**December 2024**

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart**

Proverbs 3: 1 - 8

* Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths.

***1 Cor 3: 19***

The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, he takes the wise in their own craftiness.

* ***Trust*** – be confident or sure. To be bold and secure.
* ***Understanding*** – knowledge or wisdom.
* ***Acknowledge*** - to know, perceive, recognise or be acquainted with.
* ***Direct –*** to be straight or even. To be upright.

We must believe that he is the great ***I AM*** – the one who exists.

***Psalm 53: 1***

The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.

***Fool*** – the senseless, the stupid, the wicked.

Hebrews 11: 1 & 6

***Matthew 5: 6***

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: ***for they shall be filled***.

* Faith pleases God. Two conditions required:
1. Must ***believe*** that ***he is*** (to have faith in or to entrust).
2. That he is a ***rewarded*** of them that diligently seek him.
* ***Rewarder*** – one who pays wages. A remunerator.
* ***Diligently seek*** – to search out, investigate, crave for or demand.
	+ Proverbs 2: 1 – 5.

***Matthew 4: 13***

Jesus came and ***dwelt*** in Capernaum.

(*To house permanently or to reside*).

Luke 5: 17 – 26, Matt 9: 1 – 8 & Mark 2: 1 - 12 (man lowered from the roof)

Scribes, Pharisees and doctors of the law.

* When the word goes forth, you can’t stop the power of God.
* The power (*Dynamis*) of the Lord was present to heal them.
* ***Dynamis -*** force or miraculous power.

They diligently sought Jesus and that revealed their faith which pleased God.

* They didn’t leave discouraged on first attempt to access Jesus.
* They didn’t interrupt Jesus. He is always ready to meet man’s needs.
* Jesus ***saw*** their faith. There was corresponding action. Remember, faith without works is dead (James 2: 17 & 26).
	+ Four men cared enough about this paralysed man to overcome all obstacles. Faith never gives up and never quits.
	+ Breaking up someone’s roof is boldness of faith.
* Be encouraged – your sins are forgiven (only God can forgive sins).
* The paralysed man needed freedom from condemnation and assurance of forgiveness before he could have full confidence in God for his healing.
* They began to ***reason in their hearts***– cast in their mind, consider, dispute or deliberate.
* They considered Jesus response ***blasphemy*** (slander or speak evil. To vilify or defame God).
* The religious men wrongly questioned Jesus’ authority to forgive sins.
* The paralysed man accepted it and was set free.
* What is easier, to say, – ‘your sins are forgiven’ or ‘arise and walk’.
* The power that saves is the ***same power*** that heals.

The paralysed man had an encounter with Jesus and left forgiven and healed.

***2 Corinthians 5: 17***

We’ve had the same encounter. We are forgiven and healed.

* It’s as much God’s will to heal as it is his will to save.

Solutions to barriers

* Break up the roof. Come boldly to the thrown of grace.
* Refuse to believe that you are unworthy or rejected by God.
* Settle in your heart that the same power that saves also heals.
* Be of good cheer (comfort or courage), your miracle awaits you.

**Trust builds confidence (boldness)**

***Psalm 28: 7***

My heart trusts in him.

***Psalm 29: 11***

The Lord will give strength to his people

Psalm 27: 1 - 3

* ***Confident*** – to trust or be sure.

Psalm 118: 1 – 9

* It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

Proverbs 29: 25

The Lord is for me, not against me.

* The fear of man brings a ***snare*** (trap, noose, hook), but whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be ***safe*** (set on high or inaccessible).

1 Samuel 17: 32 – 37 (David & Goliath)

***Isaiah 41: 10***

Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God.

* The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the Lion, and out of the paw of the bear, ***he will deliver me*** out of the hand of this Philistine.
* David’s confidence was in God (*who had already proved himself faithful*), not his own ability.
* v43 – 50. Goliath cursed David by his gods. That was his death sentence.
	+ David’s boast was in the Lord. He got what he said.
	+ Words will determine success or failure.
	+ David’s sword was in his mouth, not in his hand.

Hebrews 10: 32 – 36 (NLT)

We have need of ***patience*** (endurance)

* Cast not away therefore your ***confidence*** (boldness or assurance).
* Through faith and patience, we inherit the promises of God (Heb 6: 12).

1 John 5: 12 – 15

* ***Confidence*** – boldness.
* Our confidence in prayer in based on our confidence in his word.
* The word of God ***is*** the will of God.

I John 3: 18 – 21 (guilt and shame can weaken our confidence in God)

* We cannot harbour guilt, shame or condemnation. Faith destroying.
* We are clean, made right with God and washed in the blood.
* You can’t hold onto your past. It will choke your faith.

Act 4: 10 - 13 & 19 & 20

* Marvelled and took knowledge (wondered and acknowledged).
* ***Boldness*** (confidence or courage) comes from spending time with Jesus.
* We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.
* Verse 29 – 33 (they prayed for boldness and got it).

Hebrews 4: 14 - 16

* We come with ***confident assurance*** to the throne of grace, not the cross.
* We have access to the Father by faith in his Son (The Word).

Philippians 1: 3 - 7

* Being ***confident*** (convince, persuade or trust).
* The Lord who began a good work will finish it.

**The Lord is with us (we are his temple)**

If someone is with you, they have your back.

***Matthew 1: 23 –*** The virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son and they shall call his name Emmanuel (God with us)

2 Corinthians 6: 16 – 18

* I will ***dwell in them*** (to inhabit) and ***walk in them***, and I will be their God and they shall be my people.

***1 Corinthians 6: 19 – 20***

Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in us.

***1 Corinthians 3: 16***

You are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you.

1 John 4: 4

* Greater is he ***that is in you***, than he that is in the world.

Romans 8: 11

* The Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, ***dwells in us***.

Joseph

Genesis 39: 1 - 5

You can be a great blessing in your workplace or wherever God has placed you.

* And the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man.
* And his master ***saw*** that the Lord was with him.

Moses

Exodus 3: 10 – 12

***John 15: 5***

I am the vine and you are the branches. For without me you can do nothing.

* ***Who am I*** that I should go to Pharaoh?
* Our past can define us, but not by God.
* Certainly, I will be with you.

Joshua

***Joshua***

-Meditate on the word

-Be strong and courageous

-Be not afraid or dismayed

Joshua 1: 5 – 9 (as I was with Moses, so I will be with you).

* The lord your God is with you wherever you go.

David

2 Samuel 5: 4 – 5 & 10

* David went on and grew great and the Lord God of hosts was with him.
* Psalm 23: 4 – 6

***Psalm 139: 7 – 10***

God is everywhere

* + I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me.
	+ Goodness and mercy are companions, not suffering and misery.

Paul

Acts 18: 7 - 11

* For I am with you and no man shall set on you to hurt you for I have much people in this city.

The church

Matthew 28: 20

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

Mark 16:20

* The Lord working with them and confirming the word with signs following.

Hebrews 13: 5 - 6

* The Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

**Attributes of God that would cause us to trust him**

God is love

***Trust builds confidence***

1 John 4: 8 – 18

* He that loves not knows not God, for ***God is love.***
* ***Boldness*** means – confidence.
* We can’t trust in God (love) if we refuse or fail to walk in love.

***John 14: 15 - 17***

The Holy Spirit is a love gift to the church. The world cannot receive the Spirit of truth.

John 3: 16 – 17 (For God so loved the world that he ***gave***).

* The one condition to be made right with God is ***believing***.
* Salvation is a gift. It can’t be earned or purchased. It must be received.
* Jesus was a love gift to the world.

Matthew 1: 18 – 23 (NLT)

Isaiah 7: 14 (Isaiah prophesied 700 years before Jesus birth).

* Emmanuel – God with us.

***Operation Emmanuel***

(black Op)

* ***JESUS*** – Jehovah is salvation.
* The word became flesh and ***dwelt*** among us (tent or tabernacle).
* Jesus birth was not a random event? This was a planned operation from the Strategic War Room of heaven itself.
* God’s ***High value Asset*** was in the earth - a covert operation until Jesus was revealed at his baptism 30 years later.

Romans 5: 8 - 10

* God ***commended*** (showed) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
* God reached out to us first. Love has no obstacles and can be trusted.

Romans 8: 32 – 39

* We are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
* ***Conquerors*** – to gain a decisive victory.
* Paul was ***persuaded*** (to trust or have confidence).
* Nothing can ***separate us*** from the love of God (place room between or cause us to depart from).

John 13: 34 – 35

* A new commandment I given unto you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.
* Remember, the greatest expression of Christianity is ***love***, and the greatest expression of love is ***giving***.
* The greatest attribute of God that would cause us to trust him is love.

God is full of grace

***Grace*** (gift)

Merciful kindness and favour. Being given something even when we don’t deserve it.

***Titus 2: 11 – 12***

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared unto all men. Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

* John 1: 14 – 17
* John 8: 32 (***make you free*** – to liberate or to deliver).
* Ephesians 2: 8 – 9 (saved by grace through faith).
* Acts 20: 22 – 24 (the gospel of the grace of God).
* Romans 5: 17 – 21 NLT (grace did much more abound).

Luke 9: 28 – 36 (transfiguration)

* Grace is always dependent on God through prayer.
* Moses was the law giver, Elijah the law restorer (assignments finished).
* ***Hear him*** – grace alone.

God’s Word is eternal and true

* Matthew 24: 34 – 35 (my words shall not pass away).

Do not seek truth outside the scriptures.

The word must be first place and final authority in our lives.

* John 5: 39 – 47 (The writings of Moses were ***scripture*** and ***truth***).

***Matthew 4: 4***

Jesus rebuked the devil by declaring “*it* ***is*** *written”,* not ‘*It* ***was*** *written.*

* John 6: 63 (The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life).
* John 14: 1- 6 (If it were not so, I would have told you).
* John 17: 14 – 17 (Jesus gave his disciples God’s word because it is truth).
* 1 Peter 1: 23 - 25 (But the word of the Lord endures forever).
* 1 Kings 8: 56 (There has not failed one word of all his good promises).
* Psalm 119: 89, 151 & 160
* Proverbs 30: 5 NLT (Every word of God proves true).
* Revelation 1: 8 & 22: 12 – 13 (Alpha and Omega).

***Isaiah 55: 10-11***

His word shall never return void. It can never fail because it is unchanging.

God never changes

***Genesis 8: 22***

While the earth remains, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter and day and night shall not cease.

* Malachi 3: 6
* Psalm 89: 34 (my covenant will I not break, nor ***alter*** (change) the thing that is gone out of my lips).
* Hebrews 13: 7 - 8 (Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever).
	+ Follow their faith ***but*** take note of their manner of life (fruit).

***Hebrews 11: 6***

We must believe that ***He IS*** and that he is a rewarder.

* John 8: 58 - Before Abraham was, ***I AM*** (Exodus 3: 13 – 14).
* Revelation 1: 8 - Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. God operates in past, present and future tense all at the same time.
* James 1: 17 (NLT - He never changes or cast a shifting shadow).

Never change the word to fit your circumstances. ***Change your circumstances to fit the word.***

* Romans 11: 29 (NLT) – (God’s gifts and his call can never be withdrawn).
	+ Galatians 1: 15 (Paul was called at birth).
	+ Jeremiah 1: 5 (God is pro-life and has a calling for everyone).
	+ Luke 1: 15 (John was filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb).

God cannot Lie

* Numbers 23:19 – 20
	+ God cannot lie or deceive. Compare this against the nature of Satan (John 8: 44).
	+ God said to Balaam – “***Don’t go***”. That was it.

***Deut 23: 3 – 4.***

Balaam was not an Israelite.

* + Balaam was a profit for hire. He loved the wages of unrighteousness 2 Peter 2: 15 & Jude 11 (spirit of mammon).
	+ Revelation 2: 14 – “The doctrine of Balaam” to eat things sacrificed to idols and sexual immorality.
	+ You cannot curse what God has blessed. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law.

***Psalm 14: 1 & 10: 4***

The ***fool*** has said in his heart, there is no God.

* Titus 1: 1 – 2.
* 2 Timothy 2: 11 - 13 – God cannot deny himself.
* Hebrews 6: 13 - 19 (NLT) – It is impossible for God to lie.
* 2 Corinthians 1: 18 - 20 (NLT) – The promises of God are yes and amen.

God Is faithful

* Psalm 119: 90 (His faithfulness is from generation to generation).

***Faithful***

Means trustworthy, sure or true.

* 1 Corinthians 1: 4 – 9 NLT (God is faithful to do what he says).
* 1 Corinthians 10: 12 - 13 NLT (God is faithful, who will not allow us to be tempted above that which we are able. He will make a way ***to*** escape so that we may be able bear it).
* 1 Thessalonians 5: 23 – 24.
* 2 Thessalonians 3: 1 – 3.
* Hebrews 10: 23 – For he who promised is faithful.
* 1 John 1: 7 – 10 (He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins).
* Revelation 1: 4 – 6 (Jesus is the faithful witness).
	+ Kings and priests - We are not old sinners groping around in the dark in bondage to a dead past. ***We are the redeemed***.

God is merciful

Mercy – Hebrew word “***Hesed***”

-Kindness

-Favour

-Goodness

-Faithfulness

-Compassionate

* His mercy endures forever - Psalm 136.
* Lamentations 3: 22 – 23 (His mercies are new every morning).
* Luke 6: 35 – 36 (Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful).
* Ephesians 2: 4 – 6 (God, who is ***rich*** [abounding] in mercy).
* Hebrews 8: 10 - 12 (***For I will*** be merciful to their unrighteousness).
* 2 Peter 3: 8 - 9 (The Lord is patient, not wanting any to perish).

Luke 15: 18 – 24 (***The prodigal son*** – three primary characters)

***God allows what we allow.***

Sin always promises more than it can give, takes you further than you want to go and leaves you worse off than you were before. It promises freedom but brings slavery. The son learned the hard way.

The parable is a wonderful expression of mercy & grace.

***Luke 19: 10***

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

* In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus illustrates the point further.
* The forgiving father – A picture of God.
* The younger son – symbolizing the lost. A sinner going his own way in rebellion and trying to meet his own needs without God.
* The older son – symbolizing the self-righteous (The Law).
* Where were all the friends during the famine?
* There was true repentance because the son was willing to give up his right as a son to become a slave.
* The son was bound in quilt, shame & condemnation (sin consciousness) and willing to perform as a servant.
* The father saw him a long way off and had compassion on him and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him (a grace response – not customary).
* Father doesn’t even let him finish his confession, nor does he question or lecture him.
	+ ***Robe*** - sign of dignity & honor (a covering).
	+ ***Ring*** – a sign of identity (authority).
	+ ***Shoes*** – a sign of sonship (not a servant).

The father didn’t see death, he saw life. He didn’t see lost, he saw found.

* Destitution to restoration.
* The other son represented the Scribes and Pharisees, living outward blameless lives. They hoped to earn blessings from God and in their obedience, merit eternal life. (He wanted to earn acceptance).

The law demands, but grace supplies

* He failed to understand the grace of God and failed to comprehend the meaning of forgiveness.
* Core message – saved by grace through faith. A gift, not works, so no man can boast (Ephesians 2: 8). A beautiful picture of mercy and redemption.

God cares for us

1 Peter 5: 2 - 7

We ***cast*** our cares upon him, not people ***(To throw upon)***

* The enemy will always say you can’t. Resist fear.
* ***Cares*** have two different meanings (1) Anxiety / worry. (2) Interest or concern.

Matthew 11: 28 – 30 (being joined to God is being equally yoked)

***Philippians 2: 6***

Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.

* ***Labour*** – to feel fatigue (***heavy laden*** – to load up).

***Learn*** - to increase knowledge and understand.

* ***Rest*** means – to refresh or take ease.
* ***Learn of me –*** follow him. Be like him. We have the mind of Christ.
* ***Easy –*** useful, better, gracious and kind (*not harsh, hard, sharp or bitter*).

Matthew 24: 1 – 6

We don’t worry because you care, we worry because we fear. We fear because we don’t believe.

* Many will come in his name and deceive many.
* Satan masquerades as an angel of light. Don’t believe his lies. We must know the word and the Holy Spirit, otherwise we are easy to deceive.
* He seeks whom he may devour. That means he can’t deceive everyone.
* Be not ***troubled*** (frightened, or alarmed – to cry aloud or wail).

John 14: 1 & 27

***Afraid*** means -

timid or fearful. Only used once in New Testament

* ***Let not your heart be*** ***troubled*** = stirred, anxious, agitated or upset). It’s our responsibility, not God’s. I Jesus said it, then we can do it.
* If you allow him, the enemy will keep you upset about something all the time, but Jesus has given us his peace to walk in this earth.
* Believing is a choice and fearing is a choice.

Mark 4: 18 – 19 (cares choke the word)

* Cares of this world, entering in ***choke*** the word and it becomes unfruitful.
* Satan pushes the worry agenda because he wants to choke the word.

Mark 4: 35 – 41

***2 Cor 5: 7***

We walk by faith and not by sight

We are going over, not under.

* ***Don’t you*** ***care*** that we perish (interested or concerned)?
* Jesus had perfect peace even in the midst of a ‘boat sinking’ storm.

*A* ***great storm*** can become a ***great calm*** when you cast the cares

Luke 10: 38 – 42

***Cumbered*** means

To drag all around / to distract. Is your life so busy that you have no time for the word of God?

* Martha was careful about many things. One thing is needful – sitting at the feet of Jesus and hearing his word.
* Her concerns were not just about Mary, she was also upset with Jesus. She judged her sister and Jesus. Apparently, Jesus should have noticed.

God clearly cares for you. If you believe that He doesn’t, you are deceived.

* We can presume things and believe that presumption, even when there is no scriptural basis for that belief.
* Many today are offended with Jesus and have walked away from the faith and his church because something didn’t go the way they expected or presumed. ***God cares.***

Psalm 37: 1 - 5

* ***Commit*** means – to roll your ***way*** (course of life) upon the Lord.
* Trust also in him and ***he*** shall bring it to pass.

**God is all we need**

***Acts 17: 28 (NLT)***

For in him we live and move and ***exist*** (and have our being)

Hebrews 11: 6

Exodus 3: 13 – 15 (because he exists, we exist)

***John 8: 58***

Before Abraham was, ***I am***.

* In the Old Covenant, God revealed himself as the great ***I AM*** (Jehovah). In the New Covenant, Jesus revealed himself as the fulfilment of that name. In the New Covenant, Jesus is all we need.

Seven key ***I AM*** statements from Jesus.

1. ***I am the bread of life***.

Jesus is drawing a spiritual analogy of life-giving bread. When you receive him, you will live for eternity.

John 6: 32 - 35, 47 – 51

1. ***I am the light of the world***.

***Psalm 119: 105***

***Psalm 119: 130***

The entrance of his word gives light.

***John 1: 5 (NLT)***

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Absolute light.

Satan is absolute darkness.

John 8: 12 & 9: 5

John 12: 35 - 36

1 John 1: 5 - 7

The thief is referring to false teachers and false prophets. But the sheep ***did not hear*** them.

1. ***I am the door of the sheep***.

John 10: 7 - 10

The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. The other sheep were the gentiles to come.

1. ***I am the Good Shepherd***.

John 10: 11 – 18

Christianity is about right believing first. Then comes right behaviour/performance

1. ***I am the resurrection and the Life.***

John 11: 25 & John 3: 36

***Acts 4: 10 – 12***

There is no other name but Jesus. There are not many ways to God. ‘***Multi faith’*** is no Bible Faith.

1. ***I am the way, the truth, and the life.***

John 14: 6

We must abide in the vine to bear fruit. Without him we can do nothing.

1. ***I am the true vine.***

John 15: 1 - 5

Make “I am” declarations.

* I am healed, I am whole, I am redeemed, I am blessed, I am forgiven, I am loved, I am strong, I am a child of God, I am an overcomer, I am victorious, I am free and I am prosperous in every area of my life (spirit, soul, body, financially, socially and relationally).

**Transfer your trust from people to God.**

* Natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him, (1 Corinthians 2: 14)
* That’s why we are warned not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly (Psalm 1: 1 - 3).
* If we conform to the world (fashioned after their pattern), we will never trust God (Let ***us*** build a tower and let ***us***make ***us*** a name – Genesis 11:4)
* That’s why the Bible warns us – “*Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12: 2)*.”
* God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1: 27).

**What does trust in God look like**

***Three Bible examples of those who put their trust in Jesus***

***Three key expressions of trust***.

* The word is all the evidence we need.
* Faith words matter because faith always speaks.
* Fear has no place in the arena of faith.

Jesus heals a Centurion’s paralysed servant (Matthew 8: 5 – 13 & Luke 7: 1 - 10)

* The centurion would have received daily ‘intelligence briefings’ regarding the crowds, the religious Jews and the miracles performed by Jesus. It was his job to keep the peace and ensure civil order through law enforcement.

***Luke 7: 3***

The centurion heard of Jesus

***The word is all the evidence we need.***

* Remember, the Jews were under Roman occupation at the time of Jesus.

***Luke 7: 4 – 5***

The centurion loved the nation of Israel and built a synagogue. He was in line for a blessing from God.

***Genesis 12: 3***

* Yet in that environment, Jesus credited this man with ‘*great faith’*.
* Jesus said, “I will come and heal him”. Why? He wasn’t from the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He was a Roman soldier.
* The centurion recognised that he wasn’t worthy, yet he had faith in the words of Jesus. “But ***speak the word only*** and my servant ***shall*** be healed” (Psalm 107: 20).
* He understood authority and recognised the authority of Jesus words.
* Jesus marvelled (wonder or admire) at his ***great faith*** (vast or in such quantity). No other evidence was required. (Hebrews 11: 1).
* Go your way, and ***as you have believed***, so be it done unto you.

***Matt 9: 20 - 22***

***Luke 8: 43 – 48***

Other accounts of the same events

Jesus heals a woman with an issue of blood (Mark 5: 25 – 34)

***Faith words matter and faith always speaks.***

* The woman was diseased with an issue of blood 12 years.
* This made her continually ceremonially unclean under Levitical law (Leviticus 15: 25). It was not lawful for her to be in public.

Invisible prison

* Think about it, no church for 12 years!!
* ***Suffered*** – painfully vexed. Now she was still sick and broke.
* She ***heard*** of Jesus – Capernaum was most likely her town also. She wasn’t allowed in a synagogue. She was an outcast, very weak and frail and pale.

***Romans 10: 17***

Faith comes by hearing the word.

* She spoke what she wanted and acted (a do or die moment for her).

***Tenacious***

Keeping a firm hold on something.

* She was ***tenacious*** and wouldn’t let go of the hope within her.

She didn’t defile Jesus. Divine healing power made her clean.

* Straightaway she ***felt*** healed (to know, be aware, perceive or be sure).
* Jesus knew that faith had drawn ***virtue*** (power) out of him.

The anointing on Jesus drove out the disease.

* Faith accessed the grace (supply and delivery).
* The woman gave her testimony – told him ***all*** the truth.

A daughter of Abraham.

* ***Whole*** - to save, deliver, protect, heal, preserve, do well or make whole.
* ***Go in peace*** – prosperity, quietness and rest (set at one again).

***Matt 9: 18 - 26***

***Luke 8: 41 – 56***

Other accounts of the same event

***Fear has no place***

Jesus raises Jairus’ daughter from the dead (Mark 5: 22 – 24 & 35 – 43)

* Jairus fell at his feet *in worship*. He only spoke words of life, not death.
* He spoke words of faith, declaring what he wanted.
* A report of death didn’t ***trouble*** (harass or annoy) the Master.

Fear has no place in the arena of faith. It must be resisted.

***2 Timothy 1: 7***

***Romans 8: 15***

* Be not afraid, ***only believe*** (hold fast to your confession of faith).
* Jesus was confronted with a noisy crowd and funeral music. Hardly an atmosphere for faith to operate. Jesus was unmoved by the mourners and removed the unbelief that hinders faith.

***Note:*** The child was the same age as the number of years the woman had been bleeding.

* Jesus did exactly as Jairus had spoken in faith (“***Lay your hands on her that she may be healed and she shall live***”).
* Jairus got exactly what he asked for (Mark 11: 23 – 24).

**What can hinder our trust in God**

-Doubting God’s word

-Reasoning

-Cares and worries (fear)

-Unworthiness (guilt, shame & condemnation)

-Religious traditions or teachings of men

Doubting God’s word

John 6: 59 – 71

* Not everyone that followed Jesus believed in him.
* Some were ***offended*** (entrap, trip up, stumble or entice to sin).

1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 4

Miracles alone don’t change a heart. Only belief in God’s word.

* According to the scriptures
* It was written by men, so how can it be trusted (Jesus did).
	+ John 5: 39 – 47 (If you don’t believe the writing of Moses, you won’t believe me).

Mark 6: 1 – 6

Jesus was simply a carpenter, not the conqueror.

* They were looking through natural eyes, not spiritual eyes.
* Offence will cause you to doubt.
* Jesus ***marvelled*** (wondered) because of their unbelief.
* Unbelief limits the ***Dynamis*** power of God.

Zechariah (Luke 1: 5 – 20)

* Idle words can impact God’s plan in the earth.
* Zechariah looked at natural circumstances and that of his wife (v18).
* How shall I know this (NLT – How can I be sure this will happen?)

Compare with Mary in Luke 1: 26 - 37.

***“Be it unto me according to your word***.”

A fulfilment of prophesy – Isaiah 7: 14

* + He wanted a sign. He wanted more than a promise.
* His mouth was shut because he ***did not believe*** the word from God.
* The angel was sent to bring good news and it wasn’t believed.
* Our words can fulfil or abort the plans of God for our lives.

Why do we at times struggle in believing God’s word?

Personal experience / circumstances

***Moses*** – a shepherd for 40 years

***Joseph*** – prison for 10 years.

***David*** – On the run from King Saul for many years

***Paul*** – Even before he was born, God chose him and called him by grace.

* Our idea of God’s timing.
* Allowing circumstances to determine our believing.
* Not recognising periods of growth and training.

Double mindedness

* James 1: 5 – 8

A single-minded person is stable in all their ways

* ***Wavering*** - (to withdraw from, hesitate, oppose, doubt or stagger).
* ***Unstable*** – inconsistent or restless.
* Faith always enters unto the rest of God.
* Israel wouldn’t believe God’s word or his love for them.
	+ Hebrews 3: 17 – 19.
	+ Psalm 106: 21 – 24 (NLT).

***Rightly dividing***

To make a straight cut or dissect correctly. In other words, teach the truth directly and correctly.

Not studying the word (due diligence)

***Study*** means to give diligence or make effort

* 2 Timothy 2: 15 (rightly dividing the word of truth).
* Provers 4: 20 – 23.
* Joshua 1: 8 – 9.

Reasoning

- ***Casting down*** means demolish or destroy.

- Wrong thinking must be ***arrested*** or taken captive.

- Reasoning ***exalts itself*** against the knowledge of God.

2 Corinthians 10: 3 - 5

Reasoning will always present a contradiction to the word of God.

* ***Imaginations*** means – reasoning or thoughts.

Acts 7: 22 – 30 NLT

Exodus 3: 9 - 11 NLT (Moses protested to God)

 “***Certainly, I will be with you***”.

* Identity crisis. ***Our past can define us***.
* Exodus 4: 1 (Moses past was limiting his future).
* Moses was looking at his limited ability not God’s unlimited ability
* Exodus 4: 10 – 15 (send someone else).

***Gideon*** (Judges 6: 15)

I am the least in my father’s house

***Saul*** (1 Samuel 17: 33)

You are not able to go. You are but a youth and he is a man of war from his youth.

***Jonah*** (Jonah 4: 2)

He ran from God because he knew he was gracious, merciful, slow to anger, kind and forgiving.

 Hebrews 11: 24 – 27 NLT (Moses overcame by faith).

* 2 Corinthians 5: 17.
* Galatians 2:20.
* Philippians 3: 13 – 14.

Jeremiah 1: 5 - 8

* God knew him before he came forth out of the womb (pro-life).
* He protested in a similar manner to Moses.
* Do we see ourselves as too young or inadequate?
* Timothy was encouraged by Paul to ‘stir up the gift of God within him’ and to let no man despise his youth (1 Timothy 4: 12 & 2 Timothy 1:6)
* God’s grace is sufficient for you.

Unworthiness (guilt, shame or condemnation)

***Condemnation***

an adverse sentence.

Unworthiness can stop us coming boldly to his throne of grace.

Romans 8: 1 – 4 (KJV & NLT)

* Flesh will always condemn.
* We ***are free*** from the law of sin and death.
* Galatians 5: 14 – 18 (walking in the spirit is walking in love).
* Failing to walk in love gives Satan legal right of access.
* It’s his ***master key***. He roams around seeking whom he may devour.

Luke 5: 5 – 10 (Peter saw unworthiness).

* Peter humbled himself before the ***Lord*** (Supreme God).
* Depart from me for I am a sinful man (guilt & shame). Answer – grace.
* Jesus response was – “***fear not***”. I have a new assignment for you.
* Peter’s sinful past did not disqualify him, nor will yours. It has been nailed to the cross.

The centurion saw himself as unworthy but overcame by faith. The prodigal saw himself the same way – unworthy to be called ‘son’.

John 8: 4 - 11

* The woman was simply bait. Jesus was their prize catch.
* Only sinless Jesus could have stoned her that day.
* ***Neither do I condemn you***. Go and sin no more.
* Jesus response was an expression of God’s grace and what was to come.
* The law demands, but grace supplies. In her case, redemption.
* Jesus didn’t accuse, but he did caution against further sin.

Cares and worry

***Taking thought***

Being anxious about or to worry

Matthew 6: 25 – 34

***‘Ye of little faith’***

***(trusting too little)***

The Christian life requires faith in God (trusting God at his word).

* Don’t worry about everyday life.
* Worry is not healthy. It won’t add a single moment to your life.
* ***Consider*** - learn thoroughly or note carefully.

***Proverbs 18: 21***

Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

* ***Toil*** - to work hard, to labour or to be wearied. Feel fatigue.
* Don’t take the thought ***saying.*** Words are seeds that create.
* ***Seek first*** the kingdom of God and his righteousness (his way of doing and being right) and all these things ***shall*** be added unto you.

1 Peter 5: 5 – 7 ***Cast*** your cares (to throw upon)

* With humility comes grace.
* Humility is giving your cares and worries to God and allowing him to sort things out for us.
* A prideful heart will not cast the care.
* We give it to God because ***he cares for us*** (he is interested in us).

Mark 4: 18 - 19 (cares choke the word)

The word becomes unfruitful

* ***Cares*** – anxiety (through the idea of distraction).
* ***Choke*** - to strangle completely, to drown or to crowd.
* We must keep (guard) our heart with all diligence (Proverbs 4: 23).

Philippians 4: 6 – 8

***Isaiah 26: 3***

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

* Don’t be anxious.
* Pray and give thanks.
* Worry shall be replaced with the peace of God.
* Shall ***keep*** your hearts and minds (to garrison or guard, a watchman who protects).

Religious traditions / doctrines and teachings of men

Paul was zealous of the traditions of his fathers.

***No effect***

To invalidate. Render void or deprive or force and authority.

Matthew 15: 1 – 9. (NLT)

* They make the word of God of ***no effect***.
* We are not to follow man-made ideas as commands from God.

Ephesians 4: 11 – 15

* The five-fold ministry callings are designed to protect the church.
* Don’t be tossed around with every ***wind of doctrine*** (new teaching).
* If you are not under ministry covering, you are at risk of deception.

Colossians 2: 6 - 8 (KJV & NLT)

* Don’t be ***spoiled*** [seduced] by traditions of men. Teaching builds faith.
* Spiritual principles (elements) of this world order must be rejected.
* Embracing doctrines of men always ends in compromise.

1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 5

* Our faith ***must not*** stand in the wisdom of men, but the power of God.
* The gospel of Christ is ***the power of God*** unto salvation.

**The Established Heart** (a product of trusting in the Lord)

Religion has never produced an established believer. If the light of the word is not shining in our hearts, we are walking in darkness.

Psalm 112: 1 – 8

The established heart is a ***word ruled*** heart. It is fully persuaded that what God has promised, he is able to perform.

* His seed shall be ***mighty*** (powerful) upon the earth.
* Seek first the kingdom - wealth and riches shall follow.
* The light of his glory, his presence, his word arises in the darkness.
* He shall not be ***moved*** – waver, shaken or fall.
* His heart is ***fixed***– to be firm or stable. A righteous man puts his trust in the Lord.
* His heart is ***established*** – to lean upon or take hold of. To stand fast.
* Psalm 118: 1 - 8 (our trust is in the Lord, not man).
* A righteous man who ***trusts in the Lord*** has no fear of bad news.
* Psalm 91: 1 – 3 (I will say of the Lord).

Matthew 7: 24 – 27

***Rock*** – make stable / establish

* Those who hear and do, build on a rock foundation (wise man).
* Those who hear and don’t do, build on a sand foundation (foolish man).
* Rain will descent, floods will come and winds will blow.

James 1: 5 – 8

* We must be single minded concerning the things of God. If we waver, we stagger.
* A double minded man is ***unstable*** (restless) in ***all*** his ways.
* 2 Corinthians 4: 17 – 18 (looking not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are un seen).

Romans 4: 16 – 22 (a word ruled heart)

* He didn’t consider natural (*the contradiction*), but believed God.
* ***Staggered*** not (to withdraw from, to oppose, to hesitate, contend, doubt, judge or waver).

***Strong*** means - to empower

* He was ***strong*** in faith and ***fully persuaded*** (most surely believe).

Romans 10: 13 - 17

So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

***Joshua 1: 8***

Meditate day and night and do what is says.

(James 1: 19 – 25)

Faith connects us to the grace of God. That is where the enabling power of God resides. His grace is sufficient for us in every situation.

* ***Hearing*** has the same meaning as – fame, report, rumour and ear.
* Observing signs and miracles won’t of themselves produce faith. They will produce wonder and amazement (Luke 5: 17 & 26, Acts 3: 10).
* Signs and wonders follow the preached word (Mark 16: 20).
* Trials and tribulation won’t produce faith; however, they will produce ***patient endurance*** as we stand on the promises of God.
* Faith resides in the recreated human spirit (heart) and is fed by the word of God. Jesus said, “my words are spirit and they are life” (John 6: 63).
* We have been given “*The measure of faith*” (Romans 12: 2 - 3).
* Little word, little faith. Much word, much faith.
* Are you running on empty? (no faith in the tank).

Proverbs 3: 5 – 6.

Is your trust in God alone?