



NORM SMITH'S

## GROWING UPWARD

(BASED ON HIS BOOK OF THE SAME NAME)

A TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY FOR SMALL GROUPS ON CHRISTIAN LIVING

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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## **Prayer Before Study**

Illumine our hearts, loving Master, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed Commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to you. For You Christ our God are the light of our souls and bodies and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your All-Holy, Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen

## **Prayer After Study**

Christ our God, You are the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. You have completed the divine plan of the Father. Fill our hearts with joy and gladness now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



## Why SUFFERING?

### 1.—GROWING UPWARD

Jan. 16, 2018

1. Ro. 5:1-5: Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have received access into this grace in which we now stand, and we rejoice in the hope of sharing in the glory of God. More than this, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and that hope shall not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Suffering \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

2. Heb. 12:5-11: My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by Him, for the Lord disciplines everyone whom He loves, and chastises everyone whom He receives. God is treating you as sons, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children, and not sons. More than this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of our spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time, and at their pleasure, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful, but later it yields a peaceful harvest of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Discipline yields: \_\_\_\_\_

3. 1 Peter 5:6-11: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time you may be exalted. Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares about you. Be sober, be watchful, for the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that this same experience of suffering is required of your brothers throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, shall Himself restore, establish, and strengthen you. To Him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

God shall: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Ephesians 6:10-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,<sup>[a]</sup> against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— <sup>19</sup> and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Footnotes:

Ephesians 6:12 NU-Text reads *rulers of this darkness*.





Luke 10:38-42 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>38</sup> Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. <sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' <sup>[a]</sup> feet and heard His word. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

<sup>41</sup> And Jesus <sup>[b]</sup> answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. <sup>42</sup> But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Footnotes:

Luke 10:39 NU-Text reads *the Lord's*.

Luke 10:41 NU-Text reads *the Lord*.





## 2 Chronicles 26 New King James Version (NKJV)

**26** Now all the people of Judah took Uzziah,<sup>[a]</sup> who *was* sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. <sup>2</sup> He built Elath<sup>[b]</sup> and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.

<sup>3</sup> Uzziah *was* sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. <sup>5</sup> He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions<sup>[c]</sup> of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

<sup>6</sup> Now he went out and made war against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities *around* Ashdod and among the Philistines. <sup>7</sup> God helped him against the Philistines, against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and against the Meunites. <sup>8</sup> Also the Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah. His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he became exceedingly strong.

<sup>9</sup> And Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the corner buttress of the wall; then he fortified them. <sup>10</sup> Also he built towers in the desert. He dug many wells, for he had much livestock, both in the lowlands and in the plains; *he also had* farmers and vinedressers in the mountains and in Carmel, for he loved the soil.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover Uzziah had an army of fighting men who went out to war by companies, according to the number on their roll as prepared by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer, under the hand of Hananiah, *one* of the king's captains. <sup>12</sup> The total number of chief officers<sup>[d]</sup> of the mighty men of valor *was* two thousand six hundred. <sup>13</sup> And under their authority *was* an army of three hundred and seven thousand five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. <sup>14</sup> Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings *to cast* stones. <sup>15</sup> And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong.

<sup>16</sup> But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to *his* destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn in-

cense on the altar of incense. <sup>17</sup> So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD—valiant men. <sup>18</sup> And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, “*It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the LORD God.*”

<sup>19</sup> Then Uzziah became furious; and he *had* a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. <sup>20</sup> And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he *was* leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him.

<sup>21</sup> King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son *was* over the king’s house, judging the people of the land.

<sup>22</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz wrote. <sup>23</sup> So Uzziah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which *belonged* to the kings, for they said, “He is a leper.” Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

Footnotes:

2 Chronicles 26:1 Called *Azariah* in 2 Kings 14:21

2 Chronicles 26:2 Hebrew *Eloth*

2 Chronicles 26:5 Several Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Syriac, Targum, and Arabic read *fear*.

2 Chronicles 26:12 Literally *chief fathers*

THE PRODIGAL SON



## Overcoming PRIDE

4—2 Chronicles 26

Feb. 6, 2018

1. Uzziah certainly got off to a good start. What kind of training do you think he got from his parents? (vs. 3, 4) What kind did you get?

2. How did Uzziah respond to his upbringing, and what was the result? (vs. 4, 5) How did you respond to yours?

3. List several of Uzziah's accomplishments. (vs. 2, 6-14). How would you feel with such a list of similar successes?

4. His parents, the prophet Zechariah, all the people, and God Himself greatly helped Uzziah. Why was that not enough for ultimate success?

5. What did Uzziah try to do, and what was the result? (vs. 16-20)

6. How long did it take to undo 52 years of a successful life? Can you think of anyone who has similarly lost all due to a brief time of sin?

7. Read vs. 21-23. Note especially vs. 22. Knowing we can't know "the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last," do you think he repented? Give reasons.

Deuteronomy 1:19-40 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> “So we departed from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, as the LORD our God had commanded us. Then we came to Kadesh Barnea. <sup>20</sup> And I said to you, ‘You have come to the mountains of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us. <sup>21</sup> Look, the LORD your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the LORD God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.’

<sup>22</sup> “And every one of you came near to me and said, ‘Let us send men before us, and let them search out the land for us, and bring back word to us of the way by which we should go up, and of the cities into which we shall come.’

<sup>23</sup> “The plan pleased me well; so I took twelve of your men, one man from each tribe. <sup>24</sup> And they departed and went up into the mountains, and came to the Valley of Eshcol, and spied it out. <sup>25</sup> They also took some of the fruit of the land in their hands and brought it down to us; and they brought back word to us, saying, ‘It is a good land which the LORD our God is giving us.’

<sup>26</sup> “Nevertheless you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God; <sup>27</sup> and you complained in your tents, and said, ‘Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. <sup>28</sup> Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, “The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.”’

<sup>29</sup> “Then I said to you, ‘Do not be terrified, or afraid of them. <sup>30</sup> The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, <sup>31</sup> and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place.’ <sup>32</sup> Yet, for all that, you did not believe the LORD your God, <sup>33</sup> who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day.

<sup>34</sup> “And the LORD heard the sound of your words, and was angry, and took an oath, saying, <sup>35</sup> ‘Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers, <sup>36</sup> except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked, because he wholly followed the LORD.’ <sup>37</sup> The LORD was also angry with me for your sakes, saying, ‘Even you shall not go in there. <sup>38</sup> Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

<sup>39</sup> ‘Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it. <sup>40</sup> But as for you, turn and take your journey into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.’

## Facing FEAR

5—Deut. 1:19-40

Feb. 13, 2018

1. “Deuteronomy” is a repeat story for those about to enter Canaan. Moses is reviewing acts of their parent’s generation. What had Moses told their fathers to do, and what had been their response? (vs. 19-23)
2. What report did the spies bring back? (vs. 24-25) Canaan is a type of the Christian life. How does their report relate to our promises in Christ?
3. How did the people distort and exaggerate the facts, and produce fear? (vs. 26-28) Have you ever done that? (Are you brave enough to give an example?)
4. How did Moses try to encourage the people, and with what result? (vs. 29-33)
5. What was God’s reaction to the doubts and fears of the people? (vs. 34-38) Might our doubts and fears cause such a reaction from God Himself?
6. So who gets to enter the promised land, and why? (vs. 34-40) What happens to the others? (vs. 40) But who does God especially protect? (vs. 33)
7. Look up and share one or more of these promises of how God wants to help us overcome our fears. (Ps. 27:1; Prov. 29:25; Is. 41:10; John 14:27; Hebrews 13:5,6)

Matthew 6:25-34 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

<sup>28</sup> “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; <sup>29</sup> and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

<sup>31</sup> “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Philippians 4:4-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



## Wallowing in WORRY

6—Matt. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:4-7

Feb. 20, 2018

1. Three times (vs. 25, 31, 34) Jesus says, “Therefore. . .”. His premise is that his followers should live with a different life view. Do you think most of us do?
  
2. What specific things should we not worry about? (vs. 25) How should the truly needy—homeless, refugees, etc.—respond to this teaching of Jesus?
  
3. What images does Jesus use to show God’s care? (vs. 26-30) What favorite things (or sites) in nature have reminded you of the goodness of God?
  
4. Note vs. 31, 32. How do the things you seek, work, or strive for differ from the things your neighbors (“pagans, Gentiles”) are striving for?
  
5. What should be the main goal of the Christian, and what is the promised result? (vs. 33, 24). To what degree have you found that to be true? Does Jesus promise us that things will get better if we trust him?
  
6. In Philippians, St. Paul elaborates on Jesus’ teachings. What specific steps should we take when worry floods over us, and how will God respond?
  
7. Do you have a “worry” you would like your group to pray for this next week?

Matthew 20:1-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

**20** “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup> Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. <sup>6</sup> And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, <sup>[a]</sup> and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’ <sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>8</sup> “So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ <sup>13</sup> But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup> Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. <sup>15</sup> Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’ <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.’ <sup>[c]</sup>

Footnotes:

Matthew 20:6 NU-Text omits idle.

Matthew 20:7 NU-Text omits the last clause of this verse.

Matthew 20:16 NU-Text omits the last sentence of this verse.



John 14:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

14 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father’s house are many mansions;[a] if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.[b] <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And where I go you know, and the way you know.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Footnotes:

John 14:2 Literally *dwelling*s

John 14:2 NU-Text adds a word which would cause the text to read either *if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?* or *if it were not so I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.*

Luke 24:36-49 New King James Version (NKJV)

a <sup>36</sup> Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” <sup>37</sup> But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

<sup>40</sup> When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>41</sup> But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” <sup>42</sup> So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.<sup>[b]</sup><sup>43</sup> And He took *it* and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise<sup>[c]</sup> from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> And you are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem<sup>[d]</sup> until you are endued with power from on high.”

Footnotes:

Luke 24:40 Some printed New Testaments omit this verse. It is found in nearly all Greek manuscripts.

Luke 24:42 NU-Text omits *and some honeycomb*.

Luke 24:46 NU-Text reads *written, that the Christ should suffer and rise*.

Luke 24:49 NU-Text omits *of Jerusalem*.

## Dealing with DOUBT

8 —Jn. 14:1-6, Lk. 24:36-49

March 6, 2018

**1. Have you had serious doubts about your Christian faith? What is the strongest evidence for you to believe in Christ, or the Bible, or Christianity?**

**2. Read John. 14:1-5 - What is the reason Jesus gives for what he is saying? (vs. 1)**

**3. What few things do we learn about heaven from vs. 2, 3?**

**4. Thomas seems doubtful (vs. 4-6), and Jesus' answer seems a bit strange. How do you think Jesus' statements (vs. 4 ad 6) reassure Thomas of his future life?**

**5. Luke 24:36-40. At this meeting after his resurrection, what was Jesus' greeting and what was the disciples' response? What did he do to reassure them?**

**6. Explain the disciples condition in vs. 41-43. Do you think his actions here assuaged their doubts? Why or why not?**

**7. Vs. 44-49. What sources did Jesus use to show he was the promised messiah? What "help" did he give them? Has he ever done that for you at our study?**

Psalm 102:1-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

**102** Hear my prayer, O LORD,  
And let my cry come to You.  
<sup>2</sup> Do not hide Your face from me in  
the day of my trouble;  
Incline Your ear to me;  
In the day that I call, answer me  
speedily.  
<sup>3</sup> For my days are consumed like smoke,  
And my bones are burned like a  
hearth.  
<sup>4</sup> My heart is stricken and withered  
like grass,  
So that I forget to eat my bread.  
<sup>5</sup> Because of the sound of my groan-  
ing  
My bones cling to my skin.  
<sup>6</sup> I am like a pelican of the wilderness;  
I am like an owl of the desert.  
<sup>7</sup> I lie awake,  
And am like a sparrow alone on the  
housetop.  
<sup>8</sup> My enemies reproach me all day long;  
Those who deride me swear an oath  
against me.  
<sup>9</sup> For I have eaten ashes like bread,  
And mingled my drink with weeping,  
<sup>10</sup> Because of Your indignation and  
Your wrath;  
For You have lifted me up and cast  
me away.  
<sup>11</sup> My days *are* like a shadow that  
lengthens,  
And I wither away like grass.

Psalm 121 New King James Version (NKJV)

**121** I will lift up my eyes to the hills—  
From whence comes my help?  
<sup>2</sup> My help *comes* from the LORD,  
Who made heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup> He will not allow your foot to be  
moved;  
He who keeps you will not slumber.  
<sup>4</sup> Behold, He who keeps Israel  
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
<sup>5</sup> The LORD *is* your keeper;  
The LORD *is* your shade at your right  
hand.  
<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
Nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD shall preserve you from all  
evil;  
He shall preserve your soul.  
<sup>8</sup> The LORD shall preserve your going  
out and your coming in  
From this time forth, and even forev-  
ermore.



Ephesians 4:25-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*”<sup>[a]</sup> for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> “Be angry, and do not sin”:<sup>[b]</sup> do not let the sun go down on your wrath, <sup>27</sup> nor give place to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Footnotes:

Ephesians 4:25 Zechariah 8:16

Ephesians 4:26 Psalm 4:4

John 2:13-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. <sup>15</sup> When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. <sup>16</sup> And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” <sup>17</sup> Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten<sup>[a]</sup> Me up.”<sup>[b]</sup>

Footnotes:

John 2:17 NU-Text and M-Text read *will eat*.

John 2:17 Psalm 69:9



1 Kings 2:1-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

**2** Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: <sup>2</sup>“I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. <sup>3</sup> And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; <sup>4</sup> that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,’ He said, ‘you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’

<sup>5</sup>“Moreover you know also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, *and* what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed. And he shed the blood of war in peacetime, and put the blood of war on his belt that *was* around his waist, and on his sandals that *were* on his feet. <sup>6</sup> Therefore do according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.

<sup>7</sup>“But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for so they came to me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

<sup>8</sup>“And see, *you have* with you Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a malicious curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, ‘I will not put you to death with the sword.’ <sup>9</sup> Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you *are* a wise man and know what you ought to do to him; but bring his gray hair down to the grave with blood.”

<sup>10</sup> So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.

1 Corinthians 13 New King James Version (NKJV)

**13** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned,<sup>[a]</sup> but have not love, it profits me nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part. <sup>10</sup> But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

<sup>13</sup> And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

Footnotes:

1 Corinthians 13:3 NU-Text reads *so I may boast*.

## Rejecting RESENTMENT

11—1 Kings 2:1-10; 1 Cor. 13

March 27, 2018

1. In 1 Kings. 2:1-4, how does David tell his son Solomon to live, and what will be the result?
2. How was Solomon to treat Joab, and why? (vs. 5-6)
3. Was David holding on to resentment, or was his directive justified under the Old Testament law of an eye for and eye?
4. Read 1 Cor. 13. Note vs. 1-3. Do you think it is possible for a Christian to have the gifts and abilities Paul mentions and still be a resentful person?
5. What are some things a resentful Christian must give up if he/she is to follow the law of love? (vs. 4-7)
6. What limitations do we now face, and how does that lead to love being the cure for resentment (and other stumbling blocks)? (vs. 8-13)
7. Can you give an example of resentment that has emotionally crippled someone, or someone who overcame resentment and grew into health and wholeness?

