

Monday, May 9

Unify my heart to fear your name.—Psalm 86:11.

A sports team that is united is more likely to have success than one that is not. Your heart can be like that successful team if your thoughts, desires, and emotions are united in serving Jehovah. Remember, Satan would love to divide your heart. He wants your thoughts, desires, and emotions to be at odds and in conflict with Jehovah's standards. You, however, need your heart to be whole in order for you to serve Jehovah. (Matthew 22:36-38) Never let Satan divide your heart! Pray to Jehovah as did David: "Unify my heart to fear your name." Make it your aim to live up to that prayer. Each day, be determined that your decisions, from small to great, show that you hold Jehovah's holy name in profound awe. In so doing, as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you will reflect well on that name. (Proverbs 27:11) And all of us will be able to say, along with the prophet Micah: "We will walk in the name of Jehovah our God forever and ever."—Micah 4:5. w20.06 13 paragraphs 17-18

Tuesday, May 10

He will go out in a great rage to annihilate and to devote many to destruction.—Daniel 11:44.

This attack by the king of the north, acting along with the rest of the world's governments, provokes the Almighty and brings on the war of Armageddon. (Revelation 16:14, 16) At that time, the king of the north, along with the rest of the nations that make up Gog of Magog, comes to his end, and there will be "no helper for him." (Daniel 11:45) The very next verse in Daniel's account gives more details about how the king of the north and his allies will come to their end and how we will be saved. (Daniel 12:1) What does this verse mean? Michael is another name for our ruling King, Christ Jesus. He has been "standing in behalf" of God's people since 1914 when his Kingdom was established in the heavens. In the near future, he will "stand up," or take significant action, at the war of Armageddon. That battle will be the final event in what Daniel calls the greatest "time of distress" in history.—Revelation 6:2; 7:14. w20.05 15-16 paragraphs 15-17

Wednesday, May 11

Joseph was taken down to Egypt.—Genesis 39:1.

While a slave and later in prison, Joseph had limited options and freedom of movement. How did he keep his balance? Instead of focusing on what he was no longer able to do, he diligently applied himself to the work he was assigned to do. Joseph kept Jehovah as the most important Person in his life. In turn, Jehovah blessed everything Joseph did. (Genesis 39:21-23) We are reminded that this world is cruel and that people will treat us unjustly. Even a fellow believer may hurt us. But if we view Jehovah as our Rock, or Refuge, we will not lose heart or stop serving him. (Psalm 62:6, 7; 1 Peter 5:10) Recall, too, that Joseph may have been about 17 when Jehovah dealt with him in a special way. Obviously, Jehovah has confidence in young servants of his. Today, many young ones are like Joseph. They too have faith in Jehovah. Some of them have even been unjustly imprisoned because they would not compromise their loyalty to God.—Psalm 110:3. w20.12 16 paragraph 3; 17 paragraph 5, 7

Thursday, May 12

They summoned the apostles, flogged them, and ordered them to stop speaking on the basis of Jesus' name.—Acts 5:40.

The apostles Peter and John viewed it as an honor to be persecuted for following Jesus and sharing his teachings. (Acts 4:18-21; 5:27-29, 41, 42) The disciples had no reason to feel ashamed. In the long run, those humble first-century Christians did more good for mankind than any of their opposers did. For example, the inspired books written by some of those Christians continue to give help and hope to millions of people. And the Kingdom they promoted not only is now in existence but will soon rule all of mankind. (Matthew 24:14) By comparison, the great political power that persecuted the Christians has collapsed into the ash heaps of history, whereas those loyal disciples are now kings in heaven. Their opposers, however, are dead; and if they are ever resurrected, they will be subjects of the Kingdom that was promoted by the Christians whom they hated.—Revelation 5:10. w20.07 15 paragraph 4

Friday, May 13

[Abraham] was awaiting the city having real foundations, whose designer and builder is God.—Hebrews 11:10.

Abraham had such strong faith in God's promises that it was as if he could see the Anointed One, or Messiah, who would be King of God's Kingdom. For this reason, Jesus could tell the Jews in his day: "Abraham your father rejoiced greatly at the prospect of seeing my day, and he saw it and rejoiced." (John 8:56) Clearly, Abraham knew that his descendants would form a Kingdom that had Jehovah's backing, and he was willing to wait for Jehovah to fulfill that promise. How did Abraham show that he was waiting for the city, or Kingdom, designed by God? First, Abraham did not join himself to any earthly kingdom. He remained a nomad, choosing not to settle down and give his support to a human king. In addition, Abraham did not try to set up his own kingdom. Instead, he kept obeying Jehovah and waited for Him to fulfill His promise. In doing so, Abraham showed extraordinary faith in Jehovah. w20.08 3 paragraphs 4-5

Saturday, May 14

*The one who has died has been acquitted from his sin.—
Romans 6:7.*

Jehovah promises that no one living under Christ's rule will say: "I am sick." (Isaiah 33:24) Thus, those who are raised from the dead will be re-created with healthy bodies. However, they will not immediately be perfect. If they were, they might seem unfamiliar to their loved ones. It seems that all mankind will gradually grow to perfection during the Thousand Year Reign of Christ. It is only at the end of the thousand years that Jesus will hand the Kingdom back to his Father. Then the Kingdom will have accomplished its work completely, including the raising of mankind to a perfect state. (1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Revelation 20:1-3) Imagine what it will be like to greet your loved ones again. Will the joy you feel make you laugh or cry? Will you fill the air with songs of praise to Jehovah? One thing is certain, you will feel intense love for your caring Father and his unselfish Son because of the wonderful gift of the resurrection. w20.08 16-17 paragraphs 9-10

Sunday, May 15

Each one has his own gift from God, one in this way, another in that way.—1 Corinthians 7:7.

The apostle Paul encouraged Christians to consider whether they could serve Jehovah as single people. (1 Corinthians 7:8, 9) Certainly Paul did not look down on single Christians. In fact, he chose young Timothy, a single brother, to care for weighty assignments. (Philippians 2:19-22) Obviously, then, it would be wrong to think that a brother is more qualified or less qualified based solely on whether he is married or not. (1 Corinthians 7:32-35, 38) Neither Jesus nor Paul taught that Christians must marry or that they must remain single. What, then, can we say about marriage and singleness? *The Watchtower* of October 1, 2012, stated it nicely when it said: “Really, both [marriage and singleness] can be described as gifts from God.... Jehovah does not view [singleness] as a cause for shame or grief.” With this in mind, we need to respect the place of single brothers and sisters in the congregation. w20.08 28 paragraphs 8-9

Song 8 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)


**TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD**

“Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God”:
(10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 30:23, 24—What do we learn from this account? (w05 3/15 24 ¶8)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 min.) 1Sa 30:1-10 (2)


**APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

Return Visit Video: (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Return Visit: Suffering—1Jo 5:19* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Stop the video at each pause, and ask the

audience the questions that appear in the video.

Return Visit: (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. (8)

Return Visit: (5 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and start a Bible study in lesson 01. (16)


**LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS**
Song 43

Become Jehovah’s Friend—Pray Anytime:
(5 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, ask selected young children: Why should you pray to Jehovah? When are some good times to pray to him? What can you say to him in prayer?

Local Needs: (10 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
lff lesson 03



Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God

The Amalekites burned Ziklag and took captives (1Sa 30:1, 2)

David and his men were bitterly distressed (1Sa 30:3-5; w06 8/1 28 ¶12)

David found strength in Jehovah (1Sa 30:6; w12 4/15 30 ¶14)

FOR MEDITATION: When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?



8

Jehovah Is Our Refuge

(Psalm 91)

1. Jehovah is our refuge,
Our God in whom we trust.
His shadow is our shelter;
Remain in it we must.
His faithful ones he will defend,
On this we know we can depend.
Jehovah is a stronghold,
Ever faithful, loyal, and just.
2. Though thousands will have fallen
And many at our side,
The righteous and the meek ones
Will never be denied.
So in our hearts we need not fear;
Calamity will not come near.
From danger he will shield us,
For beneath God's wings we'll reside.
3. He'll keep us and protect us
From snares along our way,
From terrors in the nighttime,
And arrows by the day.
Yes, there will be no cause for dread,
No place where we will fear to tread.
Jehovah is our refuge,
Ever guarding us on our way.

(See also Ps. 97:10; 121:3, 5; Isa. 52:12.)

1 SAMUEL 30-31

30 When David and his men came to Zik'lag on the third day, the A·mal'ek·ites had made a raid on the south and on Zik'lag, and they had attacked Zik'lag and burned it with fire. ² They had taken captive the women and all who were in it, from the smallest to the greatest. They had not killed anyone, but they had carried them off and gone on their way. ³ When David and his men came to the city, they found it burned down, and their wives and their sons and their daughters had been carried off captive. ⁴ So David and the men with him began weeping loudly until they had no strength left to weep. ⁵ David's two wives had also been carried off captive, A·hin'o·am of Jez're·el and Ab'i·gail the widow of Na'bal the Car'mel·ite. ⁶ David was very distressed, because the men were talking of stoning him, for all the men had become very bitter over the loss of their sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself by Jehovah his God.

⁷ David then said to A·bi'a·thar the priest, the son of A·him'e·lech: "Please bring the eph'od here." So A·bi'a·thar brought the eph'od to David. ⁸ David inquired of Jehovah: "Should I chase after this marauder band? Will I overtake them?" At this He said to him: "Go in pursuit, for you will certainly overtake them, and you will make the rescue."

⁹ David immediately set out with the 600 men who were with him, and they went on as far as the Wadi Be'sor, where some of the men stayed behind. ¹⁰ David kept up the chase

with 400 men, but the 200 men who were too tired to cross the Wadi Be'sor stayed behind.

¹¹ They found an Egyptian man in the field and took him to David. They gave him food to eat and water to drink, ¹² as well as a slice of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. After he ate, he regained his strength, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights. ¹³ David now asked him: "To whom do you belong, and where are you from?" to which he said: "I am an Egyptian attendant, a slave of an A-mal'ek-ite man, but my master left me because I got sick three days ago. ¹⁴ We made a raid on the south of the Cher'e-thites and on the territory of Judah and on the south of Ca'leb, and Zik'lag we burned with fire." ¹⁵ At this David said to him: "Will you lead me down to this marauder band?" He replied: "If you swear to me by God that you will not put me to death and that you will not hand me over to my master, I will lead you down to this marauder band."

¹⁶ So he led him down to where they were spread out all over the land, eating and drinking and celebrating because of all the great spoil that they had taken from the land of the Phi-lis'tines and the land of Judah. ¹⁷ Then David struck them down from the morning darkness until the following evening; not a man escaped except 400 men who fled on camels. ¹⁸ David recovered all that the A-mal'ek-ites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. ¹⁹ Nothing of theirs was missing, from the smallest to the greatest. They recovered their sons and daughters and the spoil; David

recovered everything that they had taken. ²⁰ So David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before their own livestock. They said: "This is David's spoil."

²¹ Then David came to the 200 men who had been too tired to go along with David and who had stayed behind by the Wadi Be'sor, and they came out to meet David and the people with him. When David came near to the men, he asked them how they were. ²² However, every bad and worthless man among those who had gone with David said: "Since they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we recovered except that each one may take his wife and his sons and go away." ²³ But David said: "You must not do this, my brothers, with what Jehovah has given us. He protected us and gave into our hand the marauder band that came against us. ²⁴ Who would agree with you on this? The share of the one who went down into the battle will be the same as the share of the one who sat by the baggage. All will have a share together." ²⁵ And from that day forward, he kept it set as a regulation and a rule for Israel down to this day.

²⁶ When David returned to Zik'lag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah who were his friends, saying: "Here is a gift for you from the spoil of Jehovah's enemies."

²⁷ He sent it to those who were in Beth'el, to those in Ra'moth of the Neg'eb, to those in Jat'tir, ²⁸ to those in A-ro'er, to those in Siph'moth, to those in Esh-te-mo'a, ²⁹ to those in Ra'cal, to those in the cities of the Je-rah-me-el-ites, to those in the cities of the Ken'ites, ³⁰ to those in Hor'mah,

to those in Bor'a-shan, to those in A'thach,³¹ to those in Heb'ron, and to all the places that David and his men had frequented.

31 Now the Phi-lis'tines were fighting against Israel. And the men of Israel fled from before the Phi-lis'tines, and many fell slain on Mount Gil-bo'a.² The Phi-lis'tines kept in close range of Saul and his sons, and the Phi-lis'tines struck down Jon'a-than, A-bin'a-dab, and Mal'chi-shu'a, Saul's sons.³ The fighting grew fierce against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was severely wounded by the archers.⁴ Then Saul said to his armor-bearer: "Draw your sword and run me through with it, so that these uncircumcised men may not come and run me through and deal ruthlessly with me." But his armor-bearer was unwilling, because he was very much afraid. So Saul took the sword and fell on it.⁵ When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his own sword and died with him.⁶ Thus Saul, his three sons, his armor-bearer, and all his men died together on that day.⁷ When the people of Israel who were in the region of the valley and in the region of the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they began to abandon the cities and flee; the Phi-lis'tines then came and occupied them.

⁸ The next day, when the Phi-lis'tines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gil-bo'a.⁹ So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent word throughout the land of the Phi-lis'tines to spread the news in the houses of their idols and among the

people. ¹⁰ Then they put his armor in the house of the Ash'to-reth images and fastened his corpse to the wall of Beth-shan. ¹¹ When the inhabitants of Ja'besh-gil'e-ad heard what the Phi-lis'tines had done to Saul, ¹² all the warriors rose and traveled all night and took the bodies of Saul and his sons off the wall of Beth-shan. They returned to Ja'besh and burned them there. ¹³ Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Ja'besh, and they fasted for seven days.

Song 8 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)


**TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD**

“Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God”:
(10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 30:23, 24—What do we learn from this account? (w05 3/15 24 ¶8)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 min.) 1Sa 30:1-10 (2)


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Local Needs: (10 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
lff lesson 03



Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God

The Amalekites burned Ziklag and took captives (1Sa 30:1, 2)

David and his men were bitterly distressed (1Sa 30:3-5; w06 8/1 28 ¶12)

David found strength in Jehovah (1Sa 30:6; w12 4/15 30 ¶14)

FOR MEDITATION: When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?



May 9-15 / 1 Samuel 30-31

Song 8 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God": (10 minutes)

The Amalekites burned Ziklag and took captives

1 Samuel 30:1, 2: When David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid on the south and on Ziklag, and they had attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire. They had taken captive the women and all who were in it, from the smallest to the greatest. They had not killed anyone, but they had carried them off and gone on their way.

David and his men were bitterly distressed

1 Samuel 30:3-5: When David and his men came to the city, they found it burned down, and their wives and their sons and their daughters had been carried off captive. So David and the men with him began weeping loudly until they had no

strength left to weep. David's two wives had also been carried off captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite.

w06 8/1 28 paragraph 12

David's fear of Jehovah did more than just restrain him from doing wrong. It strengthened him to act decisively and wisely under difficult circumstances. For a year and four months, David and his men took refuge from Saul at Ziklag in the Philistine countryside. (1 Samuel 27:5-7) Once while the men were away, marauding Amalekites burned the city and carried off all the men's wives, children, and flocks. Upon returning and seeing what had happened, David and his men wept. Grief quickly turned to bitterness, and David's men spoke of stoning him. Though distressed, David did not despair. (Proverbs 24:10) His fear of God moved him to turn to Jehovah, and he "took to strengthening himself by Jehovah." With God's help, David and his men overtook the Amalekites and recovered everything.—1 Samuel 30:1-20.

David found strength in Jehovah

1 Samuel 30:6: David was very distressed, because the men were talking of stoning him, for all the men had become very bitter over the loss of their sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself by Jehovah his God.

w12 4/15 30 paragraph 14

David faced many distressing circumstances in his life. (1 Samuel 30:3-6) His inspired words reveal that Jehovah knew his feelings. (Read Psalm 34:18; 56:8.) God knows our feelings as well. When we are “broken at heart” or “crushed in spirit,” he draws near to us. This in itself may give us a measure of comfort, as it did David, who sang: “I will be joyful and rejoice in your loving-kindness, in that you have seen my affliction; you have known about the distresses of my soul.” (Psalm 31:7) But Jehovah does more than just notice our distress. He sustains us by providing comfort and encouragement. One way he does this is by means of Christian meetings.

For Meditation: When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?

[Image:] A distressed brother holding to his chest a framed picture.

Spiritual Gems

1 Samuel 30:23, 24—What do we learn from this account?

1 Samuel 30:23, 24: But David said: "You must not do this, my brothers, with what Jehovah has given us. He protected us and gave into our hand the marauder band that came against us. Who would agree with you on this? The share of the one who went down into the battle will be the same as the share of the one who sat by the baggage. All will have a share together."

w05 3/15 24 paragraph 8

This decision, based on Numbers 31:27, shows that Jehovah values those who serve in supportive roles in the congregation. Whatever we are doing, then, let us "work at it whole-souled as to Jehovah, and not to men."—Colossians 3:23.

What spiritual gems from this week's Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 minutes) 1 Samuel 30:1-10 (*th* study 2)

Song 8 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)


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(10 min.)

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FOR MEDITATION: When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?



Return Visit: Suffering—1Jo 5:19

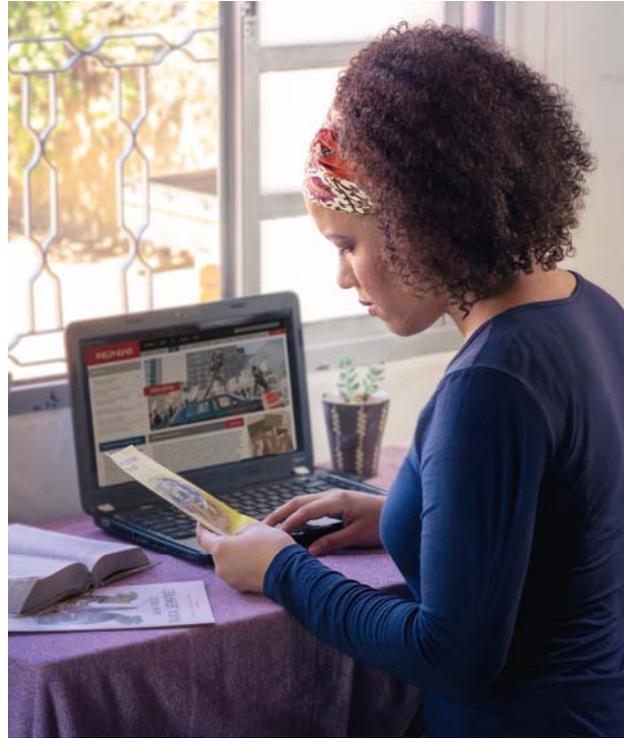
Hi, Ian, it's good to find you home. In case you don't recall, my name is Francisco. And I'm Shane. Hello. Good to see you. You too, Ian. The last time we were here, we left the question, Why do we suffer? Notice the answer that the Bible gives here at 1 John 5:19. Shane, would you please read that? Sure. It says: "We know that we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one." Thank you. So according to this verse, who controls the world? Is it God or someone else? Hmm. It says "the wicked one." Does that mean the Devil? Yes. He's the real ruler of the world. Do you think we're seeing evidence of his rule in the world around us? For sure, all of the crime and hatred that exists. Exactly. And in other parts of the Bible, it shows that Satan's influence has led to sin and death for all mankind. I've never heard that before, but it makes a lot of sense. You're right; it does. So God doesn't cause our suffering, but he does care about it. Maybe next time we can discuss how God feels about our suffering. You may find that the answer addresses some of those nagging questions you've had about God.



Use Current Events in Your Ministry

In his ministry, Jesus drew lessons from current events. (Lu 13:1-5) You too can use current events to stir people’s interest in the Kingdom message. After mentioning the high cost of living, a natural disaster, civil unrest, drug addiction, or something similar, ask a thought-provoking question. You might ask: “Do you think we’ll ever see an end to . . . ?” or “What do you think is the solution to . . . ?” Then, share a Bible verse related to the topic. If the person shows interest, direct his attention to a video or a publication in our Teaching Toolbox. As we strive to touch the hearts of people in our territory, may we “do all things for the sake of the good news.” —1Co 9:22, 23.

What topics may appeal to people in *your* territory?



SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

Initial Call*

Question: How do we know that our suffering is not punishment from God?

Scripture: **Jas 1:13**

Link: Why do we suffer?

Return Visit*

Question: Why do we suffer?

Scripture: **1Jo 5:19**

Link: How does God feel about our suffering?

* You may adjust the question, link, and setting according to local circumstances.



A Prayer of Thanks

(Psalm 95:2)

1. Gracious Jehovah, we praise you and thank you.
Father, we make these expressions in prayer.
Trusting in you, we will serve you completely,
Knowing we thrive under your tender care.
Daily our errors reveal imperfection.
For our transgressions forgiveness we seek.
Thankful we are that our lives have been ransomed.
Thankful we are that you know we are weak.
2. Grateful we are that you show love and kindness.
Thank you for drawing us closer to you.
Teach us to know you, and help us to serve you.
Show us the way to be loyal and true.
Thankful we are for your powerful spirit.
Grateful we are for the courage to speak.
May we be humble and happy to serve you;
May we give thanks, for you favor the meek.

Song 8 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)


**TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD**

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(10 min.)

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FOR MEDITATION: When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?



Become Jehovah's Friend

Lesson 3: Pray Anytime

Anytime, anywhere, I can pray, And Jehovah will hear what I say.

When each morning I wake, I remember to take, Just a moment to thank him for this day.

For the wonders I find on the way, In my mind, in my heart, I can pray.

Even when there's a crowd, And I can't pray out loud, Still Jehovah will hear me anyway.

Anytime, anywhere, I can pray, And Jehovah will hear what I say.

In the night, he will hear; When I call, he is near.

Anytime, anywhere, I can pray.

Can You Trust the Bible?

The Bible makes many promises and offers much advice. Likely you are curious about what it teaches, but perhaps you are also cautious. Should you trust promises and advice from such an old book? Can you really believe what the Bible says about enjoying life now and in the future? Millions of people do. Let us see whether you can too.

1. Is the Bible a book of fact or fiction?

The Bible claims to be a record of **“accurate words of truth.”** (Ecclesiastes 12:10) It relates real events that involved real people. (Read Luke 1:3; 3: 1, 2.) Many historians and archaeologists have confirmed the accuracy of important dates, people, places, and events described in the Bible.

2. Why can we say that the Bible is not out-of-date?

In many ways, the Bible has proved to be ahead of its time. For example, it touches on scientific subjects. Much of what it says on those subjects was controversial when it was written. However, modern science confirms that what the Bible says is accurate. It is **“always reliable, now and forever.”**
—Psalm 111:8.

3. Why can we trust what the Bible says about the future?

The Bible contains prophecies* that foretell **“the things that have not yet been done.”** (Isaiah 46:10) It accurately foretold numerous historical events long before they occurred. It also described today’s world conditions in striking detail. In this lesson, we will examine some of the Bible’s prophecies. Their accuracy is amazing!

* Prophecies include messages from God about future events.

DIG DEEPER

Examine how modern science agrees with the Bible, and investigate a few impressive Bible prophecies.

4. Science agrees with the Bible

In ancient times, most people believed that the earth rested upon something. [Play the VIDEO.](#)



VIDEO: *The Earth Hangs Upon Nothing* (1:13)

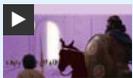
Notice what was recorded in the book of Job some 3,500 years ago. **Read Job 26:7**, and then discuss this question:

- Why is the statement that the earth is suspended “upon nothing” surprising?

It was not until the 1800’s that the earth’s water cycle was well understood. Yet, notice what the Bible stated thousands of years ago.

Read Job 36:27, 28, and then discuss these questions:

- Why is this simple description of the water cycle remarkable?
- Do the scriptures you just read strengthen your trust in the Bible?



VIDEO: *The Bible Foretold the Fall of Babylon* (0:58)

5. The Bible foretold important events

Read Isaiah 44:27–45:2, and then discuss this question:

- What details did the Bible foretell 200 years before the fall of Babylon?

[Play the VIDEO.](#)

SUMMARY

History, science, and prophecy all indicate that you can trust the Bible.

Review

- Is the Bible a book of fact or fiction?
- What are some areas where science agrees with the Bible?
- Do you think that the Bible foretells the future? Why, or why not?

Lesson completed on

Goal

- To strengthen your trust in the Bible, read or watch one of the items in the Explore section.
- Other:

EXPLORE



Are there scientific errors in the Bible?

“Does Science Agree With the Bible?” (Web article)



What are the facts about “the last days”?

“6 Bible Prophecies You Are Seeing Fulfilled”
(*The Watchtower*, May 1, 2011)



Learn how Bible prophecies about the Greek Empire came true.

Fortified by
“the Prophetic Word”



Discover how Bible prophecies changed one man’s view of the Bible.

“For Me, God Did Not Exist”
(*The Watchtower* No. 5 2017)



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The Light Gets Brighter

(Proverbs 4:18)

1. The prophets of old sought to learn of the Christ,
The hope of all groaning creation.
God's spirit revealed that Messiah would come,
Providing the means of salvation.

The time has arrived, the Messiah now reigns,
The proof of his presence is clear.
How great is the favor of learning such things;
Into these even angels would peer!

(CHORUS)

*Our path now becomes ever brighter;
We walk in the full light of day.
Behold what our God is revealing;
He guides us each step of the way.*

2. Our Lord has appointed a trustworthy slave,
Through whom He gives food in due season.
The light of the truth has grown brighter with time,
Appealing to heart and to reason.

Our path ever clearer, our steps ever firm,
We walk in the brightness of day.
All thanks to Jehovah, the Source of all truth,
We most gratefully walk in his way.

(Chorus)

MARCH 2022

THE  **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
MAY 2–JUNE 5, 2022

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COVER PICTURE:

Zechariah saw a vision of two olive trees supplying oil to a lampstand that had seven lamps (See study article 12, paragraph 6)

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49 *Making Jehovah's Heart Glad*

(Proverbs 27:11)

1. Great God, we've vowed to do your will;
 In wisdom your work we'll fulfill,
 For then we know we'll have a part
 In making glad your loving heart.
2. Your slave, your steward here on earth,
 Declares your greatness and your worth
 And feeds us nourishment when due,
 To strengthen us your will to do.
3. Impart to us your active force,
 That we may keep a faithful course
 And bring forth fruitage to your praise.
 May we make glad your heart each day.

Continue Putting On “the New Personality” After Baptism

“Clothe yourselves with the new personality.”—COL. 3:10.

SONG 49

Making Jehovah’s Heart Glad

PREVIEW

No matter what our background is, we can put on “the new personality.” To do so, we must continue to adjust our way of thinking and strive to be like Jesus. This article will consider examples of Jesus’ thinking and actions. It will also show how we can continue to imitate him after we get baptized.

WHETHER we have been baptized for just a few days or for many decades, all of us want to have the kind of personality that Jehovah loves. To be that type of person, we need to control our thinking. Why? Because our personality is largely shaped by our thoughts. If we regularly think about what appeals to our fleshly desires, we will say and do bad things. (Eph. 4:17-19) On the other hand, if we fill our mind with good thoughts, we will more likely speak and act in a way that pleases our Father, Jehovah.—Gal. 5:16.

² As mentioned in the preceding article, we cannot stop all bad thoughts from entering our mind. But we can choose not to act on such thoughts. Before we get baptized, we need to stop speaking and acting in a way that Jehovah hates. That is the first and most important step in stripping off the old personality. To please Jehovah fully, however, we must also obey the command: “Clothe yourselves with the new personality.” (Col. 3:10) In this article, we will answer the following questions: What is “the new personality”? How can we put on the new personality and keep it on?

-
1. What primarily shapes our personality?
 2. What questions will we consider in this article?

WHAT IS “THE NEW PERSONALITY”?

³ “The new personality” is a way of thinking and acting that reflects Jehovah’s personality. A person clothes himself with the new personality by manifesting the fruitage of God’s spirit, allowing holy spirit to influence his thoughts, feelings, and actions. (Read Galatians 5:22, 23.) For example, he loves Jehovah and His people. (Matt. 22:36-39) Such a person maintains his joy even when coping with trials. (Jas. 1:2-4) He is a peacemaker. (Matt. 5:9) He is patient and kind when dealing with others. (Col. 3:13) He loves what is good and does it. (Luke 6:35) He proves by his actions that he has strong faith in his heavenly Father. (Jas. 2:18) He remains mild when provoked and exercises self-control when tempted.—1 Cor. 9:25, 27; Titus 3:2.

⁴ To put on the new personality, we need to develop all the qualities mentioned at Galatians 5:22, 23 and in other Bible passages.* These qualities are

* Galatians 5:22, 23 does not provide a complete list of the fine qualities that God’s spirit can help us develop. For a discussion of this, see “Questions From Readers” in the June 2020 issue of *The Watchtower*.

3. Based on Galatians 5:22, 23, what is “the new personality,” and how does a person clothe himself with it?

4. To put on the new personality, can we develop the qualities mentioned at Galatians 5:22, 23 just one at a time? Explain.

not like individual pieces of clothing that we put on one at a time. In fact, aspects of these qualities can be found in other qualities. For instance, if you truly love your neighbor, you will be patient with him and kind to him. And to be genuinely good, you must be mild and use self-control.

HOW CAN WE PUT ON THE NEW PERSONALITY?

⁵ **Read 1 Corinthians 2:16.** To put on the new personality, we need to “have the mind of Christ.” In other words, we must learn how Jesus thinks and then imitate him. Jesus displays the fruitage of God’s spirit perfectly. Like a flawless mirror, he reflects Jehovah’s qualities just as they are. (Heb. 1:3) The more we think like Jesus, the more we will act like him and the more successful we will be in reflecting his personality.—Phil. 2:5.

⁶ Is it really possible for us to follow Jesus’ example? We may think: ‘Jesus is perfect. I will never be completely like him!’ If you feel that way, remember these facts. First, you were designed to be like

5. What does it mean to “have the mind of Christ,” and why should we study Jesus’ life? (1 Corinthians 2:16)

6. What facts should we keep in mind when trying to put on the new personality?



The more we learn to think like Jesus, the more successful we will be in reflecting his personality

(See paragraphs 5, 8, 10, 12, 14)

Jehovah and Jesus. So you can choose to imitate them, and you can succeed at least to some degree. (Gen. 1:26) Second, God's holy spirit is the most powerful force in the universe. With its help, you can accomplish things that you could never do on your own. Third, Jehovah does not expect you to display the fruitage of the spirit perfectly now. In fact, our loving Father has set aside 1,000 years for those with an earthly hope to become perfect. (Rev. 20:1-3) What Jehovah requires of us now is to try our best and to rely on him for help.

⁷ How, specifically, can we imitate Jesus? We will briefly examine four aspects of the fruitage of God's spirit. In each case, we will see what we can learn from the way Jesus displayed those qualities. As we do, we will consider some questions that can help us analyze how well we have done with putting on the new personality.

⁸ Jesus' deep love for Jehovah moved him to make sacrifices for his Father and for us. (John 14:31; 15:13) Jesus proved the depth of his love for people by the way he lived his earthly life. Each day, he was loving and compassionate, even when some opposed him. A key way he showed his love for people was by teaching them about God's Kingdom. (Luke 4:43, 44) Jesus also proved his self-sacrificing love for God and for men by willingly suffering an agonizing death at the hands of sinners. He thus opened the way for all of us to gain everlasting life.

⁹ We dedicated ourselves to Jehovah and got baptized because we love our heavenly Father. So, like Jesus, we should show love for Jehovah by how we

7. What will we now consider?

8. How did Jesus show love?

9. How can we imitate Jesus in showing love?

treat people. The apostle John wrote: “The one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.” (1 John 4:20) We can ask ourselves: ‘Have I developed a deep love for people? Am I compassionate when dealing with others, even if they are rude to me? Does love move me to use my time and resources to help others learn about Jehovah? Am I willing to do this even when most people do not appreciate my efforts or when they oppose me? Can I find ways to spend more time in the disciple-making work?’ —Eph. 5:15, 16.

¹⁰ Jesus was a peaceable man. When people treated him badly, he did not return evil for evil. But he did more than that. He took the initiative to make peace and encouraged others to settle their disputes. For example, he taught them that they must make peace with their brother if they wanted Jehovah to accept their worship. (Matt. 5:9, 23, 24) And he repeatedly helped the apostles to settle their dispute over which one among them was the greatest. —Luke 9:46-48; 22:24-27.

¹¹ To be a peacemaker, we need to do more than just avoid causing conflicts. We need to take the

10. How was Jesus a peacemaker?

11. How can we be a peacemaker?

initiative to make peace with others and to encourage our brothers and sisters to settle their differences. (Phil. 4:2, 3; Jas. 3:17, 18) We can ask ourselves these questions: ‘What am I willing to sacrifice in order to make peace with others? When a brother or a sister hurts my feelings, do I hold a grudge? Do I wait for the other person to take the initiative to restore peace, or do I take the first step, even if the other person seems to have caused the problem? When appropriate, do I encourage those who have a dispute to make peace with each other?’

¹² Jesus was kind. (Matt. 11:28-30) He showed kindness by being gentle and yielding, even under difficult circumstances. For instance, when a Phoenician woman begged him to heal her child, he declined her request at first, but when she showed great faith, he kindly healed her child. (Matt. 15:22-28) Although he was kind, Jesus was not overly sentimental. Sometimes he showed kindness by being firm with those he loved. For instance, when Peter tried to discourage Jesus from doing Jehovah’s will, Jesus rebuked him in front of the other disciples. (Mark 8:32, 33) He did this, not to humiliate

12. How did Jesus show kindness?

Peter, but to train him and to warn the other disciples not to be presumptuous. No doubt Peter felt some embarrassment, but he benefited from the discipline.

¹³ To be genuinely kind to those you love, at times you may have to speak frankly to them. When you do so, imitate Jesus by basing your counsel on principles found in God's Word. Be gentle. Assume the best about them, trusting that those who love Jehovah and love you will respond well to your caring counsel. Ask yourself these questions: 'Do I have the courage to speak up when I see someone I love doing something wrong? If I do need to give counsel, do I speak kindly, or do I speak harshly? What is my motive for giving counsel? Do I offer it because I am irritated by the person, or am I acting in his best interests?'

¹⁴ Jesus not only knows what is good but also does it. Jesus loves his Father, so he always does the right thing with the right motive. The quality of goodness becomes evident by the effect it has on others. It is an active quality that we can manifest by doing helpful deeds. It is not enough to know

13. How can we be genuinely kind?

14. How did Jesus display goodness?

what is the right thing to do; we must do the right thing and with the right motive. Someone might ask, ‘Is it possible to do the right thing with the wrong motive?’ Yes, it is. For instance, Jesus spoke about those who gave alms to the poor but made sure that others knew about their gifts. Those seemingly good works were of little value to Jehovah. —Matt. 6:1-4.

¹⁵ We can be genuinely good only if we do the right thing for unselfish reasons. So you might ask yourself: ‘Do I not only know what is the right thing to do but also follow through and actually do it? What is my motive for doing good things?’

HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR NEW PERSONALITY IN GOOD CONDITION?

¹⁶ Let us not conclude that the work involved in putting on the new personality ends at baptism. We need to keep our beautiful “new garment” in good condition. In part, we can do that by looking for ways each day to display the fruitage of God’s spirit. Why? Because Jehovah is a God of action, and his spirit is an active force. (Gen. 1:2) So every as-

15. How can we be genuinely good?

16. What should we do each day, and why?

pect of the fruitage of the spirit can and must move us to action. For example, the disciple James wrote: “Faith without works is dead.” (Jas. 2:26) The same could be said of all the other aspects of the fruitage of God’s spirit. Each time we display them, we give evidence that God’s spirit is active in us.

¹⁷ Even Christians who have been baptized for many years at times fail to display the fruitage of the spirit. The important thing, though, is not to give up. Consider this illustration. If you tore your favorite garment, would you immediately throw it out? No. Most likely you would carefully repair the damage if that is possible. And you would be more careful thereafter. Likewise, if on occasion you fail to act in a kind, patient, or loving way toward someone, do not become discouraged. A heartfelt apology can repair the damage, so to speak, and put you on the path to restoring your good relationship with the person. Be determined to do better in the future.

¹⁸ How thankful we are to have the example set by Jesus! The more we imitate his thinking and attitude, the easier it will be for us to act like him. The

17. How should we react when we fail to display the fruitage of the spirit?

18. Of what can we be certain?

more we act like Jesus, the better we will be at clothing ourselves with the new personality. In this study, we have looked at only four aspects of the fruitage of God's spirit. Why not spend some time reviewing other aspects of the fruitage of the spirit and reflecting on how well you are displaying those qualities? You will find a list of articles on this topic in the *Research Guide for Jehovah's Witnesses* under the subject "Christian Life" and then "Fruitage of the Spirit." You can be certain that if you do your part, Jehovah will help you to put on the new personality and keep it on.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- What is "the new personality"?
- How can we put on the new personality?
- How can we keep the new personality in good condition?

127 *The Sort of Person I Should Be*

(2 Peter 3:11)

1. How can I repay you, what gift can I give
To thank you, Jehovah, for the life that I live?
I look in my heart with your Word as my mirror;
The person I see, may you help me see clearer.

(BRIDGE)

My life I have promised in service to you,
But not from mere duty will I do what I do.
Whole-souled and wholehearted I serve you by choice;
May I be one more who makes you rejoice.

Help me to examine, and help me to see
Just what sort of person you desire me to be.
Those loyal to you, you will loyally treasure;
May I be among those who bring your heart pleasure.