**November 2022**

***Heart***

The centre and seat of spiritual life. The middle.

**The Father’s Heart**

Foundation scriptures:

John 14: 1 – 14 (Jesus was the perfect representation of God in the earth).

John 12: 44 – 46.

**God is good**

***James 1: 17***

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.

***Luke 18: 19***

No one is good, except one, God.

***Psalm 136***

O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good: his mercy endures forever.

* ***He that has seen me has seen the Father***. Jesus wasn’t just referring to physical appearance or likeness. He was also referring to the heart.
	+ John 1: 1 & 14 (The Word was ***with*** God and the Word ***was*** God).
	+ Jesus did not come to make the world a better place. He came to redeem (rescue) man back to God by revealing the Father’s love.
* Colossians 1: 12 - 15 (***Image*** - likeness or representation).

***Genesis 1: 26***

Let us make man in our ***image*** – a resemblance or representative figure.

* 2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 4
* Hebrews 1: 3 – 4 (Image means an exact copy).
* Revelation 4: 11 (***pleasure*** – purpose or desire).
* Truth is eternal, but theories are time limited.

***Matthew 8: 29***

Have you come to torment us before ***the time***?

The fall of man

* Catastrophic – High treason against God.

***Satan***

-God of this word or age.

-Prince of the power of the air

-Spirit of error

-The accuser of the brethren

-The deceive

-The anti-Christ

* Man’s dominion was handed over to Satan.
* Satan has a legal right to reign for a season. There is a lease on earth with an expiry date. We can dominate that by bringing God’s Kingdom to earth.
* Romans 5: 12 – Therefore as by one man, sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.
* Perfect communion with the Father had been broken.
* Spiritual death is separation from God.
* The heart of Satan is death and destructions. He comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. He is a murderer. There is no truth in him. He is a liar and the father of lies.

Abba, Father

***Romans 8: 14 – 15***

But you have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry ***Abba***, Father.

The Father wants us to be joint heirs of his kingdom, not sub-heir. We are ***sons not servants***.

Mark 14: 36

Romans 8: 14 – 17

Galatians 4: 4 - 7 (crying means - to call aloud)

A glimpse of the Father’s heart in the Old Testament.

Genesis 1: 28 (Blessing toward man is to benefit man. It’s an empowerment).

* ***Fruitful*** – bear fruit, bring forth or grow.
* ***Multiply*** – to increase or enlarge.
* ***Replenish*** – to fill, to accomplish or to complete.

The Father’s heart is to bless, not curse. But God will protect his treasured possessions.

* ***Subdue*** – to tread down, to conquer or bring into subjection.
* ***Dominion*** – dominate, prevail against or to reign.

Genesis 12: 1 - 5

***Hebrews 11: 6***

Without faith it’s impossible to please God.

* Once you obey, I will show you.

We must never use our spiritual authority against man. We have authority over demons and devils, not men.

* I will bless you, make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.
* I will bless then that bless you and curse them that curse you.
* Obedience is the key to the blessing of God.

Exodus 2: 23 – 25 (God remembered his covenant).

* God knew it was time to act.
* God raised up a deliverer in Moses.

***Acts 12: 18-25***

Herod killed James and accepted the worship of men.

It cost him his life.

Exodus 4: 22 - 23

* Israel is ***my son***, even my first born (referring to a people or nation).
* Israel was and still is precious to God.
* The cost to pharaoh for disobedience would be high.

***1 Peter 2: 5: 9***

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people (purchased possession); that you should show forth the praises (virtues) of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Exodus 19: 1 – 6 (1 Peter 2: 5, 9)

***Bare*** means:

Lift or carry away.

* I bare you on eagles’ wings and brought you unto myself.
* *Obey* my voice and keep my covenant.
* ***Peculiar treasure*** means – Jewel or valued property.

Deuteronomy 1: 26 - 32

* They believed the Lord hated them. They didn’t know the Father’s heart.

There was also an Antioch of Syria, the 3rd largest city of the Roman empire. It was a missionary church and the disciples were first called Christians there.

King David was a man after God’s own heart

Acts 13: 19 – 23

* Paul was teaching a history lesson about Israel at Antioch in Pisidia (province of Galatia).

***1 Samuel 8: 5***

The elders of Israel demanded a king to judge them like the other nations.

1 Samuel 13: 14

* Israel demanded a king like all the other nations. They chose Saul of the tribe of Benjamin, but he proved unfaithful to God. They judged on outward appearances, but God looks on the heart.

Psalm 89: 20 – 26 (God’s covenant with David).

* We are not broken people, we are a purchased people

David’s heart revealed in scripture

* The Lord was his rock and fortress (Psalm 18: 1 - 3).

David wasn’t a man after God’s own heart because he was qualified. He ***sought*** the Lord and ***trusted*** in him.

* The Lord was his Shepherd (Psalm 23).
* The Lord was his light and salvation (Psalm 27: 1).
* The Lord was his strength and shield (Psalm 28: 7)

***Psalm 34: 8***

O task as see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusts in him.

* + David fought Goliath (1 Samuel 17: 46 – 47).
	+ His boast was in the Lord and he got what he said.
* David put his trust in the Lord not man (Psalm 25: 2 & 31: 13 - 14).
* David sought forgiveness from a merciful God (Psalm 55: 10 – 13).
	+ He was willing to acknowledge and own his mistakes.
	+ He was willing to change. He knew that be useful in the plans purpose of God, he needed a changed heart.

***Forget not all his Benefits***

Treatment, recompense or reward. An act of good.

* David was open to correction (Psalm 141: 1- 3 & Psalm 139: 23 - 24).
* David encouraged himself in the Lord (1 Samuel 30: 6).

Our Father is always thinking about us.

His thoughts outnumber the grains of sand.

* + Psalm 103: 1–5 (bless the Lord, O my soul).
* David knew that life was precious to God (Psalm 139: 13 – 18 NLT).
* David showed honour and respect for the Lord’s anointed.
	+ 1 Samuel 24: 6

David understood that vengeance was the Lord’s

* + 1 Samuel 26: 9

The earthly ministry of Jesus revealed the Father’s heart.

***John 15: 5***

I am the vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit***: for with me you can do nothing.***

* John 5: 17 – 20

Jesus never acted independently of the Father. What he ***saw he did*** and what he ***heard he*** ***said***.

* + What he sees the Father do, the son does also.
	+ Jesus had total confidence in God’s love for him.
* John 5: 30 - 31 (Jesus only did the will of the Father).
	+ He could do nothing on his own. Neither can we (John 15: 5).
	+ Mark 1: 38 – 45 (the Father’s will on display).

***Acts 26: 18***

To open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the ‘***power’***of Satan unto God (*authority, right or jurisdiction*).

* + A tree is always known by its fruit.
* John 12: 44 – 50
	+ The ***word*** that Jesus spoke will judge the unbeliever in the last day.
	+ Jesus spoke the words of the Father only – ***what to say and how to say it***. That is why his judgement is legitimate and legal.
* Matthew 23: 37 (NLT)
	+ “Baruch Haba B’shem Adonai”.
* Luke 19: 41 – 44 (NLT). Jesus wept over Jerusalem, revealing the Father’s heart. Remember in Exodus, he called Israel his son, even his firstborn.

Jesus was anointed for service

Acts 10: 36 - 38

* ***Anointed*** means – To smear or rub with oil; to consecrate to an office or service. Jesus was consecrated as Messiah and empowered for ministry.

God does the anointing, not man. Those he calls he anoints.

* The power was ***Dynamis*** – miraculous power / God power.
* God anointed Jesus to do good and heal ***all*** that were ***oppressed*** of the devil, for God was with him.
	+ Oppressed means – to exercise dominion against or harsh control over another. Remember, Satan is the god of this world system.

Luke 13: 10 – 17.

The woman never asked for anything. Maybe she accepted her condition, ***but not the Father***.

* The woman was bound by a spirit of infirmity (demonic oppression).
* Jesus spoke words first, then laid hands on her “You ***are*** loosed….”
* The woman had covenant rights, but no demand had been made on God’s promises. Faith always takes the grace. We must believe to receive.
* Satan had bound her, but Jesus demonstrated the power of God.
* To choose life, you must choose life words.

Luke 4: 18 – 19 (KJV & NLT)

Jesus cancelled sin’s debt and set us free. We are free indeed.

* Jesus was anointed to release the blessing of God.
* He came to rescue hostages from the grip of Satanic oppression.
* The acceptable year of the Lord was the Jubilee years (Leviticus 25: 9).
	+ Debt cancellation, restoration, liberation and freedom.

John 11: 39 – 46

God wanted Israel to believe the same about Moses – ***that God had sent him***.

* The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of ‘Dynamis’ power.
* Jesus spoke that the people may believe that the Father had sent him.
* Loose him and let him go. Words break the chains of bondage.

**Characteristics of the Father**

***Romans 5: 8 (NLT)***

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

**God is Love**

1 John 4: 7 – 12

* Love is of God for God ***is*** love.

God found us in Christ before he lost us in Adam. Because of grace we are accepted in the beloved.

* Love sent His son that we may live.
* It wasn’t that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atonement or sacrifice for our sins.
* John 3: 16 (***Love*** gave Jesus).
* A planned event from the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1: 3 - 4).

1 John 3: 1 – 2

* We are sons and daughters ***now***, not when we get to heaven.

Galatians 4: 4 – 7

***2 Timothy 1: 7***

***Fear is not ok and must be resisted***. For God has not been given the spirit of fear; but of power; and of love; and of a sound mind.

* We are no longer servants but sons.
* Compare that with Romans 8: 14 – 17.
* We have not received the spirit of fear but the Spirit of adoption.

John 17: 24 – 26

* God loves us the same as he loves Jesus.

Romans 5: 1 - 5

* The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
* ***Shed abroad*** means – to pour forth, to gush out, to run greedily.

There is no place for hate in the Christian walk.

***Hate*** means to detest or to persecute.

* 1 John 2: 7 – 11.
* 1 John 3: 13 – 16 & 1 John 4: 20 – 21.
* Hate is the nature of the Devil. He was a murderer from the beginning and abides not in the truth, because there is no truth in him (John 8: 44).

Faith works by love (Galatians 5: 6)

Mark 6: 2 - 6

* They were offended at Jesus and he couldn’t do mighty work because of unbelief. Jesus marvelled at their unbelief.

Stay out of offence for the cost is very high.

* ***Offended*** means – to entrap, trip up, stumble or entice to sin.
* No love, no power.

***Benefits:***

Treatment or reward.

Recompense

***Forgiveness means:***

Freedom, deliverance, liberty or remission. It’s a release from bondage or imprisonment.

**God forgiveness**

Psalm 103: 1 – 5.

* Who forgives ***all*** our iniquities

Hebrews 8: 6 – 13

* Our sins and iniquities will he remember no more.
* There has only even been ***one*** sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10: 12 - 14).

1 John 1: 9

* He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins ***and*** cleans us from all unrighteousness.

***Hebrews 7: 25***

Jesus is ***interceding*** for us right now in heaven. He’s not just sitting down (to confer with or having conversation). He is defending us before the Father.

Acts 13: 36 - 41

***Justified means:***

To render innocent or made righteous.

* The forgiveness of sins is preached. That’s grace.

***Romans 2: 4***

The goodness of God leads us to repentance.

* Those that believe are ***justified*** from ***all*** things. The law couldn’t do what Jesus did. It was weak.
* John 16: 8 – 9 (NLT). The world’s sin is that it ***refuses to believe*** in me.
* There will be those that despise the word and will not believe.

Acts 26: 14 – 18 (KJV & NLT)

***Forgetting:***

To neglect and no longer care for. To lose out of mind.

* Paul’s mission was to open the eyes of unbelievers and turn them from darkness to light – that they may receive forgiveness.
* Paul himself did not look back (Philippians 3: 13 NLT) – ***forgetting*** the past and reaching forward to what lies ahead.

***Lamentations 3: 23 - 24***

His mercies are new every morning. Great is his faithfulness.

Ephesians 4: 31 – 32

* We must forgive others likewise as he had.

Ephesians 1: 7

Colossians 1: 14

* Our forgiveness is according to the riches of his grace.
* We have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 23: 32 – 34

* Malefactors are criminals.
* Father, forgive ***them***, for they know not what they do (both the criminals and those that nailed him to a cross).

Luke 5: 20 – 25

* Jesus saw their faith – man your sins are forgiven.
* What is easier, to say, “your sins are forgiven or to say rise up and walk”?

**God saves** (The God of our salvation)

Salvation is God’s grace (unmerited favour). It is the gift of freedom from our sins that Jesus made possible by taking the punishment for our sins on the cross.

An encounter with the Word of God is an encounter with Jesus our Saviour.

Matthew 1: 21 (Saviour)

Luke 1: 31 (Jesus means – Jehovah is Salvation).

* Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19: 1 - 10).

***Luke 9: 56***

For the Son of Man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.

* + Jesus always sees faith.
	+ ***Salvation*** (Soteria) – to rescue, deliver, save or safety.
	+ ***Save*** (Sozo) – deliver, protect, heal, preserve, do well or be made whole.

***Condemn***

Jesus didn’t come to judge or determine. He didn’t come to pass sentence.

* John 3: 16 – 19 (Jesus did not come to ***condemn***, but to save).
* Acts 4: 10 – 12 (The same name that saves today, heals today).
	+ Philippians 2: 5 – 6 (The authority is in the name).

1 Timothy 2: 1 - 6

* It’s his will that ***all*** men be ***saved*** and come to the knowledge of ***the*** truth.
* Again, the word ***saved*** is Sozo.
* God’s will alone won’t save. Man must choose.

Salvation is made possible only through the merits, mercy and grace of Jesus. ***He was our substitute***. Our part is to believe.

***Make:***

To liberate or deliver.

* Only the truth (you know) can ***make*** you free (John 8: 32).
* ***Ransom*** means – a redemption price (his life for ours).

2 Peter 3: 8 – 9

* The Lord is ***not willing*** that any should ***perish*** (destroyed) but that ***all*** should come to ***repentance*** (change of mind or a reversal).
* But, the day of the Lord will come.
* 2 Corinthians 6: 2 (NLT). “Indeed, the right time is now. Today is the day of salvation”.

Romans 10: 8 - 13

* Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart
* Those that ***call upon*** (appeal to) the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**God restores**

2 Samuel 9: 1 - 13

***Dabar:***

Means no words.

Mephibosheth was probably between 20-25 years of age when presented before King David. He has a young son called Micah.

* King David wasn’t interested in his past or circumstances.
* ***Lodebar*** - pastureless / baron place. Desolation, no hope.
* ***Kindness*** means – mercy, goodness or faithfulness.
* ***Mephibosheth*** means – ‘dispeller of shame or one who scatters shame’. That is exactly what David intended to do. He would restore him as a son and heir.
* ***Restore*** - To return, to bring back, to recover or make recompense

***I Samuel 18***

Jonathan and David had a covenant relationship that produced an unbreakable bond of love friendship.

* By his reasoning, his unworthiness was based on circumstances.
* We are heirs of God and joints heirs with Christ (not sub-heirs).
* Mephibosheth was treated as one of the Kings sons.
* All his needs were met and Mephibosheth did nothing to earn or deserve it. His circumstances did not disqualify him. Neither will ours.

***Psalm 55: 4***

Against you, you only, have I sinned.

* David did for Mephibosheth what he could not for himself.
	+ Psalm 51: 10 – 13 (David’s heart cry to God).
* Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves. A picture of grace.

It’s time to come out of Lodebar and never return. We have been summoned by the King to take our rightful place as ‘***children of God’***. Fear not, for He will surely show kindness to us for Jesus sake.

Once we’ve tasted the King’s bread and sat at the King’s table, we will never want for less. Oh, the wonders of God’s grace.

Luke 15: 17 - 24

Three characters in this parable (Father, the lost son and the self-righteous son).

***Proverbs 20: 21***

An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning, but the end thereof ***shall not*** be blessed.

* Jesus was teaching on the Father’s heart to restore the lost.

***Proverbs 28: 22***

He that hastes to be rich has an evil eye, and considers not that poverty ***shall*** come upon him.

* Riotous living means – excess or an abandoned life.
* If you ***join*** yourself to the world, you will be corrupted.
* Join means – to stick like glue or to keep company (1 Corinthians 15:33).
* Through guilt, shame and condemnation, he no longer saw himself as a son. A servant or slave would be good enough.
* By his reasoning, his past dictated his future.

There will be no guilt, shame or condemnation in heaven. But we can experience heaven on earth ***now***. Give it to Father God and everything will be alright.

* He felt unworthy and was willing to accept ‘servant status’.
* The greatest decision he ever made – “***he arose and came to his father”.***
* The Father saw him a great way off. He wasn’t looking back, but forward.
* ***He didn’t see death, he saw life. He didn’t see lost, he saw found***.
* This was the father’s heart speaking and this parable represents sinners being restored to a loving Heavenly Father.

What needs to be restored in your life:

* Make a list of what the enemy has stolen and bring it before the Lord.
* Ask for restoration.
* Seek correction (nothing changes if nothing changes).
* As you are believing for restoration, praise God (enter into his gates with thanks giving and into his Courts with praise (Psalm 100: 4).
* Gratitude and restoration are connected. Always have a thankful heart.
* Acts 3: 21 – Restoration of all things.

**God protects**

John 16: 33

***Tribulation:*** -Pressure

-Anguish

-Burden

-Persecution

-Trouble

John 17: 14 - 17

Jesus prayed to the Father that we should not be taken out of the Word, but that He would ***keep*** us from the evil (to guard or preserve).

Why do we need to be ***kept*** from this evil world when we have been ***redeemed from*** the curse of the law (Galatians 3: 13 - 14)?

***Redeem means:***

To buy up, to ransom or to rescue from loss. How?

By payment of a price to recover from the power of another.

Jesus has not removed the curse from the world.

God turned the earth over to mankind. However, Adam fell and his eyes were shut and he now became a victim, ‘under control’ to the lawless one. **2 Corinthians 4: 4** - Satan is the god of this world system (Babylon - man meeting his own needs without God). Satan is a counterfeit, a liar, a thief, deceiver and a destroyer). His system is designed to regulate the masses. Without God, you cannot defeat his deceptions, but we have the ***Spirit of Truth***.

Galatians 1: 1 – 4 (deliver means to pluck or rescue).

* Amplified – This present wicked age and world order.

Psalm 91: 1 – 16

* ***Dwell*** - means to abide, live, inhabit, remain or continue.

This is not describing a causal relationship with God.

* ***Secret place*** – means a covering or hiding place, protection or security.
* ***Abide* -** means stay permanently or dwell.
* ***Shadow*** – means defence or shade.
* I will ***say*** of the Lord, He is my refuge and fortress (defence), my God; in Him will I trust. That’s a declaration of faith.
* The benefits of abiding:

**Exodus 8 - 10**

Children of Israel didn’t suffer the plague of flies and hail and they had light in their dwellings at Goshen. No so with Egypt.

* + We will not be afraid. Fear is ***not*** ok.
	+ Protection from terrorism, disease and disaster.
	+ It shall not come near you.
	+ Angels shall ***keep*** you (guard, protect or hedge about).
	+ We have authority over demonic forces. Our enemies should be a footstool under our feet (Psalm 110: 1 & Luke 10: 19).

They that know the Lord put their trust in him.

The Lord has not forsaken them the seek him.

* We have set our love upon Him and know His name. Therefore, God will deliver us and set us on high (Ephesians 2: 5 - 6).
* We can call upon Him and He will answer.
	+ He will be with us in trouble.
	+ Deliver us and honour us.
	+ Satisfied with long life (the benefits of protection).

God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Is everyone protected by God?

Luke 13: 1 – 5 (NLT)

* Tragedy is not divine punishment. Jesus made that very clear in his teaching.

Jesus response wasn’t trying to defend God’s management of the universe.

Jesus was revealing a deeper truth about the Kingdom of God and a call to ***repentance***.

* The question is not – Why ***didn’t*** God protect them but why ***wasn’t*** God able to protect or keep them? What hindered him?
* Having no hope is to be without God in this world (Ephesians 2: 12).
* ***Sinners*** – Not free from sin or devoted to sin (sin nature).
* ***Repent*** (Metanoia) means – to change one’s mind. To think differently. It involves a turning with contrition from sin to God.
* A repentant sinner is in the proper condition to receive divine forgiveness.
* ***Perish*** means – to destroy fully or to die or lose. Same meaning as the word “*Destroy*” used in John 10: 10.

Acts 27: 20 - 26 (NLT)

* An angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me.
* God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.
* Paul provided a covering of protection for all 276 on board.
* Acts 28: 5

Acts 18: 9 – 10 (NLT)

* The Lord spoke to Paul in a night vision, “Don’t be afraid, speak out! Don’t be silent. For I am with you and no one will attack or harm you, for many people in this city belong to me”.

Angels respond directly to God’s word.

They obey His commands explicitly. ***Our words matter***.

If we are not declaring ***His Word,*** angels are limited.

Angelic protection.

Psalm 103: 20 – 21

***Hosts*** – an army of angels. God’s war machine that does His will.

Hebrews 1: 13 - 14

* Angels are ***ministering*** spirits sent forth to minister ***for*** those who shall be heirs of salvation (relates to the performance of service).

Matthew 18: 10

* Angels are assigned to us. They ministered to Jesus on many occasions.

Psalm 34: 7 (NLT)

* The angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

***Isaiah 41: 10***

Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

**God responds to faith**

The Israelites did not enter in because the word preached was not mixed (united) with faith.

***Spirit means:***

*Current of air* or *breath*.

God breathed life into Adam and he became a living speaking spirit.

John 4: 24

God is a ***Spirit***: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

***Matthew 26: 41***

Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation: The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.

1 Thessalonians 5: 23

* We are three-part beings. It’s the recreated human spirit (being born again) that connects us to the Living God.
* The word is a sharp two-edged sword that divides soul and spirit.

***Luke 18: 1 - 8***

When the Son of man comes shall he find faith on the earth.

Without faith, the kingdom of God cannot manifest in the earth.

Hebrews 11: 1 - 6

* Faith is evidence and it is pleasing to God.

***Ask means***

To beg for, to call, to crave, desire or require.

Matthew 21: 21

* If you have faith and doubt not… it shall be done.
* And ***all*** things, whatsoever you shall ***ask*** in prayer, ***believing***, you shall receive (***Doubt*** – to withdraw from, oppose, separate or waver).

Syrophoenician woman

Matthew 15: 21 – 28

* This occurred around the coast of Tyre and Sidon. This was not the first time Jesus had gone to these Gentile cities north of Israel.

She lived out the principles Jesus taught in the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18: 1-8). This was a mother’s heart that wouldn’t accept no for her daughter’s sake.

* Woman of Canaan (a Greek woman – a Syrophoenician by nation).
* In Israel, Jesus was trying to convince the Jews that he was Messiah.

***Luke 11: 9 - 10***

She wouldn’t back down.

***Ask*** and you shall receive, ***seek*** and you shall find, ***knock*** and it shall be opened unto you.

* In Gentile country, this woman believed he ***was*** Messiah.
* The woman referred to him as ***Son of David*** – meaning ‘Messiah’
* The woman came and ***worshipped*** him – (do homage, reverence or adore).
* Israel was ‘the children’ and the ***bread*** was their healing.

***Great***

Greek word ‘Megas’.

English word Mega meaning very large or huge.

* Was Jesus declining her request? Remember, ***faith*** takes the grace.
* The word “***Dogs***” referred to small dogs or pet dogs or little puppies.

She recognised Jesus as Lord of all, both Jew and Gentile.

* She was after uncovenanted mercy from God, but she had no legitimate claim to mercy. Her faith was evident by her corresponding actions. She couldn’t sit at the table (no covenant) but she could eat the crumbs.
* Jesus acknowledged her faith was ***great***.

Mark 7: 24 - 30

Jesus mission was to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

The mission of the disciples would be to go into all the world.

* Jesus went to the borders of Tyre and Sidon and entered into a house. He didn’t want to be known.
* Woman’s daughter had an ***unclean*** spirit (unclean means – foul, demonic, ceremonially impure to the Jews).
* She ***heard*** of him. Jesus had ministered in this region before (north west of Capernaum- about 55Km). Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17).
* She came, went into the house and ***fell at his feet*** - fall toward or prostrate oneself in homage (Luke 10: 38 – 42 & Luke 8: 35). This woman was bold.
* She ***besought*** him – means to ask or pray.
* For this ***saying*** go your way - faith always speaks (2 Corinthians 4: 13).

**God corrects and trains his children**

***Doctrine*** = teaching or instruction

***Reproof*** = evidence or conviction

***Correction*** = a straightening up or rectification.

***Instruction in Righteousness*** = disciplinary correction.

2 Timothy 3: 15 – 17

(context – prevailing wickedness & the overcoming word).

* ***Holy*** scriptures – means sacred, consecrated to deity or pertaining to God.

***Scriptures*** simply means a writing, a letter, a note or a book. The Bible is a collective of 66 books or letters

(2 Peter 1:20 NLT).

* The word is opposite to the world’s thinking, acting and behaving.
* ***All scripture*** is given by ***inspiration*** of God – “divinely breathed in or God breathed”. Only used once in the New Testament
* ***Profitable*** means – helpful, useful or advantageous.
* ***Perfect*** means – Complete. Only used once in the New Testament.
* ***Thoroughly furnished*** means equip fully, finish out, complete or accomplish).

A loving father will always correct his children.

* Proverbs 3: 11 – 12 (***Chastening*** = instruction. ***Correction*** = to be right).
* ***Despise*** means – to refuse, reject, abhor or loathe.

Correction & Instruction in righteousness

***Psalm 94: 12***

Blessed is the man who you chasten, O Lord, and teach him out of your law.

* Means disciplinary correction, education or training.
* Hebrews 12: 5 – 11 (NLT) is referring to instruction. Chastisement has the same meaning in the KJV.
	+ Proverbs 22: 6 (to ***train up*** a child also means to discipline).
	+ Proverbs 13: 24 (to ***spare*** the rod means to refrain or hold back).
* Romans 12: 2 – 3 (The word will ***transform*** or change us through mind renewal. You can’t transform if you are conformed to something).
	+ Remember, we don’t want to be common but uncommon.
	+ Common is camouflaged or unseen, but uncommon is luminous and glows in the dark for all to see.
	+ Don’t allow others put your light out. Let it shine among men.
* Titus 2: 11 – 12 (The grace of God teaches us how to live righteously).

Examples:

When Jesus corrected his own disciples, there was a great deal more tenderness and patience.

Not so with the religious leaders and teachers of the law. He often referred to them as hypocrites and rebuked them sharply for their hardness of heart.

* Matthew 10: 34 – 39 NLT (I have come not to bring peace, but a sword).
	+ Jesus was revealing the operation of God’s kingdom.
* Matthew 20: 25 – 28 (Jesus explained what ‘greatness’ looked like).

You qualify to lead by being willing to serve.

Humility in leadership is a strength, not a weakness. Moses was the meekest above all men in the earth.

* + The greatest among us must be the servant of all.
	+ Gifts and callings are for service, not for power or control.
* Luke 9: 54 - 56 (Jesus rebukes James and John).
	+ You know not what manner of spirit you are of.
* Luke 10: 38 – 42 (Jesus lovingly corrected Martha).
	+ Martha was performing. Mary was resting.
* John 20: 24 - 28 (you can’t receive Abraham’s blessing on Thomas’s faith).
	+ Believing is seeing. Abraham ***believed*** God and it was counted to him for righteousness.
* The word is the ‘***teacher***’ that God has entrusted to the church, as revealed by the Holy Spirit. It will instruct, correct, discipline and train.
* It will bring life to the ‘dead’ and freedom to those in bondage.
* It is God breathed, eternally set and supersedes this natural realm.

**God hears and answers prayer**

Our prayers are His ***delight*** (pleasure, favour, goodwill or acceptance).

**James 5: 16**

The effectual fervent (earnest or heartfelt) prayers of a righteous man avail much (Power or force).

Proverbs 15: 8 & 29

The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the ***righteous*.**

1 Peter 3: 10 - 12

For the eyes of the Lord are over the ***righteous****,* and his ears are open to their prayers. But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

What makes us righteous?

***Made*** means:

To cause to be or to become.

* 2 Corinthians 5: 21 (we’ve been ***made*** the righteousness of God).
* Romans 5: 17 – 19 (righteousness is a ***gift***).
* Ephesians 4: 24 NLT (we have God’s DNA).
* Hebrews 4: 16 (because we are righteous, we have throne rights).

Psalm 6: 8 – 9 (The Lord will receive my prayer).

Psalm 141: 1 – 2 (Let my prayers be set before you as incense).

Revelation 5: 8 – described bowls filled with incense which are the prayers of God’s people (the saints).

Acts 10: 1 – 4 (NLT)

* The centurion was a God-fearing man. His prayers and giving were received by God as an offering, memorial, a reminder or record.

The confidence of praying to the Father

God’s Word ***is His will***. They can’t be separated. Prayers that agree with God’s Word are powerful

1 John 5: 14 – 15

* Praying in agreement with the Word of God
* Faith begins where the will of God is known.
* If we ask according to the Word of God (*in faith*) we know we have it. This isn’t a ‘*maybe He will and maybe He won’t’* approach to prayer. This is praying with confidence that God hears us.

John 11: 1 – 6 & 39 – 44

Jesus didn’t deny the sickness, he denied its authority to take his life.

He wasn’t moved by a bad report.

* Jesus remained two days because He was teaching.
* He had already declared that this sickness was not unto death.

Jesus prayed aloud to reveal the Father’s heart to the people.

* Jesus was calling those things which be not as though they were.
* Lazarus had already died and Jesus was on His way to raise him up
* Jesus travelled at least 2 days.
* Jesus knew that His Father had heard his prayers and that He hears him always. Lazarus was raised with that confident assurance.

Acts 12: 5

All human security measures were no match for supernatural intervention.

Herod was later judged but the Word of God grew and multiplied.

God doesn’t have a hearing problem when it comes to faith filled prayers.

* What was the church response – ***prayer without ceasing*** (fervent, effective and earnest).
* This type of praying won’t give way to discouragement.
* Angelic intervention was a direct result of prayer, not worry or fear.
* They had no problem believing Peter’s angel was at the door, just not Peter himself.
* They didn’t realise that their prayers had already been answered.

**God is our provider**

***Acts 17: 28***

For in him we live, and move, and have our being or exist.

***Matthew 6: 33 AMP***

But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness ***(his way of doing and being right)*** and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.

There is no other source but him.

***First means:***

In time, place, order or

importance. At the beginning.

Matthew 6: 31 – 34

But seek ye ***first*** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and ***all*** these things shall be ***added*** (to lay beside or increase) unto you.”

* To seek the kingdom, you must seek the King first.

***1 Peter 5: 5 - 7***

Humility trusts God. Pride trusts self. We must cast our cares upon him, not people. ***Cares*** means distraction or anxiety.

Pride is a ‘grace blocker’.

***Isaiah 26: 3***

You will keep him in ***perfect peace*** whose mind is stayed on you because he trusts in you.

 Philippians 4: 4 - 9 (KJV & NLT)

* Don’t be anxious (worried or fretful) about anything.
* Give it to God in prayer. Ask and you shall receive.
* We must cast down imaginations (2 Corinthians 10: 3 – 5).

James 1: 17

* Every good gift and every ***perfect*** gift is from above. Even his righteous judgement is good. He’s a good, good Father.
* There is no variation or change in him (Hebrews 13: 8).

John 15: 1 - 8

* The ***abiding*** and the provision are connected (remain or dwell).
* Kingdom fruit – Galatians 5: 22 (*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*).

Philippians 4: 15 – 19

***Supply:***

To make full.

* They sowed into their spiritual account. Laid up treasures in heaven.
* Kingdom supply has no natural limitations – according to his riches.
* The seed of giving activates ‘kingdom supply’. Why, faith takes the grace.

Moses (God provided for Israel)

***Matt 28: 20***

I am with you always even unto the end of the world.

***Hebrews 13:5***

I will never leave you nor forsake you.

* God was surely with Moses (Exodus 3: 12) – Certainly, I will be with you.

***Deut 4: 8 NLT***

For all these fourty years your clothes didn’t wear out, and your feet didn’t blister or swell.

* They left Egypt with wealth and health. There was none ***feeble*** among them (stumble, stagger, totter or waver. Also means weak or faint).
* God told Moses that they would not go empty (Exodus 3: 21 – 22).
* This was a “wealth transfer” - Proverbs 13: 21 (***laid up*** – hide or reserve).
* He met their needs in the wilderness 40 years, even when they grumbled and complained (Psalm 105: 37).
* They had food, provision, protection and clothing that did not wear out.
* Cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Have a need, sow a seed (his way of doing and being right)

Matthew 14: 15 - 22

Had the disciples eaten it themselves, it would have remained five loaves and two fish. The seed was twice sown.

* The miracle of the loaves and fishes didn’t happen in the master hands – it happened in the disciple’s hands. Each received a basket full of leftovers.
* The blessing preceded the multiplication (took, blessed, and gave).
* Bring them to me – Something has to be given to the Lord first.
* ***Only that which is given can be multiplied***. That’s how the kingdom of God operates. Give and it shall be given unto you……. Luke 6: 38.
* The seed of giving always activates kingdom provision (***multiplication***).

**God’s grace is sufficient**

The story of Paul is a story of redemption in Jesus Christ and a testimony that no one is beyond the saving grace of God.

However, to gain the full measure of the man, we must understand his past before he became an Apostle of Grace. His early life was marked by religious zeal, brutal violence and the relentless persecution of the early church.

1 Corinthians 15: 9 – 10

* But by the grace of God, I am what I am.
* ***Grace*** means – Favour, gift, benefit, joy, liberality and pleasure.

What do we know about Paul?

* Acts 22: 3 – 4 (he was trained under Gamaliel).
* Philippians 3: 5 - 10 (a Pharisee who saw himself as blameless concerning the law).
* Galatians 1: 13 – 17 (God chose Paul before he was born and called him by grace).
* Saul of Tarsus was in all respects a religious terrorist who was determined to eradicate Christians before his encounter with Jesus.

What had Paul become?

* His conversion (Acts 9: 1 – 6 & 15 – 22).
* Acts 20: 24 – Paul have been transformed into an Apostle of Grace.
* Paul explained his encounter with Jesus in his defence before King Agrippa (Acts 26: 13 – 18).

Under grace our identity is in Christ

* 2 Corinthians 5: 17 (We are new creations. The old is passed away).
* Jesus never referred to him as Saul again (Acts 18: 9 & 23: 11).
* 2 Corinthians 7: 1 – 2

Paul didn’t identify with a dead past. Nor should we (Phil 3: 13 – 14).

With identity comes access

***Access*** means:

admission or approach. Only used 3 times in New Testament.

* Our identity in Christ gives us access to all that grace has made available.
* Faith is the debit card.
* Card activation occurs only when we are born again – new creations.
* Trying to apply the law and receive from God through works is like using an expired card. It is no longer valid (Romans 5: 1 – 2).

***Ephesians 2: 18***

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

* Hebrews 4: 16 (Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace).
* Ephesians 3:12 (boldness & access with confidence by faith in him).

His strength is perfected in our weakness

* 2 Corinthians 12: 7 – 10
	+ Paul’s ministry was buffeted by Satan.

Paul suffered greatly for the name of Jesus and the cause of Christ.

He preached the gospel of grace which stirred up religious spirits that keep people’s eyes closed to the truth.

* + Persecution came for the word’s sake.
	+ Three locations as recorded in 2 Timothy 3: 10 – 12.
	+ Paul endured by the grace of God and out of them all the lord delivered him.
	+ God’s grace was sufficient for Paul and it will be for us.
	+ ***Made perfect*** means – to complete, accomplish or consummate.
	+ For when I am weak, them am I strong.
* God’s grace will always be sufficient for us because he has made it that way. That’s the Father’s heart.