



ESSENTIALS TO EXCEL

CORE



CORE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 1. Salvation | 4 |
| 2. The Bible | 7 |
| 3. Prayer | 10 |
| 4. Worship | 13 |
| 5. The Holy Spirit | 16 |
| 6. Baptism | 19 |
| 7. Faith | 23 |
| 8. Giving | 26 |
| 9. Family | 29 |
| 10. Sharing The Good News | 32 |

OVERVIEW

CORE is designed to highlight the foundational truths of the Bible, which will position you to grow in your relationship with our heavenly Father, and equip you to be the world-changer He has called each of us to be.

By asking Jesus to be Lord of your life, and receiving His presence in the person of the Holy Spirit, you not only have an assurance of your eternal destination but have also been equipped to now live an overcoming life. Living daily in Christ's overcoming power comes about through developing an intimate relationship with the Lord and a greater knowledge of His word. This is what Jesus referred to as being a disciple (learner or follower). A few of the essential ingredients to the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ are:

- Daily reading, meditation and application of Bible scriptures.
- Prayer & Worship (talking & listening to God while resting in His presence.
- Commit to a welcoming local church family that teaches from the Bible and values God's presence.
- Sharing with others what God has done in your life

It is essential to grasp the importance of these principles from the outset and to begin establishing them as a part of your life.

1. SALVATION

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. -John 3:16-17

You are a three part being made up of a spirit, mind and body. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve evil came into the world and was given access to the earth and all mankind. As a result, man's spirit became separated from relationship and communication with God. Sin became mankind's driving force. Because humanity cannot overcome sin on its own, God came to earth in the person of Jesus. Living free from sin, Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind once and for all. He willingly gave His life so that those who call on His name will be saved. (Acts 2:21).

For everyone has _____; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. -Romans 3:23

*The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is _____
_____ through Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 6:23*

Sin separates mankind from relationship with God who is holy [perfect; free from sin].

When a person becomes a follower of Christ, their spirit gets reconnected with God providing restored communication and relationship along with the promise of eternal life and supernatural power to live victoriously in this life.

Since we have been made right in God's sight by the _____, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

¹⁰For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his _____ while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. -Romans 5:9-10

The Greek word for salvation is *sozo* which means to save, deliver, protect, heal, preserve, or to make whole. Salvation is a free gift from God provided through Jesus. There is nothing anyone can do in their own strength to save themselves from sin and death.

God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of _____, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!). -Ephesians 2:4-5

Jesus made it possible for every person to be saved from the sin that brings spiritual death. Because Jesus lived a sinless life and gave Himself willingly for the sins of mankind, His blood completely washes away the sins of those who receive this free gift.

God saved you by his grace when you _____. And you can't take credit for this; it is a _____. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. -Ephesians 2:8-9

There is salvation in _____! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. -Acts 4:12

For it is by _____ in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly _____ your faith that you are saved. -Romans 10:10

ADDITIONAL VERSES: 2 Peter 3:9

2Corinthians 5:17

MEDITATION VERSE: Romans 8:32

2. THE BIBLE

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

-2 Timothy 3:16-17

God's desire for you to walk in this new life in Christ begins by getting to know Him and discovering His plans and promises for your life through the scriptures of the Holy Bible; also referred to as God's word. Just as a newborn baby relies on milk for nutrition to grow, the same is true for new believers in Christ.

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure _____ milk so that you will grow into a full _____ of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. -1Peter 2:2-3

A daily pattern of Bible reading and meditating will develop your relationship with God as your father and at the same time provide wisdom and strength to navigate life. As you become aware of God's way of doing things don't be surprised if it challenges some previous opinions, ideas or ways of thinking. One facet of the truth of the word is it exposes areas of our thinking that are contrary to God.

*For the word of God is _____ and _____.
It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between
soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our
innermost _____ and _____. -Hebrews 4:12*

As we become aware of God's truth in our lives, we have a choice to release deception and receive His truth. In doing so, the process of change will begin.

*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God
_____ you into a new person by changing the
way you _____. Then you will learn to know God's
_____ for you, which is _____ and pleasing and perfect.
-Romans 12:2*

After years of allowing thoughts and feelings to run on "auto-pilot," it can seem like a daunting task to reprogram our learned thinking patterns to God's but remember it is not about your own ability. As you meditate on these new biblical realities, God will strengthen you to believe and live according to His word. The key to all of this is to know what God says about you and the authority He has provided you through His word.

*I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your
_____. -Psalm 119:45-46*

My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my _____. ²¹ *Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart,* ²² *for they bring _____ to those who find them, and _____ to their whole body. -Proverbs 4:20-22*

Study this Book of Instruction continually. _____ on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you _____ and _____ in all you do. -Joshua 1:8-9

ADDITIONAL VERSES: Matthew 24:35

Isaiah 55:11

Psalm 119:105

MEDITATION VERSE: Romans 10:17

3. PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today the food we need,¹² and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

-Matthew 7:9-13

The great news is that because of Jesus, communication between God and His followers is reestablished! Prayer is just that, talking to God and listening for His response. It is not telling God what to do or what to give but is asking God for that which He wants to do and give, according to His will. Prayer is not just for emergencies but is vital for the daily life of every Believer.

And we are confident that He hears us whenever we ask for anything that _____ Him. ¹⁵And since we know that He hears us when we make our _____, we also know that He will _____ us what we ask for.

-1John 5:14-15

God's word is His will. So, if you are trying to determine if what you are praying for is God's desire scripture will support it. When you continue in daily communication with God and reading of His word you will position yourself to be in tune to His will.

Just because we want something or think something should happen a certain way does not mean it's God's will. As in any relationship the more time we spend with the person the more we get to know them and their desires. It is the same in our relationship with the Lord and knowing what His desires are for our lives and our world.

If you _____ in me and my _____ remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be _____!

-John 15:7

Prayer is not telling God what to do or give. Prayer is asking Him for that which He already wants to do or give. The idea is to pray God's will and by faith believe it is done as you wait for the answer to manifest.

Jesus told them, "I tell you the truth, if you have _____ and don't _____, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen." ²² You can pray for _____, and if you have _____, you will receive it." -Matthew 21:21-22

Not only does our communication with God consist of requests but also thanksgiving, repentance and praying for others

(intercession). The Bible also makes it clear we are to pray for our leaders, whether we agree with their policies or not.

I urge you, first of all, to pray for _____. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

² Pray this way for kings and all who are in _____ so that we can live _____ and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and pleases God our Savior.

-1Timothy 2:1-3

I say, _____ your enemies! _____ for those who persecute you! -Matthew 5:44

Prayer is vital to the spiritual life of every Believer and carries with it great power. In John 16:24, Jesus stated that one of the results of prayer is joy!

The earnest prayer of a _____ has great _____ and produces wonderful results. -James 5:16

ADDITIONAL VERSES: 1Chronicles 16:11

Matthew 6:7-13

James 5:13

MEDITATION VERSE: Philippians 4:6

4. WORSHIP

For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

-Romans 11:36

Worship is any expressed reverent devotion or honor, which signifies the worthiness of the recipient. The entire Bible is a book of worship, from the altars, tabernacles and temples of the Old Testament to the joy and thanksgiving of God's grace expressed in Jesus in the New Testament.

You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased. -Revelation 4:11

Before Jesus, only the Priests could enter God's presence on behalf of the people, and even then, numerous rituals had to be performed to purify them before entering God's presence. Now due to the spotless and final sacrifice of Jesus (our High Priest), His followers are able to worship God anytime and anywhere and without hesitation.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the _____.

²⁰ *By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through*

the curtain into the Most Holy Place.²¹ And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house,²² let us go right into the presence of God with _____ fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's _____ to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. -Hebrews 10:19-22

The ultimate act of worship is to daily surrender our lives to God. Your relationship with God is based on the giving of your heart (thoughts/will, emotions and body), not just doing all the right things. It is a daily choice each Believer has to make. The more you realize how much God loves you, the easier surrender becomes. Our worship begins by surrender and trusting God with every area of our lives.

I plead with you to give your _____ to God because of all he has done_____. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to _____ him. -Romans 12:1

The foundation of worship is to love, trust and obey God. That can manifest in acts of service, giving of resources, loving others, singing praises to God etc. Any expression to the Lord with pure motives is an act of worship.

Countless expressions of worship are found throughout scriptures. The entire book of Psalms expresses a surrendered and trusting

heart worshiping God through songs and poetry. Some expressions of worship found in these chapters are: singing, shouting, clapping, lifting hands, playing instruments, standing, bowing and dancing.

Let all that I am _____ the LORD; with my whole _____, I will praise his holy name. ² Let all that I am _____ the LORD; may I never forget the _____ he does for me. ³ He _____ all my sins and _____ all my diseases. ⁴ He _____ me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. ⁵ He fills my life with _____.
My youth is renewed like the eagle's! -Psalm 103:1-5

ADDITIONAL VERSES: John 4:24

Psalm 29:2

Psalm 95:6-7

MEDITATION VERSE: Hebrews 13:15

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. -John 14:16-17

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity (1John5:7) and similarly existed from the beginning of time (Genesis 1:2). Following Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit came to His followers and filled them with the same presence and power of God that He had. The Bible refers to Him as the "Advocate" or Helper, which in the original Greek means: one called alongside, counselor, comforter and encourager. The Holy Spirit inside you is the equivalent of having Jesus with you every day, and He will never leave you.

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give _____ to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within _____ . -Romans 8:11

If God only desired for us to live eternally with Him, there would be no need for the Holy Spirit in our lives on earth. The Holy Spirit equips us to live life victoriously on this earth through relationship with our Heavenly Father.

When the Father sends the _____ as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will _____ you everything and will _____ you of everything I have told you. -John 14:26

Jesus made it clear that everything we need as His followers to grow in our relationship with Him is available through the Holy Spirit who is with us and in us.

For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's _____.¹¹ No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own _____.¹² And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the _____ things God has _____ given us.

-1Corinthians 2:10-12

Some of these “wonderful things” provided to us are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The family of God is just like any other family with a variety of personalities and abilities that together can strengthen each other. With your new spiritual awareness comes discovery of gifts that flow with this new life.

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can _____ each other.⁸ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special

knowledge. ⁹ The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides _____ each person should have.

-1Corinthians 12:7-11

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:

_____.

There is no law against these things! -Galatians 5:22-23

ADDITIONAL VERSES: 1Corinthians 6:19-20

2Corinthians 3:17

MEDITATION VERSE: Romans 8:15-16

6. BAPTISM

Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

-Matthew 28:19

The word baptism comes from the Greek word *baptizo*, which means to immerse or to go under. Baptism is an outward expression of what has taken place on the inside of a person who has committed their life to Christ. Just as Jesus died and was buried, your sinful past is dead and buried as you go into the water, and just as Jesus resurrected, you rise up out of the water in newness of life!

For we died and were buried with Christ by _____.
And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live _____.
⁵*Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to _____ as he was.* -Romans 6:4-5

When you are baptized as a believer in Christ, you are following Jesus in several experiences of His life.

1. His death
2. His burial
3. His resurrection

Water baptism also provides a public declaration of commitment to Christ and your desire to walk in His ways (Matt. 10:32-33).

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the _____ of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the _____. -Acts 2:38

As stated earlier, the Holy Spirit is the presence and power of God resident in every follower of Christ. The disciples had Jesus himself with them during the three years of His ministry, so they had no need for the Holy Spirit during that time.

Following His crucifixion, Jesus appeared to His disciples numerous times to prove He was alive. One of the instructions He gave them during this time was to wait in Jerusalem to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be _____ with the _____. -Acts 1:5

This was critical because...

You will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my _____, telling people about me _____—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. -Acts 1:8

For the disciples to continue the mission of Jesus on earth, they would need power beyond their natural abilities. The same is true for us today. We can confess Jesus as Lord and receive His Holy Spirit into our lives and live eternally with Him, but until we are baptized (immersed) with the Holy Spirit, we won't be able to function in the same power as Jesus while here on earth.

From Peter to Stephen to Saul, we read of the dramatic impact in their lives as a result of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. When you ask God to fill you with His Spirit, you can expect a tangible experience, but also know it is different for everyone. Here are some of the manifestations in scripture when one is baptized with the Holy Spirit:

Boldness to share Jesus with others (Acts 4:13, 4:31)

Speak in other languages and prophesy (Acts 2:4, 19:1-7)

Spontaneous praise to God (Acts 10:45-46)

Miracles flowing through us to others (Acts 8:13, 14:3)

Supernatural insight on scripture (Acts 4:13, Matthew 10:18-20)

Ideally, every Believer would receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit at conversion, but this is not always the case (as we find throughout the book of Acts). Oftentimes people are not aware they can receive this infilling simultaneously at conversion. Either way, it is available as a free gift to any that would ask.

If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the _____ to those who _____ him. -Luke 11:13

We each need to decide if we will fully surrender and allow the Holy Spirit not only to reside in our lives but also to preside. Giving Him all-access permits God's power to flow in and through us in boldness, power and love.

Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of _____.
⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to _____ life. -John 3:5-6

ADDITIONAL VERSES: 1Corinthians 2:4-5

Ephesians 4:5

MEDITATION VERSE: Colossians 2:12

7. FAITH

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

-Hebrews 11:1

The spiritual world is invisible to our natural eyes, which makes every element of our relationship with God based on faith. Actually, believing that our eternal destination is secure through Christ is the first obstacle to overcome by faith. The foundation of our faith is our trust in God.

By faith we understand that the entire _____ was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be _____. -Hebrews 11:3

Our human nature validates things by sight, sound, smell, touch or taste. Faith does not operate that way. When we rely on our senses for validity, it is all subject to change, but when we rely on the truth of the God's Word, we can be assured that what is promised will come to pass (Isaiah 55:11). Faith is a lifestyle of choosing to live by God's Word and acting on an unseen hope, regardless of the physical reality.

We walk by faith, not by _____. -2Corinthians 5:7

*Faith comes from _____, that is hearing the
_____ about Christ. -Romans 10:17*

*It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who
wants to come to him must believe that God _____
and that he rewards those who sincerely _____ him.
-Hebrews 11:6*

Faith is also a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), which means it can grow. Every Believer is given the same “seed of faith” (Romans 12:3). The way for your faith to grow is by daily exercising your faith is through words and actions. It’s to be a lifestyle.

*Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead
without _____. -James 2:26*

*Then Jesus said to the disciples, have faith in God. ²³ I tell you the
truth, you can _____ to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted
up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must
really _____ it will happen and have no _____
in your heart. ²⁴ I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you
believe that you’ve _____ it will be yours.
-Mark 11:22-24*

The biggest obstacle to faith is doubt and unbelief. The above verses communicate the danger that “doubt in your heart” is to the seed of faith. It is like a bird picking a seed out of the freshly planted soil of one’s heart (Luke 8:4-8). It will never grow. Another challenge to faith is condemnation or feeling unworthy to receive from God.

Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our _____, and he knows everything.²¹ Dear friends, if we don’t feel guilty, we can come to God with _____.²² And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we _____ him and do the things that please him. -1John 3:20-22

As stated earlier, walking by faith is a day-to-day choice. There is no shortcut in this walk of faith. The daily steps consist of spending time with God in prayer, reading, meditating and proclaiming God’s promises along with worship and thanksgiving. God loves it when we trust Him and always has our best interests at heart.

ADDITIONAL VERSES: Proverbs 18:21

Psalm 28:7

James 1:3

MEDITATION VERSE: Philippians 4:13

8. GIVING

Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

-Matthew 6:20-21

More is said in the New Testament about our relationship to our possessions than is said about prayer, hell and faith combined. What we do with what we have is a big deal to God and also directly impacts our lives. When we give to God, it reminds us that He has given us everything we have and that He can be counted on to meet every need we will ever have. Giving something back to God is also an expression of gratitude and worship and also positions us to be able to bless others.

You must each decide in your _____ how much to give. And don't give _____ or in response to _____. For God loves a person who gives _____. ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to _____ with others.

-2Corinthians 9:7-8

The law of reciprocity is a law of our world just as gravity is. To receive you first give.

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants _____ will get a generous crop. -2Corinthians 9:6

*_____, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for _____, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you _____ will determine the amount you _____.
-Luke 6:38*

One of the primary avenues God provides for giving is through the covenant of the tithe, which means one-tenth. The first ten percent of any increase was to be the Lord's. The first record of tithing in the Bible occurred with Abraham when he acknowledged God's provision in his life. It was later instituted as a law in Leviticus 27, and Jesus made mention of it in Luke 11:42. The tithe was considered holy and to be an expression of worship and acknowledgement of God as provider. With the giving of the tithe came a blessing.

*Bring all the _____ into the _____ so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the _____ of heaven for you. I will pour out a _____ so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the _____!
! -Malachi 3:10*

Life itself is a gift from God, and He has given each of us a free will to choose what we do with it and how we use it. Fortunately, He has also provided instructions in scripture on how to keep those same blessings from destroying us.

Honor the LORD with your _____ and with the best part of _____ you produce. ¹⁰ Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will _____ with good wine. -Proverbs 3:9-10

For God is the One who provides _____ for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will provide and _____ your resources and then produce a great harvest of _____ in you. -2Corinthians 9:10

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. -Psalm 24:1

ADDITIONAL VERSES: Mark 12:41-44

Proverbs 19:17

MEDITATION VERSE: Philippians 4:19

9. FAMILY

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. -John 13:35

A core foundation element to your development as a follower of Christ is to spend time with other Believers. The concept of family is from God, and His desire is for us to do life together and not be “lone rangers”. We were created for family. He is our Heavenly Father, and we are His children adopted into the family through Jesus.

To all who _____ him and _____ him, he gave the right to become children of God. -John 1:12

The cultural erosion of the family structure in recent years has brought much disillusionment to the relevance and importance of family. The entire twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians presents a very clear breakdown on God’s design for family and its importance within the church structure.

All of you together are Christ’s _____, and each of you is a _____ of it. -1Corinthians 12:27

With the easy access to ministry podcasts, video streams and books, it may appear to some that everything needed to spiritually

grow is taken care of, but there is no substitute for involvement within a healthy local church family. The word “church” means a gathering of people. There is the universal church, which consists of everyone throughout the world who has ever professed the name of Christ, but you also find in the New Testament the apostle Paul writing letters to local churches in various cities. A healthy local church will provide encouragement, biblical teaching, love and an outlet for you to serve others with the gifts God has given you.

Let us not neglect our _____ together, as some people do, but _____ one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. -Hebrews 10:25

The overriding theme of God’s family is the love and interdependence we are created to have with each other. No one person can thrive alone but together we grow and are strengthened. In fact, we read in Acts 2 that the early church met together in one place to worship, shared meals together, and sold all their property and possessions to help those in need.

He [Jesus] makes the whole body fit _____ perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts _____, so that the whole body is _____ and _____ and full of love. -Ephesians 4:16

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's _____.
We are many parts of one _____, and we all belong to _____. -Romans 12:4-5

In Matthew 16:18, we discover that Jesus, not man, established the church (“the gates of hell will not prevail against the church”). Church is not a denomination or a professional vocation but is the family that accomplishes God’s plans and purposes on earth.

God's purpose in all this [salvation] was to use the _____ to display his _____ in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. -Ephesians 3:10

ADDITIONAL VERSES: Acts 2:42

Hebrews 13:17

MEDITATION VERSE: Psalm 92:13

10. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

-Mark 16:15

The entire reason that you are still alive today, after making Jesus Lord of your life is to be a witness and tell others the good news (gospel) of life and freedom!

When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to _____. Yes, I try to find common _____ with everyone, doing everything I can to _____ some. ²³ I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its _____. -1Corinthians 9:22-23

We discovered previously that the Holy Spirit inside you equips you with the boldness necessary to share your faith with others. You may be wondering where to start? The best starting point is to share with someone how a relationship with Jesus has impacted your life – your testimony. You don't need to use any fancy biblical phrases just tell your story.

Worship Christ as _____ of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be _____ to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a _____ and _____ way. -1Peter 3:15-16

When the opportunity presents itself that someone wants to follow Christ or has questions why they should, here are 4 simple points you can convey.

- God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life
- Mankind is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
- Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.
- We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

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Sharing your faith can at times be nerve racking or scary, but push past it and know that God is with you. Your responsibility is to communicate the good news. It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict sin so don't allow the response or lack of response from someone deter you in sharing the good news. When one person is receptive, it makes it all worth it.

You are the _____ of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as _____.¹⁴ "You are the _____—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a

basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to _____ in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will _____ your heavenly Father. -Matthew 5:13-16

ADDITIONAL VERSES: Romans 1:17

Matthew 9:37

MEDITATION VERSE: John 3:16-17

Congratulations on completing *Core*! This information is not exhaustive, so set aside time daily to discover more of the amazing promises of God in the Bible. His will in His Word, so dig in!

May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. -2Peter 1:2-4

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