintain your peace?

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Lay Down all vengeful thoughts towards others now. Let them go.....  
Feel the peace in your soul.....

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1

4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Titus 1:10a, 15-16

~ V10 For there are **many** rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers... V15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their "minds and consciences" are corrupted. V16 **They CLAIM to know God, but by their actions they deny him.** They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

~ If you have never "repented" of your **rebellion** toward God or the **deception** of your hidden sin, do so now. WRITE IT DOWN!

~ Write out the definition of the word PURE from the dictionary.

> PURE -

~Write out the definition of the word CORRUPT from the dictionary.

> CORRUPT -

~ Would you say your "**mind and conscience**" are currently CORRUPT? What do you think God would say to you about how to make or keep them PURE?

~ According to V16, can people claim to know God but they really don't? **How about you? Are you for real?**

>>>**YOU CAN SPEAK WITH SPIRITUAL ELOQUENCE, AND PRAY LIKE AN ANGEL IN PUBLIC AND MAINTAIN AN APPEARANCE OF HOLINESS, BUT YOUR BEHAVIOR WILL REVEAL WHO YOU REALLY ARE! ESPECIALLY, WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE.<<<**

### The Challenge

~ The challenge today is simple but extensive. "It's time" for your ACTIONS to match up with your CLAIMS to be a Christian. Your soul is a filter for what is corrupt or pure. Whatever you choose to fill your mind with will determine how you think and act. A mind filled with goodness has no room for evil!.....Fall on your face and ask God to help you love HIM with all your heart and then let your life show it.....Make this your prayer today and every day!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Reflect on why God wants you to be pure.....and what he has for you in this life...!

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1

4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Titus 2:11-14

~ V11 For the "**grace of God**" that brings salvation has appeared to all men.V12 **It teaches us** to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and Godly lives in this present age, V13 while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, V14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are HIS very own, eager to do what is good.

~ How does V12 say we are to live our lives? Does this mean this is achievable for YOU since GOD said to do it!? Would God give you a command knowing you can't live it out in Christ's Power?

~ Grace is the free, unearned favor of God, shown through the free gift of salvation and given to you as a sinner. **Have YOU learned** to say "NO!" to ungodliness and "YES!" to a self-controlled Godly life?

~ Explain in your own words how "God's grace" should teach us to say "YES!" and "NO!"

~ List "3" reasons from V14 why God gave you grace? Personalize your answers.

>>1.

>>2.

>>3.

### The Challenge

Here are a couple of quotes to make you think deeper about God's grace!!

**"I AM A CHRISTIAN - I am not perfect - I make mistakes - I mess up - but God's Grace is BIGGER than my 'sins.' Focus on living BLESSED UP not messed up!"**

**"Shame says that because I am flawed. I am unacceptable.  
Grace says that though I am flawed I am loved."**

~ God's grace should be enough to motivate you to not want to fulfill your evil desires. Reread the three reasons above why God gave you His grace and let His love for you sink in. "**Meditate**" on his grace towards you!! His unconditional love for you!! His Presence!!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Just Listen..... I believe HE wants to speak to your heart today.....!

DAY 7

Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

Connection Passage - Hebrews 11:24-27

~ V24 **By faith** Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. V25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. V26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was "looking ahead to his reward." V27 **By faith** he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him *who is invisible*.

~ If given **the choice**, would you choose to be a poor, hungry and mistreated slave, to be with other Christian people instead of living in the White House as the President's son with the ability to do anything money and power could buy? Why or why not?

~ What was Moses' reasoning for making his choice according to V26?

~ Looking ahead is a "key principle" to getting *free from sin*. In Hebrews 12:2 it tells us "JESUS endured the pain of the cross by looking forward to the joy to come." He had set His mind on the results of his death: he would be united with His Father and us (His creation) for eternity by taking the punishment for sin! Like Moses they both looked at how "their actions now" would affect their eternal life!! Write down "3" actions you will take in the moment next time you have to choose between the Pleasures of Sin or God's Way!

>1.

>2.

>3.

The Challenge

~ "One reason people often resist change is because they **FOCUS** on what they have to give up, instead of what they have to gain." (Anonymous) What do you have to gain?

~ "Most people fail in life because **THEY CHOOSE** what they want in the moment over what they want most!" This is one of my favorite quotes. What do **YOU** want most?

~ Reflect today on these quotes and ask God to help train you to look at each of your individual choices and what effect they will have on your future and the future of others! In our devo today, if Moses and Jesus had taken the easy and more joyful route in the moment, their choices would have had a terrible effect on billions of people. Including you because there would be "no" eternal life. You would be going to HELL. Your choices often have a big impact on others, too! Meditate on this today!

Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Talk to God about what it will be like to meet **Him** "face to face"...It may be heavenly....

18

Hebrews



Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Hebrews 4:14b-16

~ V14b Let us hold firmly to the *"faith we profess."* V15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have **One (Jesus)** who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. V16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The Hebrew Christians were under attack facing persecution almost daily. They needed reassurance that Jesus loved them and was with them, because much like us today, we don't clearly see what He is doing or how He is doing it. They need to be reminded Christianity was true and that Jesus was the Messiah in this book to the Hebrews!

~ **TEMPTATION** - is a part of life, it is not sin! In this passage, we see Jesus was tempted often. Where YOU let your mind go or your actions go is what can become sin. You have the POWER through Christ to say no to opening the Door of Temptation! He gives us the opportunity to choose HIM over the temptation to help develop HOLINESS in us.

~ Did Jesus, as a man on this earth, get tempted like you do according to V15? Does Jesus understand what it's like to be tempted sexually? Does He understand your battle with your sin?

~ How does that make you feel?

~ Jesus understands what it's like to be tempted. He can relate! So, in V16, how are you able to approach God's throne? Choose one:

- A) shaking and trembling
- B) crawling on the ground in shame and guilt over your sins
- C) in confidence to receive His grace and mercy to help you in time of need
- D) you wouldn't approach His throne because you're too afraid and unworthy.

~ In V14 what does He tell us to **"hold firmly"** to? Why does God need to remind us of this?

### The Challenge

~ You have an awesome God "who became a man" to experience life on earth and then show you He understands what you deal with on earth as a man. **Would God, being God, need to do that? NO!** He did that because he loved you and wanted "you to come to him" for help knowing that He understands! Do you really believe this? Write down a time or two when you went to God for help and how He helped you.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend at least 15 minutes with GOD TODAY JUST BEING WITH HIM in His presence!

## DAY 6

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Hebrews 11:1,6

~ V1 Now FAITH IS being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see...  
V6 And without FAITH it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that **He rewards** those who earnestly seek Him.

~ Write out the definition of FAITH given in V1.

~ Now rewrite your own definition of FAITH using an example from your life when you had to walk by faith.

~ Why is it **"not pleasing to God"** when we don't walk by FAITH? Can you see and understand why that is not pleasing to Him?

~ What is the result of walking by FAITH and diligently seeking Him according to V6?

~ Why would we ever not walk in FAITH as a Christian?

### The Challenge

~ Today's reading gives us a picture of how much God loves us and wants to bless us through our FAITH in HIM. "Certain" and "Sure" are the two words that best describe FAITH. Our FAITH must start with believing "He is who He says He is" and ends with us believing "He will do what He says He will do!" DO YOU BELIEVE? If so, it should change your life. FAITH isn't just knowledge of God (the demons have that and it didn't change them) but it should be the basis of a relationship with God that changes everything!! Do you believe God knows you intimately and is the one who holds your future? REALLY?

QUOTE TO THINK ON: *"My Faith rests NOT on what I am, or shall be, or feel, or know, BUT in what CHRIST is, in what He has done, and in what He is doing for ME!"*

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Ask HIM to remove all doubts that HE can and will handle your problems.....Believe!

## DAY 5

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Hebrews 10:23-25

~ V23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.  
V24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.  
V25 **Let us not give up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

~ What jumps off the page from these scriptures today?

~ How do you apply them to your life?

~ What should the result be for you and others from applying it?

### The Challenge

~ Write your own challenge today!

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ Commit to a place and time you will meet with God Daily..... Mmmm! Enjoy.....!

## DAY 2

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Hebrews 5:7-9

~ V7 During the days of **Jesus'** life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. V8 Although he was a son, He learned obedience from what he suffered V9 and, once made perfect, "**He became**" the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

~ This passage blows me away! Jesus offered up prayers and cried to the Father for help just like we do! We can learn something about why His prayers were heard and so effective in V7.

- > He was heard because of his reverent submission (NIV)
- > He was heard because of his reverence for God (NLT)
- > He was heard because of his godly fear (NKJV)
- > He was heard because of his fear (KJV)
- > He was heard because of his piety (NASB)

~ Another mind blower! How did Jesus "**learn to obey**" according to the scriptures in V8? How did this teach Him obedience? How can it teach you obedience?

~ In V9, it says Jesus "**became** the source of eternal salvation." What are YOU BECOMING?

~ **QUOTE:** "Obedience isn't the 'Closed Door of Rules' that keeps us trapped from experiencing freedom, it is the 'Key to the Doorway of Real Freedom.'" Write down why this is so!

### The Challenge

~ Our challenge is to realize that in *our weakness, in suffering*, is the place we learn best how to obey. Ask God today to use your suffering to perfect in you a walk of obedience. Spend some time here today with God! List "3" areas of your life you would like to obey Him in better.

>1.

>2.

>3.

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~ CRY OUT TO GOD.....beg Him to free you from the chains that bind you.....!

## DAY 3

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Hebrews 5:13-6:2

~ V13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. V14 But solid food is for **the mature**, “who by **constant use** have trained themselves” to distinguish good from evil. V1**Therefore** let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, V2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

~ For us to grow to maturity, what must we do according to V13 and V14?

~In your own words, list the “6” teachings God calls “**elementary**” in V1 and V2.

>>1.

>>2.

>>3.

>>4.

>>5.

>>6.

~ The phrase “constant use” is also translated “to exercise,” or to “put into practice” the teachings of righteousness from God’s Word. By doing so, we will be able to recognize the difference between good and evil so we can **run** to the good and **flee** from the evil. Mark next to the elementary teachings above the ones you need to leave behind and why?

### The Challenge

~ *Let’s Pray today! Lord, I want to grow into a mature Christian! I want to be a man after your own heart! Help me to constantly practice your truths and to seek after the truths in your Word that will set me free so I can be useful to YOU, my Master! Guide me past the constant need of repentance and move me into Holy obedience. GROW ME UP! I’m tired of feeling stuck. I am ready to surrender all to You to run my life. Lord, Savior, do your work in me now. I give my life fully to you now. Break me where necessary and then make me new. I trust you! I love YOU! Amen*

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time talking and listening to God..... about real change!!

## DAY 4

### Check in with God! (5 Minutes)

1 4

~Confess, repent, replace false beliefs with truth, connect.

### Connection Passage - Hebrews 6:10-12

~ V10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your “work” and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. V11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make “your hope sure.” V12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

~ What will God not forget according to V10? How do we show HIM that we love HIM?

~ What WORD does God use to describe loving ON His people in V10? Are you doing this?

~ How long does he want you to help others in V11?

~ What are we not to do according to V12? What are we supposed to do according to V12?

~ By helping others in this life with faith and patience, what will we inherit in V12?

### The Challenge

~ **PEOPLE!** That’s right, people! PEOPLE are a big challenge because we want them to think and respond and to do things as we do them. The problem is we all think and respond differently! Ask God to give you His heart of love for people along with his patience! Many of our relationships have been damaged from sin and a lack of patience. And much of our sin has been caused by damaged relationships and feelings of rejection, anger, and bitterness. Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Ask God to heal your past relationships and give you a heart of love for PEOPLE in your future relationships! List “3” people God wants you to show HIS LOVE to and then pray for them NOW!

>1

>2

>3

### Cultivating a Relationship with Your Creator

~Spend time being with God.....Bask in HIS PRESENCE.....LONG for it.....!</p></div>