





## CHILDREN'S CAMP MY20 \* SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD\*

Most of the time, people don't read the Bible because they're not sure where to start or how to do it. MY20 follows the S.O.A.P. method to help you get the most out of your time in God's Word. At least 20 minutes each day is all it takes.

+ + **HOW IT WORKS** + +

## **SCRIPTURE**

Find the right day's reading, and start taking notes of things you notice or that stand out to you from the verses. Take your time and don't rush. When you're done, look for a verse that particularly stood out to you and put a box around it. Make notes and mark the verses any way that best helps you learn from each passage of Scripture!

### **OBSERVATION**

What is God is saying in this scripture? Answer any questions and write down any thoughts you have. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes, your mind, and your heart to His Word.

## **APPLICATION**

Personalize what you've read. Ask yourself how it applies to your life right now. Maybe it's instruction, something encouraging, a promise, or wisdom for some area of your life.

## **PRAYER**

This can be as simple as asking God to help you do what this scripture says, or even a prayer to better understand what God is saying to you through His Word. Prayer is a vital part of studying the Bible! It fine tunes your heart, mind, and life around what God has just spoken to you in His Word.

\*\*READ THIS\*\* Your readings over the next few weeks for Children's Camp will be about the camp's themes of Grace, Faith, & Joy. Each topic has an article introducing its role in the Christian life along with Bible readings for the days after that.

## THU, JUNE 29TH • 6 TYPES & GRAGE - PAUL TRIPP •

The average person speaks about 16,000 words per day. That's 112,000 words in a week, and nearly 6 million words a year. That's a lot of talking!

If you were to scan the entire human vocabulary for the most beautiful word in the universe, what word would you choose? Some might choose love, and I won't disagree. You can make a strong biblical case for that word (John 3:16, Romans 5:8, and John 13:34).

But if you know me, you know the word I'm going to choose - GRACE.

You need it. You can't live without it, but you can't purchase it and you can't earn it. It only ever comes by means of a gift, and when you receive it, you immediately realize how much you needed it all along, and you wonder how you could've lived so long without it.

In a fallen world, populated by selfish, lost, fearful, and rebellious people, it's the one thing that everyone needs. And you can only give it to someone else when you have first been given it yourself, because you can't give away that which you don't have.

You see, God's grace is the most powerful force in the universe, so I would have to argue that it's the most beautiful word in the universe. It reaches you where you are and takes you where God wants you to be. It has the power to do something that nothing else can do: transform you at the causal core of who you are as a human being - your heart.

### **OVERUSED & UNDER-DEFINED**

Grace, however, is also one of the most overused words in the church. I'm afraid that we use all these theologically beautiful words without knowing what we're saying.

So you may be thinking "Okay, Paul, I get your definition that grace is the freely-given love, forgiveness, acceptance and help of God. I get that there's nothing I could ever do to earn it, but I'm not sure I understand what grace looks like."

- 1. FORGIVENESS First and foremost, there's the grace of forgiveness. We all do wrong the Bible calls that sin and that leaves us guilty. Guilty people need to be condemned and punished unless they're forgiven and declared guilt-free. Jesus Christ went to the Cross to carry our sin and to bear our punishment so we could experience radical, comprehensive, and complete forgiveness. In Jesus Christ, we're forgiven for everything we've ever done in the past, everything we now do in the present, and everything we'll ever do in the future.
- **2. ACCEPTANCE -** God not only forgives us through grace, but He welcomes us into relationship with Him. He invites us into His family. He adopts us as His children, and because of that, we now have this Father-child relationship with Him where we can come to Him. We can sit on His lap and bring our needs, concerns, and failures to Him, and He responds as a loving and kind Father. Sin once separated us from God; by grace, we now have acceptance.
- **3. PRESENCE** Like acceptance, the grace of God's presence means that our Father is not distant. In fact, God is present with us wherever we are, whomever we're with, and whatever we're doing. The Bible tells us that God, in His grace, has made us the place where He dwells. It wasn't enough for God to forgive us He literally gets inside us by His Holy Spirit, and so He is with us all the time.
- 4. ENABLEMENT I wrote in the beginning of the article that grace reaches us where we are and takes us where God wants us to be. You see, God's not simply content to give us salvation and then leave us alone until eternity. Rather, He wants us to become more like His Son and work for the furtherance of His Kingdom right here, right now. But remaining sin leaves us lame and weak and unable. God's grace intervenes to give us power and strength. It's gives us the ability to do what we're called to do but what we could never do on our own.
- **5. FREEDOM** God's grace also delivers. <u>Sin turns us into addicts we're slaves of sin, but God's grace breaks that bondage</u>. Grace gives us the power to say "No!" and turn in a much better direction.
- **6. COMPLETION** Finally, God's grace is the grace of completion. There will be a day when you and I will be fully restored to who we were meant to be. There will be no more sin; there will be no more struggle. Everything will be restored, and we will worship in the presence of this amazing God of grace.

#### WHERE DO I FIND GRACE?

It's helpful to know what grace looks like and what it does, but if you don't know how to access it, you'll be left feeling discouraged. So very quickly, to finish this Article, I want to give you two things to consider:

1. <u>Your greatest problem in life exists inside you, not outside you.</u>

If you convince yourself that your problem is in your relationships, your location, or your situation, you'll quit seeking grace and you'll try to find an easy way out. But if you humbly admit that you need help, you'll become excited about the different variations of grace that God provides.

2. Stand under the common fountains of grace.

By this, I mean pursue resources of grace - attend your worship service, join a Bible study or small group, make time for personal prayer and devotions, and seek counsel from older and more mature Christians. If you want to get wet with the grace of God, stand under a fountain and trust that the Lord will send the water!



## FRI. JUNE 30TH \* SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD \*

## **SCRIPTURE:** EPHESIANS 2:1-10

- <sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
- <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—
- <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
- <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us.
- <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
- <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
- <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

- How do these verses relate to the theme of **GRACE?**
- **Q PRO-TIP**: Always keep verses in their <u>CONTEXT</u>!! This means reading a verse(s) based on how they connect to the other verses/chapters surrounding them. Verses CAN'T mean what they were never meant to mean.

## APPLICATION

- ❤ What is God leading you to do, know, correct, live out, etc... through these verses?
- **♥ PRO-TIP**: Every verse has <u>Only 1</u> meaning but can be lived out in <u>thousands of ways!</u>

### PRAYER



## **SCRIPTURE**: GENESIS 2:18-3:7, 20-24

- <sup>18</sup>Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."
- <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.
- <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.
- <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.
- <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.
- <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

- <sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.
- <sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"
- <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

## **SCRIPTURE**: CONTINUED

- <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"
- <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.
- <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
- <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
- <sup>20</sup>The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.
- <sup>21</sup> And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.
- <sup>22</sup>Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—"
- <sup>23</sup> therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.
- <sup>24</sup>He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

| <ul> <li>OBSERVATIONS</li> <li>How do these verses relate to the theme of GRACE?</li> <li>PRO-TIP: Always keep verses in their <u>CONTEXT</u>!! This means reading a verse(s) based on how they connect to the other verses/chapters surrounding them. Verses CAN'T mean what they were never meant to mean.</li> </ul> | COLORING PAGE |
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|   |               |
| PRAYER  Using what you just read and observed, spend time praying for God to give you a deeper understanding of these verses, for God to help you live out these truths this week, or to thank Him for His promises and presence. You do not have to write these down anywhere.   |               |



## **SCRIPTURE:** ROMANS 5:12-21

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

<sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

<sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

<sup>16</sup> And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

<sup>17</sup> For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

<sup>19</sup> For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

<sup>20</sup> Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

<sup>21</sup> so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

| OBSERVATIONS   |
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#### <u>PRAYER</u>



## **SCRIPTURE:** ROMANS 6:1-14

- <sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?
- <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
- <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
- <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
- <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was 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.
- <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin.
- <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.
- <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.
- <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.
- <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- <sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.
- <sup>13</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.
- <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

- How do these verses relate to the theme of GRACE?
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### **APPLICATION**

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### PRAYER

## WED, JULY 5TH + JOY & THE CHRISTIAN LIFE - GOT QUESTIONS +

\*\*TODAY, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOOKING UP AND READING EVERY BIBLE REFERENCE THAT IS HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE. NOTE: NOT ALL REFERENCES ARE BLUE.\*\*

Joy is something we all long for but that often seems difficult to grab hold of. Experiencing joy should be a part of every Christian's life. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), produced by God's work in us, and it is part of God's will for us.

We know that even the most mature of God's people experience periods of joylessness. For instance, Job wished he had never been born (Job 3:11). David prayed to be taken away to a place where he would not have to deal with reality (Psalm 55:6-8). Elijah, even after defeating 450 prophets of Baal with fire called down from heaven (1 Kings 18:16-46), fled into the desert and asked God to take his life (1 Kings 19:3-5). If these men struggled, how can we experience consistent joy in the Christian life?

The first thing is to realize that joy is a gift from God. The root word for joy in the Greek is *chara*, which is closely related with the Greek *charis* for "grace." Joy is both a gift of God as well as a response to the gifts of God. Joy comes when we are aware of God's grace and relish His favor.

With this in mind, it's evident that one way to experience joy is to focus on God. Rather than dwelling on our difficulties or those things robbing our contentment, we can dwell on God. This is not to say we should deny our discontent or stuff negative emotions. Following the example of many of the psalmists, we can pour out our hearts to God. We can tell Him bluntly all the things that ail us. But then we submit those things to Him, remember who He is, and are happy in Him. **Psalms**3, 13, 18, 43, and 103 are good examples.

The book of Philippians has much to say about joy, even though Paul wrote the epistle from prison. **Philippians 4:4-8** gives some guidelines for experiencing joy in the Christian life: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by

prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Here we see the importance of praising God, remembering that He is near, praying about our worries, and keeping our minds focused on the good things of God. We can experience joy when we intentionally praise. David wrote that the study of God's Word can bring us joy (Psalm 19:8). We experience joy by communing with God through prayer. And we experience joy by keeping our focus on godly things rather than on difficult circumstances or discontentment.

Jesus also gave some instructions regarding joy. In **John 15** He talked about abiding in Him and obeying Him. He said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete" (**John 15:9–11**). One of the keys to joy is living in obedience to God.

Another way to experience joy in the Christian life is through community. God gave Elijah rest and then sent a man, Elisha, to help him (1 Kings 19:19-21). We, too, need friends that we can share our hurts and pains with (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). Hebrews 10:19-25 says, "Brothers and sisters . . . let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Because of the grace of God, we know we can approach God confidently in prayer (Hebrews 10:19). We know we are cleansed of our sin (Hebrews 10:22). And we are joined into a new community, a family of believers. With our fellow believers, we hold firm to our faith, trusting in the character of God. We also encourage one another. Christians do not belong to this world (John 17:14-16; Philippians 3:20). We long to be with God, finally restored to our original design. Life can be lonely and discouraging. Others help remind us of truth, carry our burdens with us, and strengthen us to continue on (Galatians 6:10; Colossians 3:12-14).

☐ Check this box when you've finished all of your readings from this article!

GREAT JOB, YOU'RE done for today!



## **SCRIPTURE**: JOHN 15:1-11

<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

<sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

<sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

<sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

<sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

<sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

<sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

• How do these verses relate to the theme of JOY?

| • PRO-TIP: Always keep verses in their <u>CONTEXT!!</u> This means reading a verse(s) based on how they connect   |
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| <u>APPLICATION</u>  |
| What is God leading you to <u>do</u> , <u>know</u> , <u>correct</u> , <u>live out</u> , etc through these verses? |
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### PRAYER



## **SCRIPTURE:** PSALM 16:1-11

- <sup>1</sup> Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- <sup>2</sup> I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."
- <sup>3</sup> As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.
- <sup>4</sup>The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.
- <sup>5</sup>The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
- <sup>6</sup>The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed. I have a beautiful inheritance.
- <sup>7</sup>I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
- <sup>8</sup>I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
- <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.
- <sup>10</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to <u>Sheol</u> (a Hebrew term for hell), or let your holy one see corruption.
- <sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

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## **APPLICATION**

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### PRAYER



## **SCRIPTURE**: 1 PETER 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the <u>Dispersion</u> (widespread persecution that pushed many Christians away from their homes) in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

<sup>2</sup>according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

<sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

<sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

<sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

<sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

<sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

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### PRAYER

## MON, JULY 10TH \* SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD \*

## **SCRIPTURE:** HEBREWS 12:1-2

- <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him (the glory of His heavenly Father and our subsequent salvation) endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

| <b>①</b> | How do   | these    | verses | relate to | the  | theme    | of JOY?     |
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### **APPLICATION**

- What is God leading you to <u>do</u>, <u>know</u>, <u>correct</u>, <u>live out</u>, etc... through these verses?
- **PRO-TIP**: Every verse has <u>Only 1</u> meaning but can be lived out in <u>thousands of ways</u>!

#### PRAYER

## TUE, JULY 11TH THE RATIONALITY OF FAITH - JEHN MACARTHUR +

\*\*TODAY, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOOKING UP AND **READING** EVERY BIBLE REFERENCE THAT IS HIGHLIGHTED IN **BLUE**, NOTE: **NOT ALL** REFERENCES ARE BLUE.\*\*

Faith is not the abandonment of reason. People who think faith needs to be divorced from our intellectual faculties have in effect abandoned the very possibility of discernment.

The notion that logic and sound reason are hostile to faith actually substitutes irrationality for genuine faith. Irrationality and discernment are polar opposites.

When Paul prayed that the Philippians' love would "abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment" (Philippians 1:9), he was affirming the rationality of true faith. He also meant to suggest that knowledge and discernment necessarily go hand in hand with genuine spiritual growth.

Biblical faith, therefore, is rational (Hebrews 11). It is reasonable. It is intelligent. It makes good sense. And spiritual truth is meant to be rationally contemplated, examined logically, studied, analyzed, and employed as the only reliable basis for making wise judgments. That process is precisely what Scripture calls discernment.

The church today is sadly lacking in discernment, and all too apathetic about the problem. We need to remember that God's truth is a precious commodity that must be handled carefully—not diluted with whimsical beliefs or bound up in human traditions. When a church loses its will to discern between sound doctrine and error. between good and evil, between truth and lies, that church is doomed.

The apostle John drew a very sharp distinction between Christianity and the spirit of antichrist—and he zealously held the line: "Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds" (2 John 9-11). Thus he commanded those under his spiritual oversight to be watchful and discerning—and to have nothing to do with Christ-denying error or the purveyors of it.

Contrast today's Christians who soothe themselves with the opinion that few things are really black and white. Doctrinal issues, moral questions, and Christian principles are all cast in hues of gray. No one is supposed to draw any definitive lines or declare any absolutes. Every person is encouraged to do what is right in his own eyes—exactly what God forbade (Deuteronomy 12:8; Judges 17:6; 21:25).

The church will never manifest its power in society until we regain a passionate love for truth and a corollary hatred for error. True Christians cannot condone or disregard anti-Christian influences in their midst and expect to enjoy God's blessing (Romans 13:11-12).





## **SCRIPTURE**: HEBREWS 11:1-6, 13-16

- <sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- <sup>2</sup> For by it the people of old received their commendation.
- <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.
- <sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.
- <sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.
- <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- <sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
- <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.
- <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.
- <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

• How do these verses relate to the theme of FAITH?

| 1 | <b>PRO-TIP</b> : Always keep verses in their <u>CONTEXT</u> !! This means reading a verse(s) based on how they connect to the other verses/chapters surrounding them. Verses CANT mean what they were never meant to mean.    |
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| 4 | PLICATION What is God leading you to <u>do</u> , <u>know</u> , <u>correct</u> , <u>live out</u> , etc through these verses?  PRO-TIP: Every verse has <u>Only 1</u> meaning but can be lived out in <u>thousands of ways!</u> |
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### PRAYER



## **SCRIPTURE:** ROMANS 4:1-12

- <sup>1</sup> What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?
- <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
- <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." (cf. Gen. 15:6)
- <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.
- <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,
- <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:
  - <sup>7</sup> "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered:
  - <sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."
- <sup>9</sup> Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.
- <sup>10</sup> How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised
- <sup>11</sup> He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well.
- <sup>12</sup> and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

How do these verses relate to the theme of FAITH?
 PRO-TIP: Always keep verses in their <u>CONTEXT</u>!! This means reading a verse(s) based on how they connect to the other verses/chapters surrounding them. Verses CAN'T mean what they were never meant to mean.

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## **APPLICATION**

- What is God leading you to <u>do</u>, <u>know</u>, <u>correct</u>, <u>live out</u>, etc... through these verses?
- **PRO-TIP**: Every verse has <u>Only 1</u> meaning but can be lived out in <u>thousands of ways!</u>

### PRAYER

# FRI, JULY 14TH \* SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD \*

## **SCRIPTURE:** ROMANS 5:1-11

- <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
- <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
- <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
- <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—
- <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
- <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
- <sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

OBSERVATIONS

How do these verses relate to the theme of FAITH?

PRO-TIP: Always keep verses in their <u>CONTEXT!!</u> This means reading a verse(s) based on how they connect to the other verses/chapters surrounding them. Verses CAN'T mean what they were never meant to mean.

### **APPLICATION**

- ◆ What is God leading you to do, know, correct, live out, etc... through these verses?
- **₹ PRO-TIP**: Every verse has <u>Only 1</u> meaning but can be lived out in <u>thousands of ways!</u>

#### PRAYER

# SAT, JULY 15TH \* SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD \*

## **SCRIPTURE**: JAMES 2:14-26

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food.

<sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body. what good is that?

<sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

<sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe-and shudder!

<sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

<sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? (Gen. 22, years after Gen. 15)

<sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

<sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" (Gen 15)—and he was called a friend of God.

<sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

<sup>25</sup> And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

<sup>26</sup> For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

| <ul> <li>OBSERVATIONS</li> <li>How do these verses relate to the theme of FAITH?</li> <li>PRO-TIP: Always keep verses in their <u>CONTEXT</u>!! This means reading a verse(s) based on how they connect the other verses/chapters surrounding them. Verses CAN'T mean what they were never meant to mean.</li> </ul> |
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## PRAYER