



WORD OF FAITH CHURCH

STICK



TO IT!

30 - DAY CONSECRATION

August 15 - September 13, 2022

WORD OF FAITH 2022 CONSECRATION PACKET

The Importance of Fasting

Some have exalted religious fasting beyond all Scripture and reason, and others have utterly disregarded it. A lot of Christians think fasting belongs to the Old Covenant and neglect the practice. They do not see the need for or the benefit of a Christian fast. The assumption is that faith and belief are sufficient to get things done. Thus, fasting is confined to the occasional, whenever. In the pages of the New Testament, you will find that there is more teaching on fasting than repentance. Jesus taught more on fasting than He did teaching on Baptism or the Lord's Supper!!! Fasting joined with prayer and confession will accomplish things which normal faith may not!!!! "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Matthew 17:20-21) "...So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting", (Mark 9:29). Jesus concluded that there is a higher level of operation, which demands the combined tools of prayer and fasting.

In other words, some demonic problems can only be resolved when we fast and pray. Adam and Eve fell from the Grace of God through eating; we can conquer through fasting and prayer. A very direct way of attacking the devil is to show your devotion to God by denying your flesh of whatever food is needed. If the devil cannot use food to tempt you, he has lost control over your life. Fasting, therefore, becomes a tool to fight the flesh and the devil. It is a very potent weapon of both attack and defense. You can unleash on the enemy of your soul. Food is always an area the devil will tempt you. He did that to Jesus. It was not surprising that the devil tempted Him in three areas: The lust of the flesh (eating), the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Fasting is Sacrificial

Most sacrifices performed under the Old Covenant required the burning of fat. To appease God, the blood of the sacrifice and the fat were forbidden to be eaten by anyone. The fat belongs to God:

"And the Priest shall sprinkle the blood on the Altar, of the Lord, at the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting, and burn the fat, for a sweet aroma, unto the Lord." (Leviticus 17:6)

"And the Priest shall burn them, of the Altar as food, an offering made by the fire for a sweet aroma." All the fat is the Lord's. "This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generation in all your dwellings; you shall eat neither fat nor blood."

It is a known scientific and medical fact that once the body has used up its reserve of glucose, it burns fat for energy. So, when we fast, we are burning fat as a sacrifice unto God. When we fast, we become fragile and feeble, especially with our knees. This is awesome; we truly do become the sacrificial lambs. Fasting is powerful, Glory to God. “My knees are weak through fasting, and my flesh is feeble from lack of fatness.” (Psalms 109:24)

The Actual Meaning of Fasting

Biblical fasting is going without food. The noun “fast” translates to “tsom” in the Hebrew and “nesteia” in the Greek. It means to volunteer to abstain from food and to cover your mouth!! In the Greek it means to abstain. The Spiritual meaning is “to do without food.”

“Go, gather all the Jews who are present Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three nights or days. My maids and I will go to the king, which is against the law; if I perish, I perish.” (Esther 4:16) Fasting relates only to food. Many people have recommended a fast from sex, cigarettes, television, social media, etc. This refrain is defined as self-denial and works very well with fasting. It is a definite aid in blocking voices other than God. Cutting these activities and other activities to focus on God will only assist but will not take the place of fasting from food. When you fast from food, it will have a noticeable effect on your body, putting your soul under subjection. Fasting this way allows you to align your spirit with the Spirit of God, so that His Omnipotence can overshadow your impotence.

“But those who wait upon the Lord (who accept, look for and hope in Him), shall renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up close to God. As eagles (mount up to the sun); they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.” (Isa 40:31).

Fasting/Consecration is not a requirement. It is a choice. Fasting/Consecration brings you closer to God. Whenever a Believer chooses to begin a spiritual fast for one day or for several days, he or she makes a choice to break out of the routine, desiring to draw closer to God.

You Will See Results

When you take time for Fasting/Consecration and Prayer, you will see amazing results in your life. Fasting/Consecration gives you back your sharpness and spiritual sensitivity. The first thing you need to do is to make up your mind that you are going to regain your edge. Fasting/Consecration gives you an opportunity to get the toxins out of the body, to become renewed and restored. Many medical doctors support the healing benefits of fasting. However, Fasting/Consecration without prayer is just dieting. Fasting/Consecration makes you sensitive to the trash that tries to invade your life. Fasting/Consecration is the “Drano” of the soul. Seasons of Fasting/Consecration and Prayer helps you get the sensitivity of the Spirit back for the things of God. When you become dull by the constant bombardment of ungodly influences all around you, Fasting/Consecration helps you regain the edge: “Glorify God in your Body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Fasting/Consecration Builds Confidence

Time spent in Fasting/Consecration and Prayer builds confidence and helps you develop the determination necessary to run your race with endurance. Fasting/Consecration and Prayer prepares and conditions your spirit to go the distance in life's battles. Remember, Fasting/Consecration is not a requirement – again, it is a choice. Fasting/Consecration does not guarantee your salvation. Choosing to Fast/Consecrate is choosing to come away from the routine and wait upon the Lord with greater intensity, seeking His Face and His Presence in a deeper way. You must have a made-up mind. Hebrews 3:6,14; 10:35; Philippians 3:3-4; 1 John 2:28, 3:21, 5:14; Proverbs 3:26; 14:26; Psalm 71:5.

Do Not Compromise

Don't compromise. Stick to the Fasting/Consecration Plan given to you by the Pastor. As you set your mind that you will not compromise during a fast, you build confidence and endurance that can carry you through the trials and battles that come. Keep a journal. The moment you determine you have come too far with God on a fast to turn back, you will see the hand of God working in your life. At the completion of the fast, begin to make Prayer and Fasting/Consecration a regular part of your life. If Fasting/Consecration is the gateway through which God releases His supernatural power into our lives, why is it such an overlooked opportunity? All the greats of the Bible fasted: Moses, David, Nehemiah, Daniel, Elijah, Paul, Peter, even Jesus Himself. Fasting/Consecration is feeding your spirit by neglecting your flesh. Fasting/Consecration will stir-up the Power of God within you. 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Matthew 6:24; 1 Samuel 15:9 (compromised obedience, incomplete faithfulness to God); 1 Kings 22:43 (doing right before God); 2 Chronicles 19:2 (calling evil good); Isaiah 5:20 (desire to be like others); Ezekiel 20:32-38.

Fasting in the Old Testament/Fast for Affliction and Mercy

- Lev 29:7 "...You shall afflict you souls." Afflicting one's soul in the Bible refers to chastening one's soul, to strike.
- Psalms 69:10 "...When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach."
- 2 Sam 15:15-23 David sought Mercy from Sin.

Protection Against A More Powerful Enemy

"...And Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah." (2 Chronicles 20:3) Three powerful nations gathered against God's people. But King Jehoshaphat decided to seek God. He proclaimed a fast. The fast only lasted a single day, but the effects were amazing. The gathering of the spoil lasted three days. There are three

elements to this story: Fasting, Prayer, and Praise. When we turn to God in Fasting, He will move. Another very important point we must focus on and understand is that the people praised God before the Victory. That is Faith speaking. 2 Chronicles 20:1-25.

The First Order of Business for Jesus Was to Fast/His Teaching on Fasting

There is nowhere in the Scripture that Jesus commands people to fast, but He expects men everywhere to fast. There were three exercises that were very traditional to Jews: giving (Matt 6:3); praying (Matt 6:6); fasting (Matt 6:18-19). Jesus did not have to command fasting, because it was standard practice everywhere. He only corrected the practice and motive behind the fasting.

Benefits

Earthly reward versus Heavenly Reward – Father will reward you. The word reward in Greeks means wages, a gift.

Fasting should not be hypocritical, but to fast in secret, private and personal, God will reward you openly.

Before Jesus began His earthly Ministry, He fasted (Matthew 4:1-3). Fasting/Consecration and Prayer were the biggest parts of the Life of Jesus Christ. Fasting/Consecration gives you a deep thirst for God (Psalm 63:1, "... early will I seek thee, my flesh longeth for thee..."). Notice, while in the desert, David thirsted for God rather than water. God is saying to us today, "You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me, with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13-14)

There is a price that must be paid for hearing from God and walking in His Will. There is a work going on in us right now that we may not be fully aware of, but without Fasting/Consecration, prayer and wilderness experiences, you will never be qualified to handle what God has for you in the future. Fasting/Consecration prepares you for what is yet to come!!! Deuteronomy 9:11-18 (during national crisis); 2 Samuel 1:12 (humbled); Psalms 35:13; Joel 1:13-14; Luke 4:1-2; Mark 8:1-3 (four thousand people fasted three days), Jonah 3:7 (Animals and people fasting together).

Fasting/Consecration Brings Brokenness

Fasting/Consecration bring brokenness. Brokenness is so precious in the eyes of the Lord (1 Samuel 16:7). God sent Samuel to anoint a new king to replace Saul as leader of Israel. He guided Samuel past all the older, stronger, more experienced sons of Jesse, young men who by all appearances seemed well-suited to be King. But God told Samuel not to look at the boys' outer appearance or their physical strength. Brokenness makes room for God to release His strength through our weakness, in order to accomplish His plans. Psalm 51:17; Proverbs 15:13; 17:22.

Fasting/Consecration Restores

There is nothing that has been wasted in your life (i.e., drugs, alcohol, troubled episodes, abuse, etc.). Fasting/Consecration can restore and break the yoke of the waster (Satan). Through Fasting/Consecration, God will remove the burden and repair what seemingly has been wasted. God will pick up all the fragments of your life. (John 6:12, He said, “Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing will be lost.”) He is a “Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.” (Isaiah 58:12) Regular Fasting/Consecrating will keep your spirit strong. Joshua 14:11-12.

“Then Will I Hear from Heaven...”

“If my people who are called by My Name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin” (2 Chronicles 7:14). Fasting/Consecration is self-humbling. “He who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18:9-14). Fasting/Consecration is our body language to God. When we Fast/Consecrate, we are expressing our hunger for Him. We always ask from a place of humility.

Unforgiveness

Fasting/Consecration will loosen the grip of unforgiveness. (Matthew 18:32-33, 35; Luke 6:37; 7:45-50; Mark 11:25-26). If these scriptures pertain to you, the Spirit will identify the individuals in question.

No Expiration Date on Prayers – Persistence Breaks Resistance

As soon as you pray, God hears you, as in Daniel 10:12-14. Daniel fasted and prayed for weeks. Satan does everything in his power to stop you from receiving your answer. Your prayers will not be discarded. Believe God!!!!!!! Stack up your prayers as you are Fasting/Consecrating. Pray, Pray, Pray!!!!!!! Pray all night as Jesus did. “Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

God Needs a Clean Vessel

God needs empty vessels, not ones so full of themselves that He cannot pour Himself out through or into them. Fasting/Consecration can cleanse the DIRT and prepare us for God’s use!!!

- D** Disobedience
- I** Ignorance (zeal without knowledge)
- R** Rebellion
- T** The Tongue (words of doubt and unbelief)

Spending time in Fasting/Consecration and prayer, regardless of your circumstance, will help you to be rooted and grounded in your faith, ready to weather any storm, the economy, your health, your family, or your job, etc... These are Satan's attention-getters. NOTE: Remember, the focus of the enemy is always to cause the Work of God to cease!!!!

There are several elements we can glean from and be strengthened by during the Consecration:

- Assemble – Unity, Buddy System, Find a Friend
- Separate – Turn off the TV, computer, and entertainment!!!
- Confess – Nehemiah 9:1-2, Repent!! God will bring things to your mind!!!
- The Word – Hear and Read the Word. Nehemiah 9:1-3
- Worship – Nehemiah 9:1-3

Fasting/Consecration Brings the Glory of God

His Glory is upon the earth through you as you fast before Him (Habakkuk 2:14). “Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the Glory of the Lord is thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I Am ... The Lord shall guide thee continually and satisfy thy soul in drought ...then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob, thy father, for the Mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” (Isaiah 58:8-14).

No-Quit Option/The Power of a Made-Up Mind

Never make decisions based on temporary circumstances. 2 Corinthians 11:23-29. Quitting is not an option!!!!!! When you think about quitting, you talk about quitting. Be assured, you will then quit!! Hebrews 10:39, “We are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.” Jesus never quit!!!!!! Remove the quit option!!!! When you do that, the battle is won!!! Hebrews 10:35-36, “Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the Will of God, you may receive the promise.” “We are more than Conquerors.” (Romans 8:37-39)

Duration of Fasts

No restriction. An acceptable fast is not determined by length, but by its quality and motive. A long fast is not more acceptable, if the heart of the individual is impure, than a short fast that reveres God. God inspired - If God calls a fast, He will determine its length.

Examples:

ONE NIGHT: The idea of missing dinner. Daniel 6:18

UNTIL EVENING: 2 Samuel 1:12

ONE DAY: 2 Samuel 3:35; Judges 20:26

TWICE IN A WEEK: Luke 18:12

THREE DAYS: Esther 4:16; Acts 9:9

SEVEN DAYS: 2 Samuel 31:31; 1 Chronicles 10:11-12; 12:17-18

FOURTEEN DAYS: Acts 27:9-10, 33

DANIEL FAST: No set time. Daniel 10:2-3

FORTY DAYS: Deuteronomy 9:9; 1 Kings 19:8; Matthew 4:2; Luke 4:2

Or:

A FASTED LIFE: Can be done nightly, daily, weekly, etc. It is a powerful tool. Luke 2:36-37

FASTING AND SEXUAL INTIMACY

Paul stated in unequivocal terms the incompatibility of sex, prayer, and fasting. It is fair to say that, as a married man or woman, fasting gives you time to concentrate only on God, giving Him your undivided and your wholehearted attention. 1 Cor 7:5, When you fast, fast no longer than your spouse would allow you!!!

Points on the Daniel Fast

1. Daniel Fast: Daniel, Ch. 10. Daniel fasted for 21 days; he was at that time praying for as long as it took for God to move!!
2. Listed below are some of the **Blessings** we will receive during this fast:
 - PERSONAL, DIVINE REVELATION – A personal Word from God to you
 - A TOUCH FROM HEAVEN- Healing, deliverance etc., whatever you need
 - HEAVEN’S ATTENTION – God said, “He heard Daniel as soon as he prayed.”
 - HEAVENLY REINFORCEMENT – God sent warring Angel Michael
 - ANGELIC VISITATION – Assurance Ch 10:5-9
 - PROPHETIC INSIGHT – Answer for you concerning job, family, Ministry, America, etc....
 - PEACE OF MIND AND RENEWED STRENGTH- As stated
 - DANIEL FAST TIPS:
 - (a) Go the 30 days and as many additional days as you need to get answers
 - (b) Keep confessing God’s Word – “Your words were heard” (v.12)
 - (c) Pray for Humility (v.12)

Some Examples of Powerful Fasting

1. FASTING WHEN FACED WITH A POSSIBLE IMPENDING DANGER OR A DIFFICULT SITUATION.

This strategy was adopted by Nehemiah in the Book that bears his name. Like Esther, Nehemiah took a significant risk in seeking the help of King Artaxerxes, so he could rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Knowing it would be a dangerous move, seeking God's help first, with Prayer and fasting was inevitable. "...I was fasting and praying before the God of Heaven." (Nehemiah 1:4; Ezra 10:6)

2. FASTING TO INQUIRE OF THE LORD

When Israel was set in a battle array against the Benjamites, they asked God which tribe to go first, God said "Judah." However, they lost. The second time going up, they lost. But the third time, they fasted from morning until evening. God not only gave them assurance of their victory, but the timing as well. Fasting shows a demonstration of our seriousness on the matter. (Judges 20:26-28)

3. FASTING FOR REPENTANCE AND REDEDICATION

The fight against Israel defeated Israel, captured the Ark (Presence of God), killing Eli's two sons. They knew their defeat was a result of sin. They were captured for seven months before they were able to beat the enemy. But before they faced the Philistines (typology of Satan), they had to fast. In a similar case the entire people of Israel separated themselves to fast for repentances for ignoring and disobeying God. (1 Sam 7:5-13; Neh 9:1-3)

4. FASTING TO AVERT THE WRATH OF GOD

When God was going to kill Ahab for supporting Jezebel, his wife, in the murder of Naboth, and for following strange gods, Ahab decided to humble himself with fasting and God changed His mind. (1 Kings 21:25-29).

5. TURNING AWAY GOD'S JUDGEMENT

When the people of Nineveh cried out to God in fasting and repentance, God changed His mind and did not destroy them as previously planned. In intercessory prayers, it is legitimate for someone to stand in the gap and ask God to pardon the sins of another, more so if the intercessor is a spiritual leader or a servant of God. Moses and Daniel

stood in the gap in repentance for the sins of Israel. (Jonah 3:4-5, 9-10; Deut 9:15-18; Daniel 9:3-5)

6. RESTORATION OF GLORY

Some of us have been wrongfully imprisoned or our glory has been destroyed. Fasting, prayer and genuine repentance will restore our glory and set us free. The Book of Joel shows that God will hear and restore His people back to their former Glory. (Joel 1:14; Joel 2:12-17; 3:18-21)

7. FASTING ON NATIONAL CALAMITIES

There are four significant events in the history of the Jews which necessitated regular or annual fasts. These fasts were observed as Memorials of the calamities that had befallen them at the time:

- a. The Burning of the Temple: The fast of the tenth day of the fifth month (Jer 52:12-13)
- b. The Murder of Gedaliah: The fast of the second day of the seventh month (2 King 25:23-95; Jer 41:1)
- c. The Beginning of the Siege of Jerusalem: The fast of the tenth day of tenth month (2 Kings 25:1).
- d. The Fall of Jerusalem: The fast of the ninth day of the fourth month (2 Kings 25:3-4)

THE CONSECRATED FAST

How long is the consecration?

30 Days. We will begin Monday, August 15, 2022, and conclude Tuesday, Sept 13, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

What about medications?

Please continue to take all medications as prescribed. It is vitally important that you do not stop taking your medications.

May I take vitamins and sports drinks (protein drinks)?

Yes, you may take a good multivitamin and a meal substitute drink. We discourage sports drinks due to the high sugar and sodium contents.

What is the key to a successful consecration or fast?

Prayer and study of the Scriptures. You are encouraged to spend time in private devotion (Prayer and Bible reading). ***See the attached scripture readings.*** You may also want to share in a time of corporate prayer with your spouse, family members or other believers.

What are the dietary restrictions being observed?

We are participating in a “**Daniel’s Fast**”. The following foods are encouraged (Please Note: Those under medical care or supervision should seek to consult their physician and modify the fast by adding appropriate nutritional entrees or abstaining from other forms of activity such as television, radio, etc.):

What about Sundays?

On Sundays, family meals are encouraged (Prayer and Bible reading *continues*): August 21st, 28th, and September 4th and 11th. Baked or Grilled Fish or Poultry can be eaten. No fried please. Pls stay with the recommended diet. Thank you

What’s for Dessert?

Fruit! No sweets or desserts during the consecration.

Coffee, Tea, Soda

We encourage abstinence from coffee, coffee drinks and all sodas. However, a ginseng or herbal tea (hot or cold) with lemon is recommended. **PLEASE DRINK PLENTY OF WATER** (flavored with lemon or lime) – This serves as an excellent cleanser.

When may I eat?

You are encouraged to eat fruits and vegetables at least 2-3 times daily. The portions should be moderate and not heavy. You are encouraged to eat your one meal before 9pm.

What about Unmarried or Pre-Marital Physical Intimacy?

If this question is being considered, stop the activity and schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

What are the Corporate Prayer Days and Times?

- Morning Prayer: Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5:00 a.m.
- Noon Prayer: Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer: Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
- In case of emergencies, please call the office any time during office hours.
- Please ask God to give you a Prayer Partner or someone to be accountable to.

THE CONSECRATED FAST

***"I beseech you therefore, Brethren, by the Mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, Will of God."* (Romans 12:1-2)**



KINGDOM PRAYER

Our Father in Heaven

God's Love

Hallowed be your name,

God's Holiness

Your Kingdom come,

God's Sovereignty

Thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven,

God's Authority

Give us today our daily bread,

God's Providence

Forgive us our debts, as we also
have forgiven our debtors,

God's Mercy

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one

God's Protection

- *Matthew 6:9-13*

DAILY CONSECRATION PRAYERS

PRAYER TO ENERGIZE YOUR HUNGER FOR GOD.

Lord, You Are The Reason
Why I Am Still Alive Longing For Your Presence.
I Hunger For More Of Your Presence.
Lord Jesus, Fill Me With Your Holy Spirit.
Please Come Down And Flood Every Part Of My Being, And Change
My Life For Your Glory.
Lord, I Am Nothing And Lost Without You.
You Are My All In All.

PRAYER HUNGER FOR HOLINESS.

We Exalt Thee, Oh Mighty, Everlasting Father,
We Crave Your Holy Presence.
Rain Down, Lord, Draw Near To Me,
Your Humble Servant.

I Hunger For Holiness, I Desire To Drink From The Springs Of
Living Waters; I Thirst, Quench My Spirit, Oh Eternal One.

Wash Away My Scarlet Sins,
To Become As White As Snow.

Change My Heart,
Fill Me With Kindness And Compassion
Towards My Brethren.

Lord, Today I Hunger For Holiness.

Fill Me Lord As I Seek You
And Draw Closer To You,
Each And Everyday.

I Hunger For You And You Alone
Lord Jesus, I Bow At The Mention Of Your Holy Name,
Great Are You, Oh Lord,
And Greatly To Be Praised.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR WOFC 30-DAY FAST

DAYS 1-3 – Monday – Wednesday, August 15 – August 17, 2022

STICK TO IT - The WORD OF GOD is our Rock and our Guide. It is what we stand on. This entire Consecration will be based on the WORD OF GOD. We are asking you to read each appointed Scripture every day, to strength you. Always Pray God's Will. This is an endurance race. Let Patience have her perfect work. Ask in Faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. James 1:4-6; Luke 21:33; Matt 7:24-27; Josh 1:7-9; Ps 119:11; Jer 23:28-32; Deut 8:6-20; Heb 12:1.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapters 1-3)***

DAY 4 – Thursday, August 18, 2022

STICK TO THE RIGHT CONFESSION - Faith is when you are brought to a place, whereby, you can claim from God, that something has already been done, even though it appears it has not in reality (i.e., you have not seen it yet). Confession always proceeds possession. Heb 10:38; Deut 30:14-16; Prov 18:20-21; Romans 10:8-10; 1 John 1:9; Mark 11:22-24; Matt 17:20-21

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 4)***

DAY 5 – Friday, August 19, 2022

VISIONS AND DREAMS GOD GAVE US – Part I - Prov 29:18. Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. Acts 2:16-18; Hab 2:1-8; Gen 37:1-35; 41:41-46; 45:4-5; Gen 20:6.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 5)***

DAY 6 – Saturday, August 20, 2022

THE VISION AND DREAM GOD GAVE US – PART II Acts 2:16-18, And it shall come to pass, I will pour out of my Spirit, upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.....Gen 39:1-22; 41:46; 45:4-5; 2Ch 26:5; Gen 37:5,6,9,10.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 6)***

DAYS 7 & 8 – Sunday, August 21 & Monday, August 22, 2022

LORD HELP ME TO STICK STEADFAST TO MY CONFESSION – 1 Cor 15:58 - Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord, for as much as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. Jos 10:19,20, 1Sam 30:7-8.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 7-8)***

DAY 9 – Tuesday, August 23, 2022

IF YOU DON'T SAY WHAT GOD IS SAYING, YOU WON'T GET WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY SAID before the foundation of the world – Mark 11:22-24; Amos 3:3; 2Cor 4:13-18; Luke 1:37-38; Rev 12:11; Romans 4:17-21; Rev 19:6; Rev 19:13.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 9)***

DAY 10 – Wednesday, August 24, 2022

FAITH DOMINATES EVERY LAW OF NATURE AND TIME – Any and everything is subject to the Name of Jesus. Luke 8:22-25; The amount of faith we have is based on our knowledge of God, because it is the depth of knowledge of God that determines the depth, of our faith. In order to have more faith, we need more knowledge of God. Mk 4:35-41 Phil 2:9-11; Mt 17:20; 21:21. Luke 7:50; 8:48; 17:5,6; 22:32.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 10)***

DAY 11 – Thursday, August 25, 2022

SEEK THE LORD AND HIS WORD, WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND – and call ye upon Him while He is near. Is 55:6 So shall my WORD that goeth forth out of my mouth accomplish what I have sent it out to do. Is 55:11; Jer 9:20; Acts 20:32; Rom 10:8-13; Dt 8:3; Ps 18:30; Ps105:17-19; Ps 107:19-20; Matt 8:8.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 11)***

DAY 12 – Friday, August 26, 2022

THERE IS FORGIVENESS WITH THEE, OH LORD – Psalms 130:4. 2 Chr 7:14; Jer 31:34; 36:3; Col 1:14; Eph 1:7. If you do not forgive men, God will not forgive you. Matt 6:15; 18:23-35; Mark 11:25-26; Lk 6:27-38. Forgive and you shall be forgiven; Luke 11:4; 17:1-4. God is Faithful to forgive sin. 1John 1:9. Forgive one another Eph 4:32; Col 3:13.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 12)***

DAY 13 – Saturday, August 27, 2022

Five Blessings of Faith – Bodily Healing Mt 8:5-13; Acts 3:14-16; Protection Mt 8:23-27; 14:22-33; Daily Food Mt 16:6-12; Forgiveness Luke 7:41-50, Rom 3:21-26; Miracles, Act 6, Gal 3:1-9.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 13)***

DAYS 14 & 15 – Sunday, August 28 & Monday, August 29, 2022

Eight Faith Promises – Nothing impossible Matt 17:21; All things Mt 21:21-22; Whatever you say Mk 11:22-24; Salvation Acts 4:12; 1Pet 1:5-13 Unspeakable Joy; Daily necessities Mt 6; Luke 12:28; Holy Spirit, Gal 3:14; Access to God Romans 5:2; Promises fulfilled Heb 6:12.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 14-15)***

Day 16 – Tuesday, August 30, 2022

FASTING HELPS US OBTAIN OUR DESIRES FROM GOD for yourself, your Family, your Vocation, your School, etc... Humbled my soul with fasting Ps 35:13; Chasten my soul with fasting, Ps 69:10; Daniel prayed with fasting. Dan 9:3. This kind goeth not out, but by fasting Mt 17:21; Mark 9:29. Give ourselves to fasting 1 Cor 7:1-6; David fasted and wept 2 Sam 12:16-23; Nehemiah fasted and prayed Neh 1:4-11; Jesus fasted 40 days Mt 4:1-11; Fasting is the cure for unbelief Ps 69:10.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 16)***

DAY 17 – Wednesday, August 31, 2022

FATHER, YOUR WILL BE DONE IN ALL THINGS– God has a Will of His own, Josh 1:5; 3:7; 7:12; 8:18 and Judges 2:1-3; John 7:16 -18. If any man will do His Will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of Myself. Col 1:1; 4:12; 1Th 4:3; 1Pet 3:17; 1Jn 2:17. 1 Tim 2:1-4. Two things that are always God's Will is to have all men be saved and come to the knowledge of HIS Truth. 1Tim 2:8, God's Will therefore is that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 17)***

DAYS 18 & 19 – Thursday, September 1, & Friday, September 2, 2022

PRAYING FOR A HARVEST OF SOULS IN THIS HOUSE, WITH PEOPLE HUNGRY FOR GOD – Seedtime and Harvest time are as eternal as the earth, Gen 8:22. God's Harvest is plenteous, but HIS laborers are few, Matt 9:37-38; Pray the Lord of the Harvest. He that winneth souls is wise. Proverb 11:30; A true witness delivereth souls Pr 14:2. If the wicked soul goes to hell, Is 14:4-9; Luke 16:19-31; Rev 20:11-15. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after Righteous, for they shall be filled. Mt 5:6; Luke 6:21.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 18-19)***

DAYS 20 & 21 – Saturday, September 3 & Sunday, September 4, 2022

CONSECRATE DEFINED – DEVOTE; SEPARATE; DEDICATE; GIVE WHOLLY OVER TO GOD. EX 28:3, 41; 29:33-35; 30:30; 32:29; Lev 8:33; 16:32; Num 6:12; Ex 29:22-31; Lev 8:33; Heb 7:28; 10:20.

***Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 20-21)**

DAY 22 – Monday, September 5, 2022

GOD SHOW US THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING FAITHFUL (STICK TO IT) IN HIM, HIS WORD AND WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TELLING US, INDIVIDUALLY AND ABOUT OUR FAMILIES. RESPONSIBILITIES IN OUR CALLINGS AND SERVICE, IN GOD'S BODY-THE BODY OF CHRIST. ... give diligence to make your Calling and Election sure. God is Faithful, Dt 7:9; 1Cor 1:9; 10:13; 2 Th 3:3; A faithful Ambassador is health. Pro 13:17; Faithful Minister Ep 6:21; Col 1:7; Be Faithful until death Rev 2:10. Called, Chosen, and Faithful Rev 17:14. Faithful in unrighteous Mammon Luke 16:11; Faithful in a few things, Mt 25; Job 11:15; Dan 6:26 – HE IS THE LIVING GOD FOREVER. 1 Cor 7:37 – STEDFAST IN his heart; 2 Peter 1:10; Heb 3:1; Phil 3:14; Ep1:18; 4:4; 1Cor 7:20.

***Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 22)**

DAYS 23 & 24 – Tuesday, September 6 & Wednesday, September 7, 2022

FATHER, PLEASE OPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE REALITY OF HELL. WE NEED A FRESH REVELATION OF THIS DREADFUL PLACE. GIVE US THE STRENGTH AND WISDOM TO WARN OUR FAMILY AND OTHERS. HELL IS DEFINED AS SHEOL. The unseen world; the place of departed spirits. God made hell for Satan and his angels, and all who follow Satan. Dt 32:22; Ps 9:17; Isa 14:9; 66:22-24; Matt 25:41-46; Job 26:6; Ps 9:17; Ps 16:10 (Jesus); 2Sam 22:6. Ps 18:5; Ps 86:13; Pains of Hell Ps 116:3. Hell never full, Pro 15:11; 27:20; Enlarged Is 5:14; Hab 2:5. Luke 10:15; Matt 5:22; Mt 5:29-30; 10:28; 18:9; Mk 9:43-47; Luke 12:5; Matt 16:18; Mt 23:15; Lk 16; 2Pet 2:4; Rev 1:18; 6:8; 20:14-15.

***Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 23-24)**

DAY 25 – Thursday, September 8, 2022

FATHER, PLEASE REVEAL AND CONVICT US OF ANY UNFORGIVENESS TOWARD ANYONE PAST OR PRESENT. PLEASE ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REPROVE US AND GIVE US NO REST, PEACE OR COMFORT, IN MIND OR HEART, WHILE UNFORGIVENESS IS PRESENT. AS OF THIS VERY MOMENT, THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS MY FULL PERMISSION TO ASSIST IN MY DELIVERENCE, WHENEVER AND HOWEVER, HE DECIDES, IN JESUS NAME. AMEN. Mt 6:12-15; 18:35 Mk 11:25-26; Luke 6:37; 11:4; 17:3-4; 2 Chr 6:21,30; Matt 9:1-5; Luke 5:20; Matt 12:31-32; 1 Jn 1:9; Ps 103:1-3; Luke 7:48-50.

***Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 25)**

DAY 26 – Friday, September 9, 2022

FATHER, PLEASE UNITE US AS ONE IN YOU, AND LET THE LOVE OF GOD CONTINUE TO FLOW FROM OUR HEARTS TO YOU AND TO EACH OTHER. LET NO DIVISION, HATRED, JEALOUSY, BITTERNESS, LYING, MANIPULATION, DECEIT, FORNICATION, PRIDE, OFFENSES, OR UNFORGIVENESS, RESIDE IN OUR SPIRITS OR IN THIS HOUSE (WOFC). LET NO CORRUPT COMMUNICATION PROCEED OUT OF OUR MOUTHS, NO EVIL SPEAKING, NO MALICE, ANGER, HAVE ANY PLACE IN US OR THIS HOUSE, IN THE PRECIOUS NAME OF JESUS. HELP US NOT TO GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD. Unity, Ps 133 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of Peace. Ep 4:1-3, 13; Ps 86:11; All liars Rev 21:8; Division - Let there be no division among you, Rom 16:17-18; 1 Cor 1:10; 3:3-4; 1Cor 11:17-19. When pride cometh, then come shame, Prov 11:2; 13:10, 16:18, Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit, before a fall; Man's pride will bring low, Prov 29:23. Bitterness, Eph 4:31 putting away lying, speak the truth to every man. Heb 12:14-17.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 26)***

DAY 27 – Saturday, September 10, 2022

GOD IS LOVE – 1 JOHN 4:8

THOUGH WE SPEAK WITH TONGUES OF MEN AND ANGELES AND HAVE NOT LOVE, WE HAVE BECOME AS A SOUNDING BRASS OR A TINKLING CYMBAL. IF WE HAVE PROPHECY, UNDERSTANDING, ALL MYSTERIES, AND ALL KNOWLEDGE AND ALL FAITH, WE HAVE NOTHING WITHOUT LOVE. LOVE SUFFERETH LONG, IS KIND, ENVIETH NOT, VAUNTETH NOT ITSELF, IS NOT PUFFED UP, DOES NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY, DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN, NOT EASILY PROVOKED, THINK NO EVIL, REJOICE NOT IN INIQUITY, BUT REJOICETH IN TRUTH, BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVE ALL THINGS, ENDURE ALL THINGS. 1 COR 13; EPH 3:17,5:2; 5:25; HEB 13:1; JOHN 13:31-35.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 27)***

DAY 28 – Sunday, September 11, 2022

GOD HAS GIVEN US A HEAVENLY LANGUAGE TO SPEAK WITH HIM AND ONLY HIM. NO ONE CAN INTERPERT THIS LANGUAGE UNLESS PERMITTED BY GOD. THIS LANGUAGE WAS DESIGNED TO BE THE LANGUAGE FOR HIS NEW CREATION. THIS NEWBORN PERSON, WAS MADE BY GOD, FOR HIS FAMILY/KINGDOM. THIS PERSON IS NEW AND SHOULD NO LONGER DESIRE THE WORLD'S WAYS/LANGUAGE ANYMORE. 2 COR 5:17. THIS NEW LANGUAGE IS USED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO RESIDES IN US, TO INTERCEED TO GOD FOR US, WHEN WE HAVE NO IDEA OR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT OUR SPIRITUAL OR NATURAL NEEDS ARE. WE ARE TO SPEAK IN THIS LANGUAGE AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE. Is 28:11-12; 1COR 14; 1COR 12:28.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 28)***

DAYS 29 & 30 – Monday, September 12 & Tuesday, September 13, 2022

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE WHO, RESIDES (HOLY SPIRIT OR HOLY GHOST) IN YOU, IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED HIM, WITH THE EVIDENCE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES. HE CAN BE CALLED HUNDREDS OF NAMES. HOLY SPIRIT AND HOLY GHOST, ARE MORE FREQUENTLY USED. We can possess Him without measure. John 3:34, 2Kings 2:9. He will instruct us Neh 9:20. He can be provoked Ps 106:33. Is Omnipresent Ps 139:7. Can rest on or reside in men Is 11:2, Matt 3:16. Can be vexed Is 63:10. He will guide us into all truth, will not speak of Himself, will show us things to come, will Glorify Jesus as God and the Son of God. He will reprove and teach us all things and bring all things to our remembrance. Jn 14-16. He will use us for God's Glory, Act 11:27-30. He will tell us where to go to witness/minister. Act 8:29-38. He will assist us in prayer and help our infirmities. He will make intercessions for us according to God's perfect Will, if we are called according to His purpose. And He has a mind of His own. Amen Romans 8:28-33.

****Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapter 29-31)***

REMEMBER:

Make your request hard on God and easy on you. Take the pressure off yourself to make things happen, because that's God's job (Matthew 11:28; John 5:40, 6:29). Keep on swinging.

Don't settle for partial victory! (2 Timothy 4:7-8). God says, "When you approach a door that is very large, do not fear, because I will open it." When God opens the door, no man can shut it (Revelation 3:7-8).

Don't move in the dark. If you don't know God's will, don't move (Psalm 46:10; Exodus 14:13; Ruth 3:18).

Be strong and very courageous. If you lack courage, pray (Philippians 4:6-7).

Don't do anything until you ask the Lord first. He will give you a clear word (Ephesians 2:10).

Don't ask how much it costs. Ask God if He wants it done. If so, He'll take care of the cost (2 Corinthians 9:8; 3 John 2).

Be patient. God loves the "last-minute save"! "Whoever believes will not act hastily." (Isaiah 28:16).

Don't stick to sensible methods. If the Lord tells you to do something, just do it (Proverbs 3: 5-6; Isaiah 25:3-4).

Practice the John the Baptist factor: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30, Philippians 1:21).

*Look out! You haven't seen anything yet, when you mix Faith with the Word of God (Hab. 2:4; Rom.10:17). The just shall live by faith.

Wisdom, Your True Love

7 Stick close to my instruction, my son,
and follow **all** my advice.

¹If you do what I say you will live well.

Guard your life with my revelation-truth,
for my teaching is as precious as your eyesight.^a

²Treasure my instructions, and cherish them within your
heart.^b

³Say to wisdom, "I love you."

And to understanding, "You're my sweetheart."

⁴"May the two of you protect me, and may we never be
apart!"

For they will keep you from the adulteress
with her smooth words meant to seduce your heart.

⁵Looking out the window of my house one day

⁶I noticed among the mindless crowd

a simple, naive young man who was about to go astray.

⁷There he was, walking down the street.

Then he turned the corner,
going on his way as he hurried on to the house of the
harlot-

the woman he had planned to meet.

⁸There he was in the twilight as darkness fell,

convinced no one was watching
as he entered the black shadows of hell.^c

⁹¹⁰That's when their rendezvous began.

A woman of the night appeared,
dressed to kill the strength of any man.

She was decked out as a harlot, pursuing her amorous plan.

^a 7:2 Or "like you would the pupil of your eye," Literally, "the little man of the eye," which is a figure of speech for your most prized possession.

^b 7:3 Or "Write them upon the tablets of your heart."

^c , 7:9 Implied from verse 27.

¹¹Her voice was seductive, rebellious, and boisterous
as she wandered far from what's right.

¹²Her type can be found soliciting on street corners
on just about any night. •

¹³So she wrapped her arms around the senseless young man
and held him tight-

She enticed him with kisses which seemed so right.
Then, with insolence, she whispered in his ear,

¹⁴"Come with me. It'll be all right.

I've got everything we need for a feast.

I'll cook you a wonderful dinner.^b

So here I am-I'm all yours!

¹⁵"You're the very one I've looked for,
the one I knew I wanted from the moment I saw you.

That's why I've come out here tonight,

^a 7:12 This parable not only warns against the obvious evils of adultery and immorality, but also serves as a warning to the anointed young men in ministry not to be seduced by the religious system. Wisdom looks from the window (revelation and insight-Ezek. 8) of her house (the true church of Jesus) and sees a young man (not fully mature-1John 2:12-14) who has placed himself in the path of sin. This made him vulnerable to the seduction of the "harlot" system of a works-based religion that enticed him into her bed (partnership, covering, and ordination with her and her system-Rev. 17-18) covered with Egyptian linens (Egypt is a picture of the world system that holds people in bondage). She is loud and stubborn (the old self-life never dealt with) and will not remain in her house (the true church of Jesus). She lives in the darkness of compromise and her ways are the ways of death. She doesn't remain faithful to her husband (the Bridegroom-God). The two women of Proverbs are the harlot mentioned here and the virtuous woman found in chapter 31, who speak of two systems of worship. One is true and virtuous; the other is false and seductive.

^b 7:14 Or "offered peace offerings and paid my vows [in the Temple]." This is a way of saying, "I have lots of meat left over from the sacrifices I've offered, enough for a great meal."

so I could meet a man just like you.^a

¹ I've spread my canopy bed with coverings,
lovely multicolored Egyptian linens spread
and ready for you to lie down on.

¹¹ I've sprinkled the sheets with intoxicating perfume
made from myrrh, aloes, and sweet cinnamon.^b

"Come, let's get comfortable and take pleasure in each other
and make love all night!

¹⁸ There's no one home, for my husband's away on business.

²⁰ He left home loaded with money to spend,
so don't worry.

He won't be back until another month ends."^c

^{21,22} He was swayed by her sophistication,
enticed by her longing embrace.

She led him down the wayward path right into sin and
disgrace.

So quickly he went astray with no clue
where he was truly headed,

taken like a dumb ox alongside of the butcher.

She was like a venomous snake coiled to strike,
so she set her fangs into him!^d

^a 7:15 Compared to Song 3:1-4, this seems to be a parodic reversal of the Shulamite who goes out into the city to seek a man, and when she finds him, embraces him. This account of the harlot seems to be the converse of the theme of Song of Songs.

7:17 Although these spices are found in the sacred anointing oil, the adulteress (religious system) has *only* a false anointing, with no true power.

^c 7:20 Or "He left with a bag of money and won't be back until the new moon."

^d 7:21-22 This last sentence is arguably a difficult verse to translate with many variant options. The Aramaic is "taken like a dog to captivity." The Hebrew can be translated "bounding like a stag to a trap." Other ancient Jewish commentaries refer to this portion as "rushing like a venomous snake to discipline the foolish one," meaning that with the swiftness of a snake striking its prey, a fool lunges into his own destruction.

"He's like a man about to be executed with an arrow
right through his heart-
like a bird that flies into the net,
unaware of what's about to happen.

²⁴ So listen to me, you young men.
You'd better take my words seriously!

"Control your sexual urges and guard your hearts from lust.

Don't let your passions get out of hand
and don't lock your eyes onto a beautiful woman.

Why would you want to even get close
to temptation and seduction,
to have an affair with her?

"She has pierced the souls of multitudes of men-
many mighty ones have fallen
and have been brought down by her."^e

²⁷ If you're looking for the road to hell,
just go looking for her house!

Wisdom Calling

8¹ "Can't you hear the voice of wisdom?•
From the top of the mountains of influence
she speaks into the gateways of the glorious city.^c
At the place where pathways merge,

^a 7:26 The Aramaic is even more descriptive: "She has slain a multitude of mighty ones; they've all been killed by her."

^b 8:1-3 Wisdom is personified throughout the book of Proverbs. Lady Wisdom is a figure of speech for God himself, who invites us to receive the best way to live, the excellent and noble way of life found in Jesus Christ. Jesus is wisdom personified, for he was anointed with the Spirit of wisdom. See 1 Cor. 1:30, Col. 2:3, and Isa. 11:1-2.

^c 8:1-3 As translated from the Aramaic. The church is also a gateway, the house of God, the portal to heaven, that Jesus calls a "city set on a hill." Christ is the head of the church, where the wisdom of God is revealed. See 1 Cor. 1 and Eph. 3:10-12.

Chapter Five

The need for purposeful attention restated (verse 1). Repeatedly the Book of Proverbs appeals for purposeful attention. (See 2:2; 3:1; 4:20; 7:1.) This admonition emphasizes the necessity of a disciplined effort to grasp what might otherwise be overlooked. A New Testament parallel is the repeated invitation: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).

The result of purposeful attention (verse 2). The aim of the repeated appeal to be attentive to wisdom and understanding is that the student will regard discretion and his lips will keep knowledge. The proper attitude toward discretion and knowledge will come only to the person who has first disciplined himself to listen carefully to wisdom and understanding.

A person's lips should keep knowledge, which implies the importance not just of knowing truth but of speaking it. The Book of Proverbs has a great deal to say about the significance of words. They can be a blessing or a curse, both to the one speaking to them and to those who hear him. (See 10:19; 14:23; 18:8, 21; 21:23; 26:20.)

Of

course, many other books of the Bible address the same subject. (See Ecclesiastes 5:3; Matthew 12:36-37; Titus 1:10; James 1:26.)

The seeming sweetness of temptation (verse 3). The remainder of this chapter deals with the danger of yielding to moral impurity. While this is a warning about literal temptation to physical involvement, it is also an allusion to the temptation of spiritual folly in general, with folly pictured as an immoral woman just as wisdom is pictured as a virtuous woman.

The first warning is against the immoral woman's use of words. (See 6:24.) She is a master of flattery, of smooth words. She is a liar, and she will say anything necessary to seduce her victim. She has no commitment to the truth. Her temptations seem to be very desirable.

The bitterness of sin (verse 4). The attractiveness of temptation contrasts sharply to the actual result of yielding. Yielding to temptation is deadly.

The result of sin is death (verse 5). (See Romans 6:23; James 1:14-15.) The immoral woman is headed in the direction of death and hell. The man who is seduced by her joins her in her journey.

Sin cannot be rationalized (verse 6). Some people with analytical minds think that they can study sin sufficiently so as to participate in it without reaping its bitter reward. They tell themselves that they

will participate in it until just before the moment of destruction, until just before it is too late, and then they will get out of it. But this is not the ways in which sin works. Its course cannot be charted; it cannot be put on a graph. It is slippery and deceptive. There is only one safe way to deal with temptation, and that is revealed in the following two verses.

Stay as far away from sin as possible (verses 7-8). The only safe thing to do is to remain totally faithful to the words of wisdom and to stay as far away from temptation as possible. One should not approach the door of temptation's house even out of curiosity. Eve may never have had a problem with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil had she stayed completely away from it. The serpent tempted her as she approached the tree.

The consequences of moral impurity (verses 9-11). If a person is tempted with moral impurity, he should write these six consequences on a card and carry it with him. When he is tempted, he should review these results of yielding to temptation: (1) loss of honor, reputation, respectability, and dignity; (2) shortened life, and trouble while alive; (3) loss of wealth to others; (4) loss of the fruits of labor to others; (5) sorrow; and (6) physical disease.

One of the most remarkable and frightening aspects of the physical results of moral impurity today is Acquired Immune

Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). World health officials, including U.S. Surgeon General Koop, estimated that about one hundred million people worldwide will die from AIDS before the disease has run its course.

Bitter regret, too late (verses 12-14). The cry of the person who reaps the bitter results of moral impurity is, "Why didn't I listen?" The way to avoid this dilemma is to do just the opposite of the example of these verses:(1) love instruction; (2) love reproof;(3) obey teachers; (4) incline the ear to those who instruct.

It is not uncommon for the immoral to take great delight in committing their wickedness in the presence of those who are saved; it seems to heighten their perverse pleasure. They love to shock the sensibilities of others. But this action is one of the very things they mourn later in life.

Don't be deceived by the myth of the greener grass (verse 15). This verse and those that follow stress the importance of turning one's attention to one's lawful companion. If a man will forget about the other man's cistern and well and give up trying to sneak a drink from them, he will find his own cistern and well are fully satisfying.

Tend to your own fountains (verses 16-17). These verses may refer to the offspring of lawful relationships: children. There should be no

doubt as to the parentage of one's children; the marriage relationship should not be complicated and contaminated by the involvement of strangers.

Rejoice with your wife (verse 18). A man should forget about other possible romantic relationships and concentrate on developing the fullest relationship with his lawful mate. (See Ecclesiastes 9:9.)

Satisfy yourself with legitimate love (verse 19). God created man and woman to enjoy a full relationship spiritually, socially, and physically. There is nothing wrong with the marital relationship and its physical dimension. (See I Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4.)

What purpose is served by moral impurity (verse 20)? When a satisfying relationship is possible in a fully legitimate way, why would someone turn from his lawful companion to develop a furtive, fruitless, and frustrating relationship with another?

The Lord observes all we do (verse 21). "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3). God's knowledge is complete; He is omniscient. (See Psalm 139:1-12.) Everyone will one day stand before Him to answer for the deeds done in the body (Romans 2:6; Revelation 20:12).

The sinner brings about his own death (verse 22). People die spiritually for their own sins, not the sins of others. It is impossible for someone to escape the results of his sin, unless he confesses and forsakes it. (See Proverbs 28:13.)

The final result of sin (verse 23). The sin described here started by listening to the smooth and sweet words of a strange woman, but it ends with death. Without instruction, people die. The ultimate consequence of spiritual folly is destruction.

Chapter Six

The dangers of co-signing (verses 1-5). Several passages in Proverbs warn against surety. (See also 11:15; 17:18.) The definition of *surety* is, in law, "one that is bound with and for another; one who enters into a bond or recognizance to answer for another's appearance in court, or for his payment of a debt or for the performance of some act, and who, in case of the principal debtor's failure, is compellable to pay the debt or damages; a bondsman; a bail" (Webster). The Hebrew word translated "surety" is *Arab*, which means "to braid, i.e., intermix; also, to give or be security." The person who is a surety involves himself with the life of another in the same way that strands of a rope are braided together. These and other verses in Proverbs warn against being a guarantor or security for someone else's debts.

The most common way of being a guarantor today is co-signing. This practice is dangerous because a lender that requires a co-signer is indicating that the borrower is possibly not in a sound enough financial position to pay the debt. In other words, he is possibly borrowing beyond his means. The lender is saying, "We are not confident that he is qualified to pay the debt." The one who co-signs is

in the final sense himself the lender.

Thus, according to Proverbs, co-signing for an unlimited amount, for an amount beyond one's means, or for an uncertain future amount is wrong. (See Proverbs 22:26-27.) It appears that co-signing for a limited amount is appropriate only if one is genuinely willing and able to loan this amount of money and, if necessary, to pay it and consider it as a gift, with no regrets.

It is not a sin to loan or borrow money (See Matthew 5:42; 25:27). Of course, the law of Moses prohibited people from charging interest on loans to their brethren or to the poor, and it limited loans to about six years.

In short, co-signing can be a dangerous snare. Being a guarantor is so dangerous that Solomon recommended a formula for extricating oneself. The first step to take is to humble oneself, which implies an admission of folly or wrongdoing, and plead with the friend for release. The second step is to refuse sleep until the matter is resolved. Tomorrow could bring disaster; it should be taken care of today. The third step is to escape as an animal would from a hunter by canceling the agreement if possible or by otherwise limiting liability. If the person for whom one co-signs defaults on the loan, the co-signer will be the hunted.

The example of the ant (verse 6). Lazy people can learn from the example of the ant. The ant is mentioned only twice in the Old Testament, here and in Proverbs 30:25. The Scripture uses many illustrations from the animal kingdom, for we can learn valuable lessons from God's creation. The ants, for example, operate purely by God-given instinct. Humans also have instruction from God, but they often subordinate it by laziness and carelessness. The lesson for the sluggard is that the ant provides for her needs by industrious work and wise storing in reserve, and she does not have to borrow unwisely or depend upon the work of others.

No employer, no supervisor, no training (verse 7). The ant has no guide, no one to train her to do her job. She has no overseer, no supervisor to tell her what to do and to make sure she has done what she should. She has no ruler, no employer to whom she must ultimately answer. How much would the average person accomplish if he had none of these? People have abundant opportunity to make wise use of the counsel of those in authority, but they often ignore it. They think they would like to be free of restraint, but if they were free, they would often resort to anarchy.

The ant works at the right time and prepares for the future (verse 8). Even though she has no one to tell her what to do and when to do it,

the ant works hard at the right time and prepares for the time when no food will be available. She knows how to budget and save. She is industrious. Whenever we see her, she is working.

Too, much sleep is a sign of sluggishness (verse 9). Sleep is not wrong, but lack of activity and industry is. The question is not, "Why do you sleep?" but "Why do you sleep so long?" (See Proverbs 13:4; 19:24; 20:4; 21:25.)

A love of sleep results in poverty (verses 10-11). Those who love sleep, those who are lazy, will fall into poverty. The implication is that poverty will overtake them as a person who travels quickly overtakes one who walks slowly, or like an armed robber.

These and other passages of Scripture teach us it is not wrong to save, but wise. Our level of spending should not automatically rise to meet the level of our income. Rather, we should set aside some of our income for future needs. Saving and paying cash for needed purchases is much wiser than borrowing, presuming on the future, and paying high interest rates.

A person's character is revealed by his words (verse 12). This truth is stated repeatedly in the Book of Proverbs and elsewhere in the Scriptures. It is possible to tell what kind of a person someone is by the

words he speaks. Someone with a forward-self-willed, independent, rebellious-mouth is a worthless, wicked person.

The wicked person is deceptive (verse 13). He sends misleading, deceptive signals. For example, winking has long been a signal that one is deceiving a person and for others not to interfere. To many people today, the crossing of the fingers supposedly nullifies any promises made while they were crossed. Basically, this person does not mean what he says. He will say anything to get what he wants, but he has no intention of keeping his word.

His is a heart problem (verse 14). Since his heart is lawless, he has no reservations about doing wrong. His full-time business is planning evil or trouble. He plants discord, which God hates. (See Proverbs 6:19.)

Seven things God hates (verse 16). The wording of this verse indicates that there are fully seven things God hates, but He particularly despises the seventh.

Pride, lying, and violence (verse 17). Pride was the original sin of Lucifer. (See Isaiah 14:12-16; Ezekiel 28:11-19.) Pride is the root of all sin, for it exalts self above the will of God. Pride is the first step to shame (Proverbs 11:2). It is the cause of contention (Proverbs 13:10). It is the prelude to destruction (Proverbs 16:18). It is sin.

(Proverbs 21:4).

Lying is also a sin. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). All liars will share a common destiny with him in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8). Those who love and make lies will share the destiny of being barred from heaven (Revelation 22:15).

The third warning is against violence, particularly against hands that shed innocent blood. God abhors murder. In the Old Testament God gave instructions concerning capital punishment (Genesis 9:5-6) and commanded Israel to war against the enemies of God on many occasions, but these were people whom He had judged guilty of violating His law and fighting against His chosen nation and plan. The warning here is against shedding innocent blood.

This is precisely the sin committed by abortionists. The blood of innocent babies runs freely in the United States of America every day, as literally thousands of them are murdered in their mothers' wombs. *Wicked thoughts and plans (verse 18).* God gave us the marvelous ability to imagine, to visualize, to be creative. He hates for us to prostitute this God-given ability by devising wicked plans. The people of Noah's day did so (Genesis 6:5), and because of this intense misuse of the power of imagination, God destroyed most of humans at

that time. God has given humans the power to invent, but He hates the practice of using His gift to invent evil (Romans 1:30).

God gave people feet to be able to run to the aid of those in need and to be yielded to Him as an instrument of righteousness. (See Romans 6:13.) He hates for His gift to be perverted so that the feet carry people swiftly to do wrong.

False witness and sowing discord (verse 19). The ninth commandment specifically prohibits the bearing of false witness against one's neighbor (Exodus 20:16). A false witness can be instrumental in convicting an innocent party, which can ultimately result in the death penalty. To protect the innocent, under the law one witness was never sufficient to condemn someone to death. Two, and preferably three, were required. (See Deuteronomy 17:6.) To further protect the innocent, even after guilt was declared, the accusers had to place their hands on the accused and declare in the presence of all the people that he was indeed the guilty party. Then the accusers had to be the first to cast the stones to put the accused to death. (See Deuteronomy 13:9.) All of these protections gave a false witness maximum opportunity to reverse his testimony. Only the most callous and hardened person could maintain a false witness through all the required developments in the trial.

To this day it is a dangerous sin to bear false witness against an innocent party. Even the secular court system demands that the witness pledge to tell the absolute truth. The person who prevaricates is himself guilty of perjury with its attendant penalties.

It is better to err on the side of mercy than on the side of judgment. Even those who have seen or heard something that seems to affix blame should be cautious, for things are not always what they seem. It is very possible to misinterpret what we see or hear.

The seventh thing God hates and the one which, by implication, He hates most of all is sowing discord among brethren. The New Testament also addresses this sin. (See Galatians 5:20; II Thessalonians 3:11; I Timothy 5:13; I Peter 4:15.) It is God's desire that people walk in harmony and unity; the person who sows discord works directly against God's plan. The most common way discord is sown is when one person tells something harmful to the reputation of another person-whether true or false-to someone who has no need or authority to hear it.

Father's commandment; mother's law (verse 20). This verse reiterates the teaching of Proverbs 1:8. The father and mother are partners in training children.

Keep them constantly in mind (verse 21). These instructions are obviously symbolic terms to describe the constant attention that should be given to the father's commandment and the mother's law. The Pharisees, by their strict literalism, attempted to fulfill similar commands in the law of Moses by physically attaching phylacteries to their forearms and foreheads when praying. But it is possible to have copies of the Scriptures attached to one's person and still not have the Word hidden in one's heart.

Three blessings of obedience to parents (verse 22). The commandment to honor and obey one's parents is not given to cramp one's lifestyle or to rob a person of legitimate pleasure. Actually, obedience to one's parents provides: (1) direction in life; (2) safety; (3) instruction, which includes a sense of belonging and a freedom from loneliness and purposelessness.

Lamp and light (verse 23). The commandment, given by the father, is like a lamp. It is the source of illumination. The law, given by the mother, is like the light that issues forth from the lamp. A lamp without light is useless, and there will never be light without a source. The lamp and the light together give reproof. Instruction will almost always involve reproof, and wise teachers know how to reprove in a non-offensive manner (Proverbs 16:21, 24).

Submission to parents is a guard against moral impurity (verse 24). In general, before children disobey God they first disobey their parents. And disobedience to parents is generally disobedience to God also. The young person who obeys godly parents will never fall into the grievous sin of moral impurity. In contrast to their godly instruction and admonition, the evil woman uses flattery to seduce her victim.

The false beauty of immortality (verse 25). There is a beauty in holiness (Psalm 29:2). There is a false beauty in immorality, a beauty that depends on the artificial attraction of suggestive actions, seductive clothing, and makeup. *The Pulpit Commentary* says, "The eyelids are the instruments by which the amorous woman beguiles or catches her victims. She allures him by her glances Allusion may possibly be made to the custom of Eastern women painting the eyelids to give brilliancy and expression; II Kings 9:30." (See also Jeremiah 4:30; Ezekiel 23:40.) The wise man will not separate the immoral woman's "beauty" from her person; her "beauty" is simply a subterfuge to trap the unwary.

Immortality is a thief and a killer (verse 26). Immorality will gradually take from a person all he has gained, until at last he has nothing and is forced to beg even for food. The immoral person hunts,

which means there is a prey. Ultimately, someone who falls to moral impurity will pay with his life. The devil is the enemy, and he will do anything possible to trap and destroy God's children. Just as a hunter stalks his prey, so does the evil one. This is not honorable warfare; it is guerrilla warfare.

The penalty for moral impurity is certain (verses 27-29). It is impossible to dabble in moral impurity and to emerge unscathed. Involvement in moral impurity is compared to fire and hot coals-. It may look alluring and attractive, but once embraced it burns and destroys. The Hebrew word translated "touched" means to "lay a hand upon." (See I Corinthians 7:1.) The refusal to touch is a guarantee that purity will be maintained. Touching another man's wife results in the breaking down of barriers that guard against immorality.

Thievery is more honorable than sexual immorality (verses 30-31). Thievery is wrong under any circumstances. But if someone steals because he is genuinely hungry, people do not despise him, though they will make him pay with a severe penalty.

Adultery destroys (verse 32). Involvement in sexual immorality is a sign of a lack of understanding. While it may be momentarily pleasurable to the body, it is destructive to the soul.

Adultery damages permanently (verse 33). While God will forgive the sin of adultery if it is confessed and forsaken, the adulterer lives under a permanent reproach in society. While all sin brings condemnation, some sins have more severe earthly, social consequences.

Adultery invites violence (verse 34). A man who commits adultery with another man's wife sets himself up for revenge and possibly even violent death.

Nothing will appease in the case of adultery (verse 35). The man who has been sinned against cannot be paid off. No matter how many gifts are given, he will never forget his humiliation and anger until he has gotten vengeance. For example, during 1986 in the metropolitan area of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, which had a population of 3.2 million, there were thirty-seven murders, and thirty-four of them resulted from domestic problems. The person who commits adultery violates numerous scriptural passages, including those that teach the importance of protecting one's neighbor and not devising evil against him. This sin is instrumental in the breakdown of families, neighborhoods, communities, and nations. A violation of the marriage vow is a violation of the most basic foundation of society.

Chapter Seven

Keep your eye focused upon truth (verses 1-2). It is necessary to go beyond academic knowledge to actual practice: "Keep my words." The commandments should be "laid up" as one would store a valuable commodity, and then they should be kept. Those who move beyond academic knowledge to experiential knowledge will find that the commandments, when obeyed, produce life.

Bind and write (verse 3). Binding the commandments on the fingers and writing them on the heart is obvious symbolism; it is not satisfied by placing portions of Scripture in little boxes to wear on one's person. A person's fingers are generally always in front of him; thus, the Word of God should be kept always before a person. Writing the Word upon the tables of the heart speaks of meditation and memorization.

Identifying with wisdom (verse 4). It is important for a person to be closely identified with and related to wisdom and understanding. In his mind, speech, and actions he should ally himself with wisdom, saying, "Wisdom, you are my sister. Understanding, you are my kinswoman."

The right woman will keep a ,man from the wrong woman (verse 5). The strange woman can represent two things: (1) a literal woman who is immoral; (2) folly, in contrast to wisdom as a virtuous woman. The first step in this strange woman's attempt to seduce is flattery.

The behavior of one who lacks understanding (verses 6-7). If wisdom is not considered a sister and understanding a kinswoman, the chances are very high that a person will enter into an immoral, sinful relationship with folly.

The first mistake of an ignorant young man (verse 8). The first step in laying aside every weight and sin that so easily besets us (Hebrews 12:1) is to avoid the places, people, or circumstances that prey on one's weakness. If the young man of this passage had remembered the admonition of Proverbs 5:8 to stay far away from the immoral woman's house, he would never have fallen into her trap. If Eve had stayed away from the forbidden tree, she would never have succumbed to temptation. Temptation usually comes in cycles, and it is usually related to certain times, events, places, or people. The wise person will anticipate these temptations and avoid them to the extent possible.

Evil loves darkness (verse 9). While the evildoer foolishly thinks darkness is a cloak for his sin, he forgets that God can see just as

clearly in the darkness as He can in the light. (See Psalm 139:12; John 3:19-21.)

Two signs of moral impurity (verse 10). While some scoff at the idea that one's dress is of any significance, this verse refers to specific attire that identifies a harlot. It is at the opposite end of the fashion spectrum from that of godly women. (See I Timothy 2:9-10; I Peter 3:3-4.) The key concept for godly appearance and dress is modesty. Modesty does not draw the wrong kind of attention to itself. It does not invite lustful looks. It does not provoke lewd imaginations. It is not extravagant, ostentatious, or artificial, but moderate and self-controlled. It encourages respect and wholesome admiration for one's character, rather than emphasizing merely the physical appearance.

One aspect of immodest attire is makeup, for it appeals to the lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes, seeking to create artificial "beauty" on the basis of sexual allure. Not too many years ago prostitutes and other immoral women were known euphemistically as "painted women." The source of this identification and the feeling that garish painting of the face is improper is the Holy Scriptures, which always associate the use of artificial paint to make oneself attractive with an immoral woman. (See II Kings 9:30; Proverbs 6:25; Jeremiah 4:30; Ezekiel 23:40.) Although many women who wear

makeup today do not seek to be immoral, makeup is still immodest in its emphasis, values, and effects.

The second sign of this woman's moral impurity is her subtility of heart. Subtility is not necessarily identical to wisdom; here it indicates craftiness. The immoral woman is a schemer who traps the unwary.

Two additional signs of moral impurity (verses 11-12). The immoral woman is loud and stubborn. These characteristics are exactly the opposite of those of the godly woman as described in I Peter 3:4-5. In addition, the immoral woman will not stay at home. She refuses a home-centered life and rejects it in favor of the aggressive pursuit of evil. She does not wait for her victim to come to her; she actively seeks opportunities for immorality.

The aggressiveness of the morally impure woman (verse 13). She is bold, impudent, and brazen. When we view the morally impure woman as a symbol of folly, it becomes apparent why it is so easy not to follow God's Word and God's will. Wisdom is not aggressive-it must be pursued, and cultivated-but folly is.

Hypocritical righteousness (verse 14). Those who are involved in moral impurity often makes an outward show of religiosity, and they are inventive at justifying their actions. (See Proverbs 16:2.) But no

excuse will suffice when a person stands before the holy God in judgment.

The lying tongue of the morally impure (verse 15). She flatters her victim by saying she was looking specifically for him. But this statement is a lie. She would have said the same to anyone.

The beautiful picture painted by sin (verses 16-18). Temptation is enticing and alluring. Like a whited sepulcher, sin puts on a false front. It does not mention the certain results of moral impurity. (See Proverbs 5:9-11.)

The false assurances of sin (verses 19-20). The characteristic statement of temptation is "No one will ever know."

The power of words (verse 21). Sin uses flattering, deceptive words to entrap its victim. Words are basic to life. One will listen either to God's words or to the devils. It is important to read the right words, listen to the right words, and speak the right words.

Forsaking the path of wisdom (verse 22). As an ox to the slaughter, the man who yields to the immoral woman walks to his own destruction. As a fool to the stocks (an ancient punishment), he has

chosen his path by his actions. In other words, the results of forsaking wisdom are detrimental and predictable. When one forsakes the path of wisdom, he behaves with the ignorance of an animal or the folly of a fool.

Wisdom too late (verse 23). He sees only the beautiful picture; he does not see or hear the dart slipping through the air. He hurries to sin in the way that a bird hurries to get the food in a trap. He does not realize until it is too late that he will pay with his life for a few moments of physical pleasure.

Controlling the heart (verses 24-25). Instead of following the heart into immoral ways, we are to heed the words of wisdom and order our heart to follow the right paths. (See Proverbs 18:2; 28:26.)

Learning from others' mistakes (verse 26). Everyone who is deceived by folly is destroyed. There are no exceptions, but there are many examples. Only a fool says, "I must see for myself."

The road to death and hell (verse 27). The person who chooses folly has made his decision to walk toward hell and death.

