



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY[®]

*Program
Study Guides*

For

December 2019

Trust God
Psalm 37:3-7

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

In a world filled with _____, it's comforting to know there is Someone we can trust. My friend, you can trust God. God's way is always the _____ way to live.

A college girl once talked with her _____ and said, "I have never trusted anyone in my life. How can I trust the Lord Jesus Christ with my _____?" It was spring, and the girl was going home for a break. The preacher asked her how she was traveling. She said, "I am going to _____." "Do you have a ticket?" he asked. "No," she said, "I have to find out what time I can get a plane." "How are you going to do that?" he inquired. She said, "I'm calling the airline to find out the time and reserve a seat on that plane. Then my friend will take me to the airport and I'll board the plane." He said, "Do you know the reservation _____ at the airline?" "No, I don't." "And your friend is going to take you to the airport, trusting the information of this unknown clerk?" "Yes." "Do you know the _____ of the plane?" "No, I don't." "Then you're going to trust your friend to drive you to the airport. You're going to trust some unknown clerk at the airline office to reserve your seat on that flight. Then you're going to take your seat in an airliner flown by a pilot that you don't know, trusting him to get you home. My dear, that's a lot of trust." When you put your life, your soul, and your problems in the hand of the Lord, you put them into the hand of someone who knows and loves you very much. You can trust the Lord, who died and rose again on your behalf.

Our reading today comes from Psalm 37:3-7. David tells of his faith in God and how he could wait patiently and trust in Him.

To trust means to _____ on the integrity, power, or ability of someone or something to do what He or it promises. We buy products with a guarantee or a warranty so we may have the assurance the product will do what we need or desire. We place our trust in people, believing that person has the ability and the integrity to _____ his word.

God expects His people to trust Him. The Lord told Noah to build an ark, but Noah had never seen _____. Noah _____ God and saved his family. God called Abraham "to go out to a _____ that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing _____ he was going" (Hebrews 11:8). Abraham trusted God, and God trusted Abraham. God asked Joshua and the Israelites to _____ around the city of Jericho for seven days. If they followed His instructions, God said He would cause the walls to fall down flat. Hebrews 11:30 says, "By faith the walls of Jericho _____ down after they had been encircled for seven days."

Trusting God involves at least four things. First, it involves _____ upon the Almighty. We must _____ on God to do the things that we cannot do for ourselves. We're

simply human beings, wholly dependent upon God for life and for our very being. Without God, we could do _____. James 1:17 says, “Every good thing given and every perfect _____ is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” God promises to _____ the prayers of His children. The Lord Jesus said, “Therefore I say to you, all things for which you _____ and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you” (Mark 11:24). Our Father answers prayer and He _____ for His children. Some want to be completely self-reliant, never needing anyone; but we all need _____ at some point in our lives.

Second, trusting God involves _____. Some things we know and some things we don’t know; some things we can do and some we can’t. Now and then, we must put ourselves into God’s _____. The apostle Paul _____ many things, including imprisonment. Shortly before his death, he wrote, “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is _____ to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day” (2 Timothy 1:12). Paul placed his soul into the hands of God. People may be able to take your life, but they cannot take your _____. When you become a Christian, you belong to the Lord, body, soul, and spirit. Do you trust God with your soul?

Third, trusting God involves _____. Serving God means finding the courage to do what is _____, even when no one else will. The Bible tells of David’s courage when Goliath challenged the army of Israel. **Read what David said to the Philistine in 1 Samuel 17:45-47.** By _____, David defeated Goliath that day.

Fourth, trusting God involves _____. Biblical faith is never just an intellectual matter; faith always _____. Trust demonstrates itself. It overcomes the _____ by relying on God. Trust walks forward with hope and confidence that God is ever present, ever watching, and ever helping. David wrote, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we _____ in the name of the LORD our God” (Psalm 20:7). When life presses against us, we hold fast to God. When the world mistreats us, we _____ upon God for help.

You might ask _____ should we trust God? That’s an important question and it deserves our time. First, we can trust God because we know His _____. God always keeps His promises! As an old man and battling the Canaanites for many years, Joshua could proclaim, “Not one of the good _____ which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass” (Joshua 21:45). God keeps His promises because God does not _____. Titus 1:2 speaks of “God, who cannot lie.” The Bible repeatedly says God is faithful! Paul reassured the church at Thessalonica, “But the Lord is _____, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one” (2 Thessalonians 3:3). We can take heart because God never abandons His people. Psalm 9:10 says, “Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have _____ forsaken those who seek you.” God’s character alone makes Him utterly trustworthy.

Second, we can trust God because He is _____. God sees and knows things that we cannot see and know. When something happens that we don’t understand, we mustn’t give up.

God isn't _____ in His understanding like we are. Psalm 147:5 says, "Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite." God sees and knows the _____! God Himself reminds us, "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the _____ from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'" (Isaiah 46:9-10). What seems a mystery to us is often _____ to God. We must trust that He will do what is right and good.

Third, we can trust God, because we know that He is _____. God can do things we cannot do. The Lord Jesus said, "all things are _____ with God" (Mark 10:27). Paul told the church at Philippi, "And my God will _____ all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). We trust God because He has shown us time and again what He is _____ to do for us.

Fourth, we can trust God because we are assured by His _____. God will always do what is _____ for us because He loves us. He may not do what we want when we want it; but He will do what is best for us in the long run. God will be with us _____ every storm, every drought, every hurt, every struggle, every trial, and every problem. **Read what Paul said to the Roman Christians in a time of persecution in Romans 8:37-39.** Yes, we can rejoice in the love of God!

When you trust God, there are some things trust will do for you and _____ you. First, trusting God will help you realize that the whole _____ is not on your shoulders. God has been running this world a long time. He will continue to uphold all things by His _____. In a time of great stress, Peter urged Christians to cast "all your anxiety upon Him, because He _____ for you" (1 Peter 5:7). The psalmist David, writing by inspiration, said, "Cast your burden upon the LORD, and He will _____ you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken" (Psalm 55:22).

Second, trusting God will help us understand that God will see us through today's _____. Psalm 37:5-6 says, "Commit your _____ to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday." Christians trust God to make things right, to _____ what is broken, and to give them strength when they're _____. We may not be able to see how things will work out, but God can make it happen. The Bible teaches, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not _____ on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be _____ in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil" (Proverbs 3:5-7). God will help us when we trust Him enough to do what He _____.

Third, trusting God will help us realize that when physical life is harsh we can still say it is well with my _____. Psalm 125:1 teaches, "Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever." We may lose many things, but we're _____ if our souls are in God's hands. In 1874, the French steamer, *Ville de Havre*, on a

return trip from America, collided with a large sailing vessel and _____ in half an hour. Mrs. H. G. Spafford and her four children were aboard that steamer. All four children were drowned, and only Mrs. Spafford _____. She sent a two word message to her husband in Chicago, "Saved Alone." For over a year, the grieving couple agonized over the accident. Two years later, Mr. Spafford wrote a song in commemoration of the death of his children. He wrote, "When _____ like a river attendeth my way, When _____ like sea billows roll—Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, 'It is well, it is _____ with my soul.'"

Why am I talking about these matters? When I preach at a church, I take notice that the pews have people whose hearts are aching, whose lives are difficult, and who need the _____ and the reassurance of our loving and Almighty God. From the letters that I receive, I realize many of you are facing heartaches, physical problems, family struggles, and crushing financial burdens. The prophet Isaiah said this about God, "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he _____ in You" (Isaiah 26:3). How badly we all need perfect peace, the comfort and assurance that the Lord is with us! We all _____ for God to hear us and to help us through the struggles that we face, and He will help us!

Read what David wrote in Psalm 40:1-4.

Every time we see how God has helped a brother or sister, it ought to reassure our _____ that God will help us, too. My friend, trust, trust, trust in God because He is our hope!

The Lord Jesus said, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you _____. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your _____. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). The Lord's way is not impossible. He gives us a bearable yoke and a light burden. He wants to _____ us live righteous and productive lives.

When you trust in God, your life will begin to _____. You'll be able to say as Nahum did, "The LORD is _____, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him" (Nahum 1:7). God wants a close relationship with you, a relationship built on trust and love. God will _____ and care for you if you will trust in Him. The Bible says, "And without faith it is impossible to _____ Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Become a Christian by putting your _____ in Christ. Let Him know that He is your Lord. Trusting Jesus means following His _____. Trust will lead you to abandon what the Lord calls _____ and to follow after righteousness. With your trusting faith and loving repentance, _____ Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you're baptized, the Lord washes away your sins (Acts 22:16); He makes you His child (Galatians 3:26-27); and He adds you to His church. Once you become a Christian, continue to live with faith and trust in God. Don't ever give up on God!

Sacred and Profane Isaiah 6:1-7

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The word “holy” seems to have vanished from the _____ of many. Today, we’re going to _____ the holiness of God. God is God, and we are His creatures. The Lord _____ us; and He now gives us life and sustains us. We owe our very existence to the One who is wiser than we are, the One who is more powerful than we are, and the One who loved us enough to send His Son to die for our _____. The Lord, on the last day, will hold us accountable for our thoughts, our words, and our actions. For all these reasons, we must set Him apart as _____ in our hearts and lives. We should _____ Him in every way.

What does the word “holy” mean, and why should it matter? To be holy means to be set _____ and devoted to the Lord in holiness and purity. The Lord God Himself said to Israel, “Thus you are to be _____ to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine” (Leviticus 20:26). God is Holy, and He wants His people to live holy lives that show that they _____ to Him. Sadly, many claim to belong to God, but live unholy lives.

The New Testament uses the word “holy” more than _____ times. It speaks of the Holy Spirit, Jesus as the Holy One of God, the Holy or sacred Scriptures, holy angels, holy ground, the holy place, holy prophets, and even Christians as a holy nation in 1 Peter 2:9. To be made holy means we are set apart and devoted to God. If you’re a Christian, isn’t it important to you to be holy and to be righteous?

Our reading today comes from the prophet Isaiah 6:1-7.

Isaiah understood, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is _____ of His glory.” I wonder as we stand before Him, if we too _____ ourselves as God sees us. Isaiah, the prophet, saw himself as one with unclean lips and needing the _____ and forgiveness of God. He saw the holiness and purity of God and came to realize that _____ had ruined him. Isaiah knew the difference between being holy and being in sin.

For several years, I’ve watched with sadness a serious _____ in our respect for that which is sacred. The foundation of _____ for God, for morality, for life, for family, and for truth has disappeared from the hearts of many. We no longer realize some things are bigger and more important than ourselves; we’ve begun to _____ that we don’t have to give an account to God on the last day. This loss of the sense of the sacred has even infected the church.

Some Christians speak and sing of the awesome _____ of God but fail to distinguish the sacred from the profane. To many, words like “sacred” and “profane” seem distant and belong to another age; but the Lord God has always distinguished that which is holy from that which is _____. One of the Ten Commandments reads, “You shall not take the name of the LORD

your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain” (Exodus 20:7). God is Holy, and His _____ is holy. To take His name in vain means that one has failed to take the name of the Lord seriously but to treat it as a _____ thing. When people treat the name of God as something trivial, and swear falsely by it, or defile the character and holiness of God they, have _____ against Him.

The Lord God takes it personally when people _____ His name. Leviticus 19:2 says, “You shall not _____ falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.” In ancient times, people would make a vow to the Lord hastily and fail to _____ their vows. **Read what Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 5:4-7.**

When we approach God to _____ Him, we should approach Him with reverence and awe. Worship is not entertainment or trivial. Sometimes I hear people say, “I didn’t get _____ out of worship.” Worship is not about us; worship is about the _____ of God. Worship is an _____ of love, praise, respect, adoration, and thanksgiving. When people sincerely worship in spirit and in truth, they glorify God. When they glorify the God they love, they are themselves _____ by the experience of coming close to God.

When Nadab and Abihu failed to worship God appropriately, but offered up strange fire which the Lord had not commanded, “fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they _____ before the LORD” (Leviticus 10:1-2). God is Holy, and He wants His people to worship Him in the way He _____. When people offer up strange worship, worship He did not command, He is offended.

Moses explained to Aaron about Nadab and Abihu, Aaron was, of course, the high priest and the father of these two men; Moses said, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are _____ me I will be sanctified, (that is, made holy) and before all the people I will be glorified’” (Leviticus 10:3). Worship is a sacred act, because God is sacred. We can’t presume that we can _____ any old thing to God and He’ll be pleased. Hebrews 12:28-29 says, “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a _____ that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” We must worship in spirit and in truth; we must distinguish the holy from the profane.

When we worship our Holy God, we must _____ the One we worship. To call what we do “worship” but _____ on ourselves and what we want must surely appear to God as empty and vain. When the priests in the days of Malachi offered up polluted and blemished offerings at the _____, the Lord felt despised and profaned (Malachi 1:8-14). They were entreating the favor of the Lord but not honoring him as a “great King.” God demands that His name be “feared among the nations” and that His people offer a “_____ offering.”

When churches ignore Scripture and offer what they _____ rather than a “pure offering,” they too despise the Lord and fail to honor His name. They blemish the worship when they _____ unauthorized musical instruments or have women preachers, things never instructed in the New Testament for the church. When people at church imitate performers on a stage, they take

the focus off of God and put it on the performer. When churches today ignore God and profane His name by presuming to worship as they please, they fail to see God's attitude: "I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand" (Malachi 1:10).

The Scriptures also describe what being holy as God's children means in our _____ lives. We must set ourselves apart from the _____ of the world. **Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.**

People tend to do what they want rather than what they _____ to do. They follow their passions rather than their consciences. **Read the reminder in 1 John 2:15-17.** In spite of what we hear daily from the _____, God does have some moral absolutes. This world is _____ away with its lusts. When our lust causes us to love the world, we do not love the Father as we should. God is not pleased.

God wants _____ commitment from us. He wants us to _____ Him with all our heart and soul. Paul urged the church in Rome, where so much idolatry and immorality existed, to _____ themselves completely, body, soul and spirit, to the Lord. He said, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your _____ a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may _____ what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:1-2). When I give my body as a sacrifice to God, I can no longer _____ for its lusts and desires.

Living an unholy life is not an _____ for the Christian who wants to please God and live in His grace. Hebrews 12:14-16 says, "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will _____ the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes _____, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal." We too can _____ the grace and blessing of God if we pursue sinful things and forget God.

Yes, a Christian can lose his salvation if he _____ to a sinful life. Second Peter 2:20-21 says, "For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them (those defilements) and are overcome, the last state has become _____ for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to _____ from the holy commandment handed on to them." Right and wrong matters! When people leave God's teaching and are overcome by _____, they end up worse than before they became a Christian.

Giving in to sin can confuse and mislead us. Sin can cause us to think _____ of God and then to begin justifying our sins. People can convince themselves that sin is good and living to _____ God is unnecessary. Justifying sin can _____ us to lose sight of anything godly or holy. We can lose sight of a pure and righteous God who _____ us to be pure and righteous. We can fix our desires on our pleasures rather than on eternity. We can _____ that one day we'll give an account for how we've lived.

Romans 2:6-11 says God “will render to each person according to his _____: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does _____, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does _____, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.”

Until we realize our Holy God doesn't compromise His righteousness, we won't understand what it truly means that God is Holy. Habakkuk 1:13 says God's “eyes are too _____ to approve evil”; and He “cannot look on wickedness with _____.” Psalm 5:4 says we do not have “a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with” Him. How could we say God is just and righteous, if He does not condemn and punish _____?

In Psalm 50:16-21, God says to the wicked, “What right have you to tell of My statutes And to take My covenant in your mouth? For you _____ discipline, And you cast My words behind you. When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, And you associate with adulterers. You let your mouth loose in evil And your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just _____ you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes.” One day God will hold _____ of us accountable for our attitudes, our words, and our deeds. We will have no _____ about the holiness of God on that day. Wouldn't it be better to take God seriously? Wouldn't it be better to respect and obey Him?

Second Corinthians 6:17-7:1 says, “‘Therefore, come out from their midst and be _____,’ says the Lord. ‘and do not touch what is _____; And I will welcome you. And I will be a Father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,’ says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these _____, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the _____ of God.” If you love the Lord, _____ Him with all your heart and soul. Please Him in every way because you have given yourself to Him.

You ask, “How do we become children of God?” Any approach to God must include _____. “And without faith it is impossible to _____ Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). Any approach to God must also include _____, the denying of ourselves through putting away the old sinful ways and taking up our crosses to follow the Lord by pursuing righteousness and holiness.

Galatians 3:26-27 says, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were _____ into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Baptism puts us into Christ and clothes us with Christ. You aren't a child of God, and have not acted in faith until you have clothed yourself with Christ in baptism. When Paul speaks of a Christian who has faith, he never doubts this person has been baptized. Jesus said that one must be _____ of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of heaven in John 3:3-7. Have you believed? Have

you repented? Have you been baptized?

The Devil's Schemes Genesis 3:1-7

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

You have an _____ who wants to ruin your life and cause you eternal harm. Today, we're exploring some of the devil's schemes. The Scriptures not only _____ us what is good and right, they also _____ us about the spiritual dangers of sin and the efforts of the tempter to lead us to sin. The wages of sin is still death, and we must learn how our enemy, the devil, works to _____ us into error and to immoral behavior. If we _____ to the devil, we can be led astray and fall into sin.

First Peter 5:8-9 says, "Be of sober spirit, be on the _____. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring _____, seeking someone to devour." Satan is cunning, deceptive, and he's your adversary. He "masquerades as an _____ of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). We must consider how the devil works. Satan loves to create _____ in God and in His Word; he will go so far as to contradict God. To those who _____ to his schemes, he provides an alternative that he says is _____.! But, what Satan offers is cruel, sinful, and destructive. He is not your _____!

Satan wants you to _____ the world. First John 2:15-17 says, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the _____ is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is _____ away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives _____." His schemes to lead you astray and take your _____ are many.

Our reading today comes from Genesis 3:1-7. We learn how _____ came into the world.

In dealing with Adam and Eve, Satan was deceptive, seductive, and selfish. The devil plants doubt in the place of _____. When it comes to truth, Satan asks "Indeed has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" He does everything he can to _____ doubt in God's Word. When _____ speaks, the devil says, "maybe" and "perhaps." He says everything is relative. Satan wants everything anybody wants. But when God tells us the _____, Satan says, "Oh, we can't know that!" The devil says there are _____ absolute truths, and people can fall for it. Sometimes we need to _____, "Can you be absolutely sure there are no absolutes?" If you're absolutely sure, then there are absolutes! Satan loves to create doubt because he doesn't want us to take God seriously. He arrogantly _____ in judgment of God and of God's Word.

Second, the devil will tell bold _____. The Lord Jesus told some Jews who refused to believe in Him, "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the _____ of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is _____ truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). When the devil told Eve, "You will surely not die," he was lying, contradicting what God said in order to take life from Adam and Eve.

The devil loves to make false _____. He told Eve that when she ate of the fruit she would become _____ God, knowing good and evil. Instead, her sin against God caused her to

_____ access to the Garden of Eden and to the tree of life. She knew good and evil, but that didn't make her like God, for God is _____. The devil will tell you that all kinds of sinful practices are good for you and pleasing; but they in time will _____ you and your loved ones.

Third, the devil is an accuser and a slanderer. He hates the _____ and punishes those who disagree with him. Satan has spent his whole life as an "adversary" of God and of good. He attempts to _____ God by slandering and accusing with evil intent any good thing. The story of Job has Satan accusing God of unfairly _____ Job. Satan said, "you take the hedge away, let him _____, and he will deny you!" Satan's accusations against God and Job were _____. In Isaiah 5:20-23, we learn that Satan's business is to turn our _____ systems upside down. He wishes to make evil look good and good look evil. In Revelation 12:9-10, Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Satan's way is to accuse and slander every good thing.

The devil makes an enemy of anyone who _____ to criticize any sin. He calls people who _____ out against sin "hate mongers" with phobias. He supports those who _____ there is no such thing as sin. He makes _____ of and puts down everything Christian and moral. Being Christian isn't "cool." He labels Christians as "Pharisaical" and "hypocritical." He concentrates on all the things "wrong" with the _____ and never sees any good.

Fourth, the devil loves to _____ the issue; He tries to make the _____, centuries of tradition, and common sense, as irrelevant. He tells people they cannot _____ in God or His Word. He says we don't know whether the _____ is a person; we don't know whether we're males or females; and we don't know what _____ is. He tells people what they, as an individual, think or feel is _____ important than anything else. He's propagated confusion about many things. He'll tell you, "There is no God"; or "We cannot know God"; or "God does not care about you." He wants us to think the Bible is not trustworthy, that it's just a bunch of historical myths. He says the _____ is only interested in what it can get out of you; all Christians are hypocrites in his mind. He says, "There is no hell"; "everyone will be saved eventually"; or "there is a purgatory."

He will suggest to you, "You can sin, and God really won't _____ you." When people are tempted to sin, he whispers, "Just a _____ won't hurt," or "No one will know." Satan says, "Man isn't responsible for his sins—he was _____ a sinner and sinful." He argues, "Man was not _____, but evolved from lower forms of life." He loves to tell lies that _____ us. If we believe the devil, we will _____ know the truth. The devil and his followers will look _____ on you if you don't approve of everything they think or do. Our society will think _____ beliefs are equally valid and they try to force Christians to be silent about their moral and religious convictions. The world will _____ you for believing in Jesus. The devil labels Christians as "mean-spirited" and "judgmental," though they speak the truth with kind motives.

Fifth, the devil wants you to _____ the Word of God; he doesn't want you to believe. Romans 10:17 says, "faith comes by hearing" and hearing by the Word of God. Faith is essential to our _____; and because Satan doesn't want us to know the truth he tries to keep us from reading and studying the Bible. He knows that abiding in the Word of God teaches us the truth, and "the truth will make you _____" (John 8:32). He wants us to be ignorant of the very thing that will _____ us on the last day, that is, the Words of Jesus (John 12:48).

Sixth, Satan likes to _____ alternatives. He offers counterfeit religion and counterfeit churches that _____ from the New Testament. He says, "one _____ is as good as another"; and "it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you _____ Jesus." He offers

entertainment in place of _____. He tells man that he can make up his own religions, write his own creeds, and have his own morals, and do his own thing. But when men trust themselves, they _____ being God's people. Satan loves to re-label important doctrinal matters as "non-issues." He loves to confuse doctrine with opinion, making human opinions and traditions more important than the _____ teaching of God's Word.

Seventh, Satan _____ relationships. Satan wants you to _____ everyone else for your troubles. He plants _____ in your heart and encourages selfishness. He promotes jealousy and envy. He tells you to _____ kindness and compassion. He encourages gossip and slander of those who you _____. He whispers, "get even" and "take revenge!" He starts fusses as often as he can. God tells us what _____ of people we should be. He says, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be _____ from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

Satan loves to cause _____ among brethren! Galatians 5:13-21 speaks of the works of the _____ by which Satan works. Satan will do all he can to cause _____ between brethren in the church. Some works of the flesh include "enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, and envyings." All are problems of the _____, fostered by the lies and the prompting of Satan, the tempter.

Satan plants _____ thoughts in our hearts to tempt us. Evil _____ friendships, families, and even churches. Satan put it in Judas' heart to betray Jesus in John 13:2. What is he putting into your heart and mind? James 3:14-16 says, "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing."

Eighth, Satan wants you to be insensitive to _____. He tries to _____ the way that we look at sin by ignoring or excusing it. If he can re-label sin as _____, then he might persuade you to do evil. Sin does untold harm. Paul described a sinful _____, "So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no _____ just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their _____, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their _____; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the _____ of every kind of impurity with greediness" (Ephesians 4:17-19) Oh, this is tragic; it's destructive!

People who know little about the Bible can still _____ Matthew 7:1, "Judge ye not, that you be not judged." Denying the _____ doesn't help. The Lord Jesus also said, "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with _____ judgment" (John 7:24). There is a _____ to make judgments, and everyone does judge, even people who are against it. Some think it's right to judge someone for judging but _____ realize that they're doing the very thing that they condemn. They give themselves the privilege of judging, but deny that privilege to others.

Some say Jesus never called anyone a _____, but Jesus did call people sinners. In Matthew 23, Jesus scorches the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees, calling them sons of _____. In the book of Revelation, Jesus _____ some churches for tolerating doctrinal and moral sin. He demanded their repentance. Jesus loved sinners, but He tells them to "go and sin no more" (John 5:14). Jesus didn't _____ their sins, but forgave them and pointed them to a better way.

Jesus never excused sin; He never covered it up. He never lied about where sinful behavior came from or allowed people to _____ responsibility for it. He loved the sinner, but He condemned the sin and called people to _____. He didn't leave people where He found them. He hated sin so much that He was willing to _____ to remove the consequences of it from the people He loved.

Which is better: an immoral person with high self-esteem who deceives himself that sin doesn't matter and then he ends up _____; or a person who, realizing his sin is wrong, repents, obeys the Lord, and _____ eternal life? Jesus lovingly confronts sin and _____ the sinner overcome it. Satan, on the other hand, tempts us to sin, enjoys the sin, and he persecutes the brethren for exposing sin to the light.

Satan uses _____ to get you to laugh at sin; he makes it appear "fun" and "harmless." He develops movies and television shows that make _____ of the righteous and make heroes out of sinners. He uses humor to stimulate the _____ in people. Titus 1:15-16 says, "To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their _____ they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed." The devil has no conscience! He hides how sin has caused broken lives and destroyed homes to only show you the _____ of sin. He makes sinful behavior "fashionable" and "acceptable." He whispers to you how good you'd feel, how free you'd be, how good you'll look in front of your friends whenever you sin. He makes you think all this fun will last _____. Of course, he's lying to you. He would take away your _____ to be different from the world, to do what's right. He'll "stretch the truth" about sin, saying, "everybody's doing it." He'll say, "times have changed; people don't judge you for what you're doing any longer." He'll give you every _____ possible to keep you deceived. He doesn't want you to know that your sins will cost you your _____.

We must _____ the devil and _____ with Christ. Ephesians 6:10-13 says, "Finally, be _____ in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the _____ armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our _____ is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full _____ of God, so that you will be able to _____ in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand _____." Christ will strengthen us so that we can stand firm.

First Peter 5:8 says, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." The way to _____ against the devil is to draw _____ to God. James 4:7-8 says, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

We first draw close to God by believing in Jesus Christ and in His Word! Without faith we can't _____ God (Hebrews 11:6). We must turn from sin and turn to the ways of the Lord. The Lord said in Luke 13:3, "unless you _____, you will all likewise perish." Jesus died to forgive our sins; how can we _____ in sin? We can't! With love, we must _____ Jesus Christ as God's Son and be _____ into Christ. Baptism into Christ is an immersion in water for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). Won't you be baptized today?

God's Gift of Love 1 John 4:7-11

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

When God sent His Son Jesus into the world, He was sending His very _____ filled with love. Today, we're going to remember that gift of love. We seek to _____ the Lord and to follow Him. When we follow the Lord, we know we'll find a joyous, abundant life filled with peace and _____. God's ways are always righteous and kind. They _____ up rather than _____ down. They give _____ rather than discouragement. They lead to wisdom rather than foolishness. The more you know about God, the more you'll love Him and you'll praise Him.

God is love. Everything about Him _____ His love. The Lord Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he _____ his only Son (only begotten Son), that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting _____. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be _____ through him" (John 3:16-17). Jesus didn't come to this world to condemn us, but to save us. He knew sin was our real _____, and He suffered on the cross so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

An angel of the Lord told Joseph, "'Joseph, son of David, do not _____ to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will _____ his people from their sins.'" Now, all this took place to _____ what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:20-23). Jesus is indeed God with us, and we're so thankful that He came into the world.

Our Scripture reading today comes from 1 John 4:7-11.

Yes, this is God's encouragement for us to love one another, even as He has loved us. Many people think of the _____ Jesus when they think of God's gift of love. God gave us Jesus to be one of us. He was _____ us physically and endured all the challenges of growing up in this world. Because He became one of us, He understands all our strengths and weaknesses. John said that Jesus didn't "need anyone to bear witness about man, for he himself _____ what was in man" (John 2:25). Though Jesus was the Son of God, He became _____ and dwelled among us. The Hebrew writer observed, "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been _____ as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw _____ to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:14-16). Because He understands us and was tempted like we are, He can _____ us in our greatest times of need.

God knew that we needed Him! No one else would do. The Lord Jesus said, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever _____ in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). There are many prophets in the Old Testament, but only _____ Son of God. Moses gave us the Law, but Jesus gave us grace and _____. The prophets warned people, but Jesus sacrificed Himself for people. Angels could tell us God’s message, but Jesus Himself was God’s message, the _____. No one else could do what Jesus did for us. Revelation 5:12 reminds us that because Jesus was _____ as a Lamb for our sins, He is worthy “to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

The Lord Jesus gave three reasons why He came into the world. First, He came to _____ us from our sins. He said, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the _____” (Luke 19:10). Jesus came _____ for the lost so that He might save them from sin. Because of sin, we were all lost at one time, and we all needed a Savior. So many of the heartaches in this life come from _____ behavior. As we’ve seen, when people reject God they fill their lives with every kind of _____. Jesus wanted to bring salvation to your life and mine so that we could have _____ and true life. Jesus isn’t trying to manipulate us but to _____ us. The Lord Jesus said, “the Son of Man came not to be served but to _____, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Sin separates us from God and enslaves us to evil; Jesus redeemed us with the _____ of His blood. He redeemed us by giving Himself, His very own body and blood. There could be no higher price, no greater gift.

Jesus not only died for us as individuals, He also wanted to _____ us from this sinful world. Paul greeted the churches of Galatia, saying, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to _____ us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen” (Galatians 1:3-5).

One can truly describe the _____ into which Jesus was born as “evil.” The predominant religion of the day was a _____ of superstition with paganism. Because it was a world with a warped understanding of _____, people lived with warped values and warped morals. **Read Romans 1:28-32.** Our world is much like the world of the first century; each day it seems to _____ more and more evil. More and more people participate in that evil with the approval of others. How tragic that people think a sinful world is _____ than a world where God is honored and served!

Second, Jesus said He came to bless our lives with a _____ way, an abundant way of life. The Lord Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have _____ and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). In Christ, our lives _____ with His love. Titus 2:14 says Jesus “gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to _____ for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” Jesus not only saves, He _____ people. He transforms them from sinners to _____. His love,

and His truth, and His life show us a better way to live and a better way to _____ our fellow man. The Lord taught us kindness, respect, integrity, honesty, and justice. He's the Prince of _____, the hope of mankind, and the balm of Gilead.

Ephesians 2:8-10 says, "For by _____ you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the _____ of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, _____ in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." When people live in sin, they spread misery and heartache everywhere; but when they _____ the Lord, they become a blessing to everyone. They encourage, give hope, show love, bring peace, and spread joy and good news. Christians do not speak out against sin because of _____ but because they know the agony and hurt that sin brings. The Lord _____ something better. He was indeed God's gift of love. What God gave to us was not things, but a Person.

Third, Jesus said He came to bear witness to the _____. John 1:14 says of Jesus, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." Jesus proclaimed in John 14:6, "I am the _____, and the _____, and the _____. No one comes to the Father except through me." Jesus was the very embodiment of truth and honesty. Because of Jesus, we know what God is like. Because of Jesus, we know what righteousness truly is; and because of Jesus, we have the ability to distinguish truth from error.

When Jesus appeared before Pilate, Pilate wanted to know if the _____ he had heard were true. John 18:37 reads, "Then Pilate said to him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was _____ and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth _____ to my voice.'" Jesus and the truth that God reveals are inseparably _____ with each other. If we wish to know the truth, we must listen to His _____.

Our world is _____ with contradictory lies, myths, and false hopes. Jesus came to give us an undeniable and unvarying _____ to the truth. How wonderful to have an unchanging moral and spiritual _____ that provides a basis for our values. Since God has raised Jesus from the dead, we can have confidence that the Lord's teaching is _____. You can trust His promises, and you can believe heaven is waiting for you. First John 5:20 says, "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may _____ him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." My friends, it is a great gift to know what and Who is true.

The Lord Jesus wants to _____ you with His love. He wanted His _____ on the cross to make a difference in your life. If you take seriously the sacrifice of Jesus for your sins, you'll come to love Him. The Lord Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will _____ all people to myself" (John 12:32). Let His sacrifice for you matter! The Lord Jesus was _____ to pay the ultimate price to get your attention and to demonstrate His complete and

wonderful love for you. He wanted to draw you to Himself. He wanted you to love Him the way that He loved you.

Romans 5:6-8 says, “For while we were still _____, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still _____, Christ died for us.” We were once weak and needed saving; we were once ungodly and didn’t take the ways of God seriously; and we were sinners who violated God’s teaching and were offensive to Him. In spite of these, the Lord Jesus willingly died for us to _____ His love.

When we respond to His love and become Christians, our response _____ that the cross matters. Surely, the God who created us and gave us His Son has many _____ blessings in store for us. Romans 8:32 says, “He who did not _____ his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously _____ us all things?” In Christ, God’s love never ends! **Read Romans 8:35-39.** My friend, nothing can _____ you from the love of God; but do not take His love for granted. Never turn away from God as some do.

When Jesus redeemed you with His blood, He gave His utmost for you. We all need to remind ourselves of how God _____ us as Christians, as His children. First Peter 2:9-10 says, “But you are a _____ race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Don’t let anyone or anything _____ you of a close, loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Love Him and serve Him. Give yourself to Him.

Jesus came into the world to save us from sin, to give us a better way, and to reveal the truth to us. Does it matter whether you’re saved or lost? whether you live with wisdom or foolishness? whether you know the truth or whether you’ve been deceived with falsehoods? You must come to understand: the Lord Jesus is the most important Person in your life. No one else can bless you, love you, forgive you, give you hope, or save your soul but Jesus Christ. You need Him!

The love of Jesus is indeed a gift. The Lord loved us even when we didn’t _____ it, even when we were _____ in our sins. He took the initiative and offered His body and blood on the cross, because He didn’t want to _____ us where He found us. He came to _____ us out of darkness and out of hopelessness. Don’t take this marvelous gift of love and salvation for granted; it’s priceless. Nothing else compares.

If you wish to enjoy the love of God, you must accept His gift. Believe in the Lord Jesus, turn from the sin that destroys, confess Jesus Christ as God’s Son, and be baptized into Christ. When you’re baptized into Christ, you’re “crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin” (Romans 6:6). Baptism in an immersion in water, just as Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River and just as Philip baptized the eunuch. When you’re united with Christ, He sets you free from sin and makes you His child, an heir of heaven. Will you accept His gift of love? Will you love and obey Him?



Pray Without Ceasing
Luke 18:1-8

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

To the Christian, few blessings compare to answered prayer, but unfortunately many have _____ to pray. Today, we look at the _____ to pray without ceasing. The Bible opens the _____ to God, the God who created us. It teaches us who He is, what He's done, and _____ we should serve Him and Him alone. The greatest blessing of _____ is to have a deep relationship with God, our Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Studying Scripture and prayer go hand in hand. One can't grow spiritually and grow _____ to God unless he both studies the Word and prays regularly.

Prayer was important to people in ancient times. When Moses _____ the Red Sea ahead and Pharaoh's armies _____, what did he do? He prayed. Daniel would rather be put into the lion's _____ for a night than to go one day without prayer. When Jonah was thrown overboard and thought he would drown, he prayed. When Judah had become so wicked with Ahab and Jezebel, Elijah prayed that it wouldn't _____. Jesus regularly sought out a _____ place to pray—even though He lived a sinless life. He needed the _____ with His Father, and so do we. If the devil can keep us from praying, he can keep us from _____. Jesus began the cross with a prayer and He ended the cross with a prayer.

Someone said, "When you can't do anything _____, you can pray"; but why _____ until you're desperate before you pray? Prayer is God's marvelous _____! Prayer is the gift of Himself, His ear, His heart, and His love. We must never neglect to approach our Father even one day. James 5:16 says that, "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish _____." God can do more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). Prayer is a great blessing!

Our reading today comes from the Gospel According to Luke 18:1-8.

Prayer and faith go hand in hand. I hope that you have _____ faith when you pray. In its simplest definition, prayer is people speaking from their _____ to Almighty God. What makes this sacred and spiritual is not that man is speaking, but that God is _____. God invites men to pray to Him.

Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:7-11. First Peter 5:6-7 says, "Therefore _____ yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He _____ for you."

The apostle Paul urged Timothy, and all of us, to pray. He said, "First of all, then, I _____ that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Entreaties are an earnest _____ of God for our needs; God wants

us to ask Him to provide our needs. The word “prayers” refers to the whole _____ of petitions made to God. Intercessions means we’re seeking the hearing of God on behalf of _____ and their needs. Thanksgiving expresses gratitude for God’s blessings. Prayer is how we _____ our Father with the concerns of our hearts, how we give thanks, and how we praise our Father for His grace. In the model prayer, our Lord Jesus addresses God as “our Father” (Matthew 6:9-15). Our Father in heaven has compassion on His people. He is ready to grant their requests.

Read the parable the Lord told in Luke 18:1-8. If men are willing to answer someone’s earnest plea, don’t you think God—who’s greater and more just than we are—will also answer our pleas?

First Thessalonians 5:17 simply says, “pray without ceasing.” I realize that no one can _____ every moment of every day in prayer. We have to _____ sometime and we have to sleep sometime. What Paul is saying is, “Don’t _____ praying.” Don’t live a prayerless life. Colossians 4:2 says, “Continue steadfastly in”, another version says, “devote yourself to prayer, being _____ in it with thanksgiving.” Pray daily,;pray from your heart. Draw close and stay close to God.

The Scriptures teach us _____ to pray. The Lord Jesus said, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it” (John 14:13-14). When we pray, we should recognize that God hears our prayers because of our privilege to speak in the _____ of Jesus Christ. When we ask in the name of Jesus, Jesus promises to _____ what we ask. By answering our prayers, the Father is glorified in and by His Son, Jesus.

When we pray, let’s consider God’s _____ and God’s desires, not merely our own. First John 5:14-15 says, “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his _____ he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we _____ that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” What we want and what God wills are not always the _____. We must _____ God’s Word to know God’s will. When we let our desires _____ our hearts and our prayers, we cause problems for ourselves.

James 4:1-3 asks, “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at _____ within you? You desire and do not have, so you _____. You _____ and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not _____. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your _____.” God will not grant our selfish prayers that fill our passions, but not His will.

When we pray, we must ask in _____. James 1:5-8 says, “If any of you lacks _____, let him ask God, who _____ generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his _____.” God is generous to us, but He wants us to believe in Him and in His kindness. God cannot trust us with His blessing when we

aren't sure about Him. Let's trust God!

When we pray for God's help, let's pray with _____. Hebrews 4:15-16 says, "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been _____ in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence (boldness) to the _____ of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

We can come boldly to God's throne to ask for help in _____ of temptation and weakness. God loves us and is more than willing to _____ us when we're tempted. The Lord Jesus told Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He Himself was praying about His upcoming death, "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the _____ is willing, but the _____ is weak" (Matthew 26:41). We must monitor our souls, watching and praying for God's help. Though we want to do what is right, we _____ fleshly temptations. God helps us when we pray.

When we pray, let's do so with humble _____. **Read the parable in Luke 18:10-14 that the Lord Jesus told to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt.** The Pharisee was reading his resume and telling God how valuable he was rather than realizing his dependence upon God's _____. If we wish to boast, let's boast in the Lord. Paul once asked the Corinthians who had become arrogant, "What do you have that you did not _____?" (1 Corinthians 4:7). Let's remember that we all stand in _____ of God's _____ and forgiveness' that we must approach God with humility.

When we pray, let's pray with forgiveness for _____ in our hearts. The Lord Jesus said, "Whenever you stand praying, _____, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions" (Mark 11:25). God forgives us when we're merciful and forgiving toward others. If we harden our hearts toward others, we'll have no _____ that God will forgive us.

Before you pray today, I hope you'll _____ and consider God, the One to whom you're praying. If you're praying according to His will, the Father Himself is paying _____ to your prayer. We can pray anytime and anywhere because God is omnipresent—everywhere present. Jeremiah 23:24 says, "'Can anyone _____ in secret places so that I cannot see him?' declares the LORD. 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the LORD." Wherever we are, God is _____.

Before praying today, remember that God _____ and knows everything about our lives and circumstances. Nothing _____ His attention. When we pray, He knows what's in our hearts and what we need even _____ we ask. Proverbs 15:11 says, "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no _____." He knows just _____ we need and _____ we need it. He understands our lives and needs even _____ than we know ourselves. God stands _____ to help, and He wants us to approach Him for the help that we most need.

Before praying today, remember that God is omnipotent! He's all _____! Jeremiah 32:17 says, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great _____ and outstretched arm. Nothing is too _____ for you." God can do things that we can't do. We're limited _____, limited in time, in energy, and in ability. Some things are too hard for us, but not for God. Let's never be _____ to appeal to God for the help that we need to accomplish those things that we cannot do for ourselves. God wants to be asked; He wants us to seek His help; and He wants us to knock at His door. He stands ready to help when we need Him.

Before we pray today, let's remember that God _____ us. Romans 8:32 says, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be _____ us? He who did not _____ his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us _____ things?" If God our Father did not hold back His own Son but gave Him up, why would we think He would withhold some small blessing from us?

When we pray, let's give _____ for God's kindness and goodness. God blesses us richly every day. Our lives would be so much _____ physically and spiritually if we didn't have God in our lives. Let's never _____ God or take His grace for granted. Where would we be if He had not been with us? Many in our society think we no longer _____ God; they could not be more wrong! We do need God! Our access to God through Christ _____ us to salvation and gives us hope and assurance.

If you've neglected praying regularly or stopped praying altogether, I want to encourage you to _____ praying regularly again. The Lord Jesus said, "Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, _____ that you have received them, and they shall be granted you" (Mark 11:22-24).

Some have stopped believing that God _____ prayer, but God answers prayers every day. We can have confidence in God because God keeps His _____. God acts in ways that He would not have acted if we had not prayed. Our prayers _____ to God. James 5:16 says, "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish _____." Ephesians 3:20 says God "is able to do far more abundantly _____ all that we ask or think." I don't believe in the power of my prayer; I believe in the power of God to _____ prayer.

If you want God to answer your prayers, then follow Him and do what He desires. Love Him; get right with Him. To become a Christian believe in Jesus Christ, repent of your sins and change your ways, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ. According to the New Testament, baptism into Christ is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. You can read about this in Acts 2:38; or Acts 22:16; or Romans 6:3-7. Why not worship at a church of Christ, study with a teacher there, and become a Christian?

