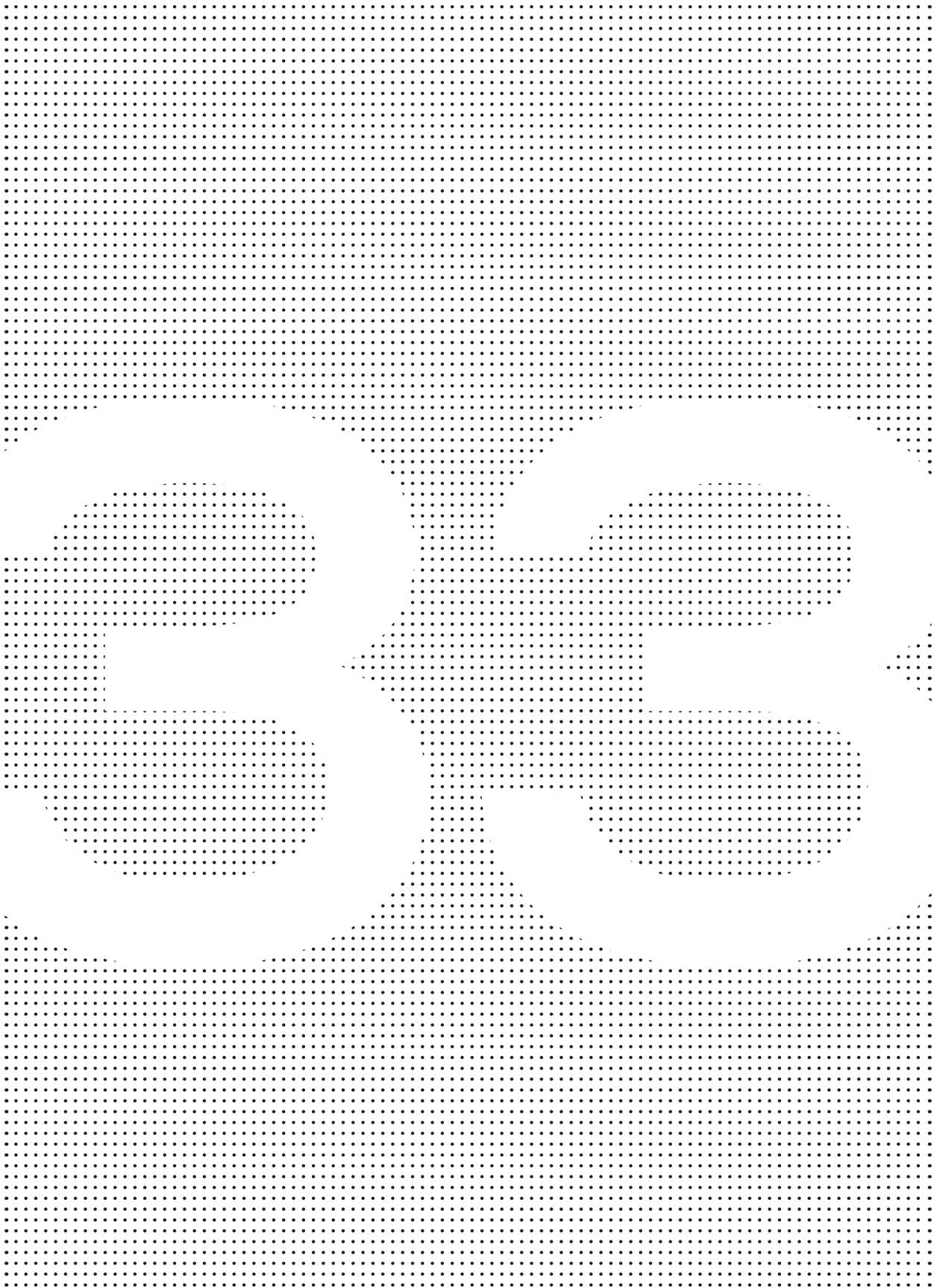


33
THINGS

THAT HAPPEN AT THE MOMENT OF
SALVATION



Two X Two



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Based on insights from Lewis Sperry Chafer's
Systematic Theology, Vol. III.

Developed by Dave Garda and Dann Spader.

Edited by Cherie Ewings, Laura Slezak and Kristin Williams.

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Sonlife
PO Box 23842
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33 THINGS

WHEN GOD THROUGH HIS GRACE SAVED US,

He instantly imparted His life and righteousness to us. Lewis Sperry Chafer, in his eight-volume *Systematic Theology*, lists 33 works of God that comprise the salvation of a soul.

According to Chafer, these 33 riches of grace are **“wrought of God... instantaneous... simultaneously given... and are ground on the merit of Christ... therefore eternal.”** (p. 235, Vol. III) All of eternity will be spent enjoying and coming to understand the depth and riches of God’s grace and love which He so lavishly poured on us at the miracle of our salvation. As we understand and see the depth of God’s grace, then can we truly worship Him in truth and spirit.

The more we understand what God has done for us, the more we understand who God truly is.

FOR NEW BELIEVERS

- ○ We believe that the understanding of your new identity in Christ will be the most effective grounding step you can take during these early days of your walk with Christ.
-

FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

- ○ Allow these truths to lead you in worshiping your heavenly Father and encouraging other believers as you celebrate your identity in Christ.
-

FOR MINISTERING BELIEVERS

- ○ Our new identity in Christ should produce a contagious excitement that you can overflow to both the body of Christ and new believers. We challenge you to walk through the first 14 days of this study with a new believer for their grounding in the faith and your reliving the joy of your salvation.

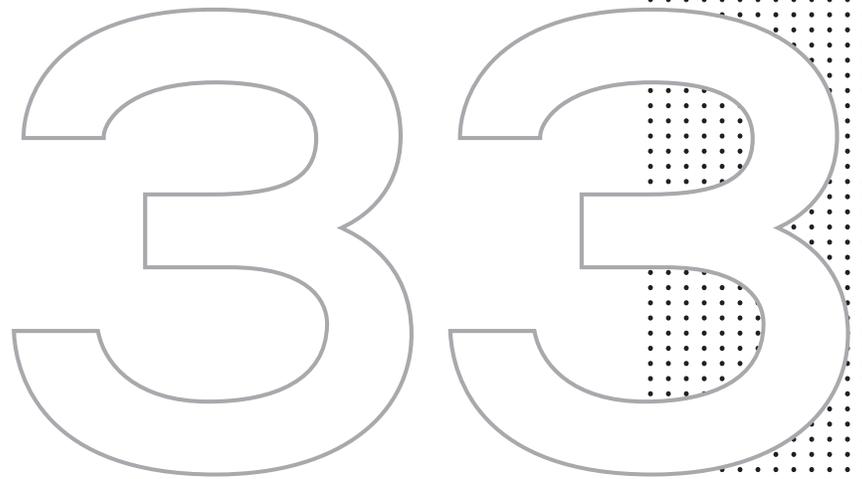
WAYS TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are many options for using this material. The ultimate goal is to be built up and encouraged as believers in our understanding of our relationship with God. Here are some suggestions for how to accomplish this:

- ◆ As a pastor or leader of a ministry, preach through God's good gifts to His children.
- ◆ In a small group setting, study one attribute of God's gift each week.
- ◆ In a personal study, spend 33 days getting to know your position in Christ.
- ◆ In a one-on-one study.

TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR PERSONAL STUDY

- ◆ Prepare your heart in prayer.
- ◆ Plan your time wisely. Schedule time on a regular basis to work through this devotional.
- ◆ Bring your Bible, study sheets and a pen.
- ◆ Expect God to reveal Himself!
- ◆ As a prayer or worship theme guide.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Just the fact that you have picked up this devotional guide tells us that you have a heart to know God. 1 Samuel 16:7 tells us that “... **for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**” David was a man who, by many standards, was not great. He was a cruel man of war who committed adultery and murder. Yet he was known as a man after God’s own heart.

To get to know the heart of God, kneel before the Maker and ask Him to reveal Himself to you through this study. Clear your mind and heart of any misconceptions you may have of God’s character. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you in a new way through your study of His Word.

Bow your head and pray right now for a **heart for God** as you begin this adventure in the Word. Remember God promises in James 4:8 that He will bow down and put His arm around those who want to snuggle right up next to Him.

1

FORGIVEN

Thank God today for the gift of His complete forgiveness.

Read Romans 8:1. What does this verse say about our sins?

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Webster's Dictionary defines condemnation as **“to find to be wrong; to show the guilt; to announce judgement upon; to officially declare unfit for use.”**

What does Colossians 2:13–14 say about our sins?

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Through Christ's forgiveness we find that **“there is now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus”** (Romans 8:1). We must celebrate the completeness of this forgiveness as we live forgiven of all of our sins — past, present and future.

The slate has been wiped clean and now with a clear conscience, we can **“approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need”** (Hebrews 4:16).

What can we now do as believers because we have been forgiven?

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How will this make you act differently towards God the next time you sin?

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Stop right now and talk to God as your “Abba Father.”

Read Ephesians 2:11. What was our identity before salvation?

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Now we have become children of God, legitimate and full heirs of that sonship. Identify the terms used to explain this transformation:

John 3:6

Titus 3:5

Ephesians 2:1–2

2 Corinthians 6:18

Galatians 3:26

2 Corinthians 5:20

As God’s child, God no longer is only our creator, but now becomes our “Abba.” Abba is an Aramaic word that is similar to saying “Daddy” or “Papa.” Read the context where these three occurrences are used in the New Testament: Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6.

In light of these verses, look at the prayer A.W. Tozer expresses in his book *The Pursuit of God*:

“I sense that I am a child of God. I know assuredly that God is my Father and I am the object of His constant love and attention. There steals over my soul the realization that His concern and care of me are never ending, that His patience and compassion and mercy and understanding are always extended to me. In every situation of life, no matter how unusual or adverse, there comes the quiet assurance to my heart that I am His and He is mine.”

What does this tell you about the “daddy” heart of God toward you?

.....

.....

3

HAVING ACCESS TO GOD

Approach your God of grace with boldness. Tell Him how you feel today. Tell Him about your dreams. Go ahead. He is waiting expectantly to talk with you.

“Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The only way to trouble God is not to come at all.” — D. L. Moody

Read Hebrews 4:16. Write out this verse.

Perhaps no thought is more consuming than the reality of this passage. Explain what it means to you to approach the throne of God with boldness.

Believers can boldly and confidently come into the presence of the Almighty God, the King of all Kings, and make requests and find mercy and grace to help in time of need. This privilege is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

What makes you hesitate to approach the throne with boldness?
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What does James 5:16b tell us about why we should pray?
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Praise God for your new relationship by sharing with someone you meet today your joy in the reconciliation with your Creator.

In Christ we have become **“a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ... not counting men’s sins against them.”**
— 2 Corinthians 5:17–20

Webster’s defines reconciliation as **“the restoration of a friendship after an estrangement.”** We were once separated and estranged from God because of our sin. He paid the ultimate sacrifice and reconciled us so that we can now have an unencumbered relationship with Him.

It is Christ who has provided our eternal peace with God.
What does the restoration of your friendship with God mean to you?

4 RECONCILED

5

JUSTIFIED

Express to God your understanding of His gift of justification and what it means to you that He declares you guiltless.

Justification is the divine act whereby God declares the fact that we are righteous and forgiven because of Christ's work in our lives. Justification is God's declaration that He now looks at us **just as if we had never sinned.**

Read Romans 4:5.

Read Romans 5:1.

Webster defines justification as **"to be just, right, or valid; to declare guiltless."**

What does justification mean in your life today?.....

.....

Thank God that you are complete in Him!

Over 170 times in the New Testament Paul makes reference to this glorious truth of being placed in Him. Read the following sampling of verses and note a small portion of what it means for you to be **in Christ**.

Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:39 ... neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12:5 ... so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

1 Corinthians 1:4 I always thank God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:30 It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through Him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

We are vitally joined to Christ — this is the foundation of all the other blessings we receive. Now we are seated with Christ in the heavenlies and united with Him. In Christ we are complete — we have access to all that He has access to, even God Himself.

If you were to walk today **in Christ rather than in self**, what would be different about your day?

“God cannot do much through us until He gets in us. The moment Christ comes in, He then proceeds to chip away the parts which don’t look like a Christian.” — Zig Ziglar

9 PLACED “IN CHRIST”

7

ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

Express your feelings of acceptance by God in a prayer of gratefulness to Him as your heavenly Father.

Read Ephesians 1:4. What does it say about how God looks at us?

Read 1 Peter 2:5. This passage speaks of presenting gifts that are “**acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**”

What kind of gifts could you present to Christ today?

Because of our union with Christ, God sees Christ in us and we are without condemnation, fully accepted and without need to try to perform to gain acceptance. Because of this union with Christ, we are made righteous.

Identify the ways or degree to which God makes us righteous:

2 Corinthians 5:21

1 Corinthians 6:11

Hebrews 10:14

Colossians 1:12

How do you feel after reviewing these verses?

Use Revelation 21:1–3 as a focal point to express praise to God for the privilege of living forever in His presence.

“We are all strangers in a strange land, longing for home, but not quite knowing what or where home is. We glimpse it sometimes in our dreams, or as we turn a corner, and suddenly there is a strange, sweet familiarity that vanishes almost as soon as it comes.” — Madeline L’Engle, *The Rock that is Higher*

Read Philippians 3:20, Luke 10:20 and Hebrews 12:22. Where is our home?...

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As you live on this earth do your priorities reflect the anticipation and excitement for eternity expressed in Philippians 3:20? Why? Why not?
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Read Ephesians 2:19. What is our status as we journey through our years here on earth?.....
.....

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.’” — Revelation 21:3



9

OF THE FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Talk to God about the joy of belonging to His household. Express the honor you feel in being brought into the royalty and dignity of His royal family.

Read 1 Timothy 3:14–15.

Not only are we citizens of heaven, but we are now a part of “God’s household.” How are we to treat those who are of the household of God according to Galatians 6:10?

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Read 2 Timothy 2:19.

Who identifies us as a member of God’s family?

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“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household...” — Ephesians 2:19

Thank God for His gift of fellowship. Ask Him to help you grow as you live in the fellowship of His saints.

Read 1 Corinthians 12.

Our “citizenship” pertains to our relationship to heaven, of the “household of God” pertains to our relationship with God; whereas the “fellowship of the saints” pertains to our relationship with other believers. Before God that relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ carries responsibilities to honor each other, build each other up and function as one.

Read the following passages on our fellowship with one another. Note the practical expressions of fellowship that we are encouraged to share.

Acts 2:42

Galatians 2:9

Philippians 2:1–3

Philemon 1:17

Hebrews 13:16

1 John 1:3

1 John 1:6–7

11

WITHIN THE “MUCH MORE” CARE OF GOD

Thank God for His care. Be specific. He gives you the hug of His caring presence daily. Receive His hug and share His care with someone you meet today.

“God has everything to do with answering the prayer of his children. Their troubles concern Him, and their prayers awaken Him. Their voice is sweet to Him. He loves to hear them pray, and He is never happier than to answer their prayers.” — E.M. Bounds, *The Weapon of Prayer*

God’s love for unsaved man is infinite and perfect, yet the Scriptures speak of a **much more** attitude of God toward His children.

Read Romans 5:8–10. “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through Him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life.”

The **much more** response of God makes us special objects of His love and grace.

Note the care of God on your behalf.

Ephesians 4:7

Titus 2:13

Ephesians 1:19

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Colossians 3:15

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

Romans 8:26, 34

Praise God as you celebrate your presence in eternity as a fully glorified follower of Christ. Tell Him of your hopes and fears as you seek to know Him as He currently sanctifies you to become like Him.

At salvation, God has given the promise of future glory.

Read Romans 8:18: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (NAS)

What do you picture when you read Colossians 3:4?

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Read Romans 8:30. Draw a diagram demonstrating the process illustrated in this verse.

How certain is the outcome of this process?

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Thank God for letting you join Him in a meaningful, life transforming partnership.

“We have to live but one day at a time, but we are living for eternity in that one day.” — Anonymous

Because of our family ties and heavenly citizenship, we are linked in association with Christ, which covers at least seven areas of common interest and undertaking. Write down the main idea of each passage below.

a) Partners with Christ in life

Colossians 1:27

1 John 5:12

b) Partners in position

Ephesians 2:6

c) Partners with Christ in service

1 Corinthians 1:9

1 Corinthians 3:9

d) Partners in suffering

2 Timothy 2:12

Philippians 1:29

1 Peter 4:12–13

1 Thessalonians 3:3

e) Partners in prayer

John 14:12–14

f) Partners in betrothal

2 Corinthians 11:2

Ephesians 5:25–27

g) Partners in expectation

Titus 2:13

Express your gratitude to your heavenly Father for the incredible foundation upon which your life is built — Jesus the Rock.

Read Matthew 7:24–27.

What does Jesus’ parable tell us about building our lives upon a solid foundation?

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The moral of the story is that **only one foundation will last** and all others are like sand and will collapse. The quality of the foundation is critical to the endurance of the structure.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:9–15.

What can you learn here that addresses the issue of the structure upon the foundation?

.....

Tell God about the meaning His plan gives to your life.

Read the following verses and write down the key words which describe our part in God's plan. Then take a moment to express to God what each of these passages mean to you:

Acts 2:23 = key words

1 Peter 1:2, 20 = key words

Romans 8:29 = key words

1 Thessalonians 1:4 = key words

John 15:16 = key words

1 Thessalonians 5:24 = key words

"In prayer we are reminded of God's goodness, His power, and His plan..."

— Joseph Stowell, *The Dawn's Early Light*

Thank God for the cost He invested in buying you back from slavery to sin.

“God answers prayer on the ground of Redemption and no other ground. Let us never forget that our prayers are heard, not because we are in earnest, not because we suffer, but because Jesus suffered.” — Oswald Chambers

We have been purchased by the shed blood of Christ out of the slave market of sin and now set free to serve the living God. (Galatians 5:1, Romans 3:24)

Webster’s dictionary defines redemption as **“to buy back and receive something in exchange.”** In both the Old and New Testaments we have many beautiful pictures of God’s unfailing love that redeems us from ourselves and our lot in life. Think of the book of Hosea, where God shows us how unfailing His love is towards His Bride.

This gift of redemption from God also reminds us of the picture in the Old Testament of a slave that is earmarked for his master. In Exodus 21:5–6 we read: **“But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,’ then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently.”** (NAS) This is a beautiful picture of our relationship to the Father God who redeemed you from the position of slave to sin and has set you free. Yet, in gratefulness to God you can become God’s permanent slave.

One day in the future you will have the redemption of your body and be given a new glorious eternal body.

Read Romans 8:23.

What does it tell you about redemption?

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Thank God that His wrath and anger toward our sin was satisfied in His son Jesus. Express your gratefulness that as 1 John 2:2 says, He is the propitiation for our sins. Open your arms and welcome God close, since He is now free to move toward us and have a living relationship with us through His Son.

The great theological concept of **propitiation** is rarely understood by the average Christ-follower. *Unger's Bible Dictionary* states that it is **"The divine side of the work of Christ on the cross. Christ's atoning death for the world's sin altered the whole position of the human race in its relationship to God, for God recognizes what Christ accomplished in behalf of the world whether men enter into the blessings of it or not."**

Nelson's Bible Dictionary states that the word means **"appeasement, thus propitiation expresses the idea that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for sin that a holy God demanded."**

Read 1 John 2:2, Romans 3:25 and Hebrews 2:17.

What do we learn about living out our salvation?

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What does this mean to you personally?.....

.....

If you had to explain propitiation to a child, how would you explain it?

.....

As Chafer states, **"to be in that relation to God in which He is propitious toward the specific sins of the child of God is a benefit of grace ... more advantageous than heart or mind can comprehend."** (p. 238, Vol. III).

Talk to God about the wonder of His undeserved favor and freedom from the law in your life.

A Christ-follower does not have to perform to be accepted. He is already accepted in Christ. The performance standard of the law, which man never met up to, is no longer a binding power; for man is now free from the law because he is dead to the law.

Read Romans 8:2.

Read Romans 7:4.

What do Romans 6:14 and 7:6 say about our relationship to God's law?

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A Christ-follower is now under grace, obeying because of who he is and what God has done for him — not because he must but because he desires to serve God.

To be free from the law is to be free from a “works” orientation, striving to someday be good enough. The law produced bondage, performance orientation and legalistic guilt from which man is now truly free through a day-to-day relationship of grace.

What does God's grace look like in your life?

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Thank God that you are adopted into His family.

Read Ephesians 1:4–5.

When was our adoption arranged?

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God voluntarily adopts us into His new redeemed family through His grace.

Under Roman law, adoption carried very strict rules. The adopter must be a male and childless. The adopted person had to be an independent adult who agreed to the adoption. Once the legal procedure was concluded under the law, the adopted person became a new creature who was completely born again into his new family. This is a scriptural picture of our new life as adopted sons and daughters of God.

We are now members of a new family.

Read Galatians 4:6.

Read Romans 8:23.

What did you learn about your new position in the family of God?

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How will this affect your life today?

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Talk to your heavenly Father about your relationship with Him. Picture yourself snuggling up closer to Him as He has drawn you near.

Augustine said, “**You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.**”

Read Ephesians 2:12–13.

Can you remember feeling this separation between you and God? If you responded to Christ at an early age consider these verses and the reality of the distance between God and yourself before salvation.

After salvation, the nearness of God to us is a constant reality, even when we feel distant to God. When the feeling of distance returns, what is the source of this emotion?

Read James 4:8.

Read Hebrews 10:22.

Because we have been brought near, our response as a believer is to keep the nearness through confessing sin and aligning ourselves with His will.

The feeling we have when we sin:

me  God

The reality for the believer:

GOD

“It would be a poor love that depended not on itself but on the feelings of the person loved. A crying baby turns away from its mother's breast, but she does not put it away. She holds it closer. In the worst mood I am ever in, when I don't feel I love God at all, I just look up to His love. I say to Him, ‘Look at me. See what a state I am in. Help me!’” — George MacDonald

Talk to God about how He delivered you from the power of darkness and empowered you to be the light to those who remain in darkness.

“Prayer is powerful. The devil smiles when we make plans. He laughs when we get too busy. But he trembles when we pray — especially when we pray together.”

“One concern of the devil is to keep saints from prayer. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.” —Samuel Chadwick

Read Daniel 9 and 10. What did you discover about the power of prayer?.....

.....

Read Colossians 1:13. From what did God deliver you?

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Read 2 Corinthians 4:3–4.

Throughout the Scripture we are told of Satan’s blinding power on men’s minds.

Read Ephesians 2:1–2.

Read 1 John 5:19.

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3–5.

Don’t turn and run. We have been delivered from the power of darkness. God has already rescued us out of Satan’s domain and now tells us to wage a war against that domain with our new spiritual armor

Read Ephesians 6:10–12.

Thank God today for your place in His Kingdom.

Read the following verses to discover new insights about your involvement in God's Kingdom:

Colossians 1:13

1 Thessalonians 2:12

2 Peter 1:11.

The above verses certify that you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In 1970 there were 1.25 billion Christians with a world population of over 3.7 billion. In 1997 the world had 5.8 billion inhabitants and 1.9 billion Christians (of course, many are Christians in name only). Join this vast army of God as we enter our new Kingdom. You are one of a billion!

We serve the King of kings in a new kingdom in which we have been placed. What a privilege and challenge to further that kingdom!

How can you live in God's kingdom on a daily basis?

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Thank God for that He gave you as a gift to His Son, Jesus.

Read John 17.

Note that in the seven times in John 17 when Jesus is praying, He says we are “those whom you gave me.” As believers, we are a gift to Jesus, as precious jewels — each valuable and unique, given by the Father.

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.” — John 17:6

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.” — John 17:22

Notice how Jesus takes care of us as a precious gift received from the Father:

“This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: ‘I have not lost one of those you gave me.’” — John 18:9

How do you feel about being a present given by the Father to His Son?

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Based upon Jesus’ care for the disciples whom God gave Him, how do you see Him taking care of you as His precious gift?

.....

.....

Talk to God about your gratitude that He is changing you outwardly because of the inward change He has already completed. Let Him know that you want to cooperate with the ongoing transformation of you into His contagious character and enduring priorities.

Read Colossians 2:11.

To be circumcised spiritually involves being set apart for an identified relationship with Jesus. Chafer notes the provision and blessing of this relationship we share with Christ:

“To stand before God as one whose sin nature or flesh has been judged and for whom a way of deliverance from the dominion of the flesh has been secured, is a position which grace has provided and is blessed indeed.” — Chafer, *Systematic Theology Volume III*, p. 250–251

Read Romans 4:9–12. These verses describe the circumcision of Abraham’s heart preceding the circumcision of his flesh. The outward sign followed the inward transformation of his heart.

What changes have occurred in your life since Christ transformed your heart?

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Did these need to change before you were made new in Christ? NO!

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Take time to declare praises to God as He called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Read Exodus 19:6.

The nation of Israel was offered the privilege of being a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. However, they failed the conditional promise and the priesthood was restricted to one family.

Read 1 Peter 2:5–9.

What does it mean for you to be **“a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people”**? (KJV)

What is the difference between being a priest in the nation of Israel and being a priest in the New Testament?

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What role do you fulfill as a member of Christ’s holy priesthood according to 1 Peter 2:5 and 1 Peter 2:9? How can you live out this truth today?.....

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Thank God for choosing you! Talk with Him about your new role in a chosen, holy and unique group of people.

Read 1 Peter 2:9. What do you believe it means to be ...

A chosen generation?

A holy nation?

A peculiar people?.....

As a holy nation we become a distinct group of people here on earth. We are unique in that we do not share the purposes of this world as our own, but rather claim our life purpose from our citizenship and home in heaven. We live as citizens of a heavenly Kingdom under our eternal God.

What is your part as a citizen of God’s heavenly Kingdom?

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Read 1 Peter 2:11. What is our role here on earth based upon our status?.....

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Talk with God about what it means to be His inheritance.

Read Ephesians 1:18.

What does it mean that as believers we are an inheritance of the Father?

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Read Colossians 3:4.

What is unique about this inheritance?

.....

Thank God for making you His heir. Let him know you appreciate that His inheritance never perishes, spoils or fades.

Not only are we an inheritance to the Father, but the Scriptures tell us that God and all He bestows is our inheritance.

Read 1 Peter 1:4 where God writes of **“an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.”**

Describe this inheritance:

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Read Colossians 3:23–24.

Thank God for bringing you out of darkness into His light. Ask Him to help you to share His light with those with whom you live and work.

Read Ephesians 5:8.

What does it say about walking in the light?

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Not only are we to walk in the light, but we are also to allow His presence to be noticed. According to 1 John 1:7 who needs to notice His light within us?

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How have you experienced Christ's indwelling nature shining through you so that others have noticed Him?

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“The perfection of what we experience always seems just beyond our reach. As with striking a succession of matches of light a dark room, those moments invariably seem to flicker and fade. Heaven will be like turning on the full light. The perfection will be there for us to enjoy — undefiled and unfading.”

— David Watson Sr., *Fear No Evil*

Ask God to help you hear His voice more clearly.

“As perplexing as it is to the human mind,” writes Chafer, **“the Scriptures advance distinct revelations regarding relationships between the Godhead and the believer, and these relationships represent realities which find no comparisons in the sphere of human experience.”**

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1. The believer is in God the Father. What does this mean for you?

.....

Read Romans 8:9. God the Father is in the believer who is in the Spirit. What does this mean for you?

.....

Read 1 Corinthians 2:12. The Spirit is in the believer. What does this mean for you?

.....

“Let me know Thy Voice’—that is my prayer. I am willing beyond all my expression to hear Thee, to perceive Thee, to be thrilled with Thy presence.”

— Oswald Chambers, *Knocking at God’s Door*

Take a few moments to reflect upon the reality of God’s presence in your life through the Holy Spirit. Tell God how much it means to you that He sealed you with a guarantee through the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit actively indwells and works in a new believer’s life. This working is described as an “earnest” or downpayment.

Read Romans 8:23. Notice the riches of the Holy Spirit as they are described in the following verses:

1) Born of the Spirit

John 3:6

2) Baptized by the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:13

3) Indwelt by the Spirit

John 7:39

Romans 5:5

Romans 8:9

2 Corinthians 1:21

Galatians 4:6

1 John 2:27

1 John 3:24

4) Sealed by the Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:22

5) Filled by the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

Tell God your desire to claim the full truth of being complete in Him.

“Just think, every promise God has ever made finds its fulfillment in Jesus. God doesn’t just give us grace. He gives as Jesus, the Lord of Grace. If it’s peace, it’s only found in Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Even life itself is found in the Resurrection and the Life. Christianity isn’t all that complicated... it’s Jesus.”

— Joni Ereckson Tada, *Lamp Unto My Feet*

While this truth may be a summary of all that has gone before, it is nonetheless a powerful truth of Scripture.

Read Colossians 2:9–10.

It is because of this incomprehensible truth that the Scriptures can make the assertion we read in 2 Peter 1:3.

Write this remarkable verse below:

If we were to fully grasp this truth how would our lives be changed?

.....
.....

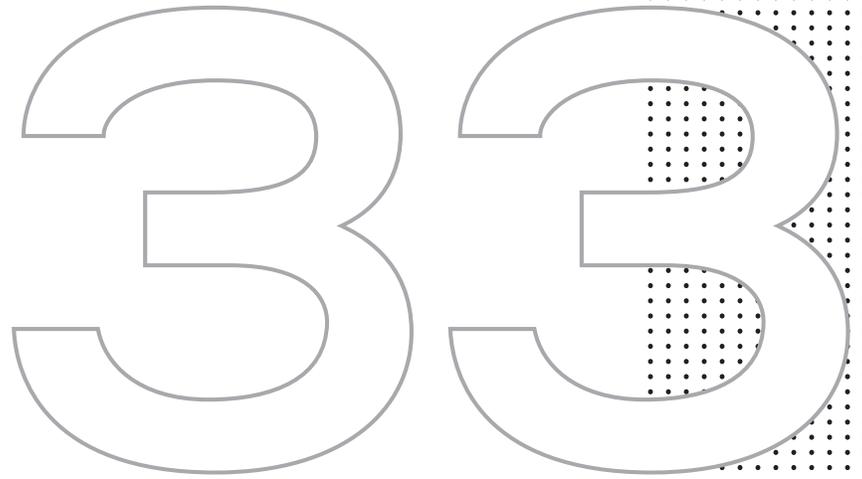
Thank God one at a time for the riches of salvation by unwrapping each of the above gifts daily, living out your faith as a transformed child of the King.

Read Ephesians 1:3.

Take a moment to review our sampling of the following spiritual blessings God has given to each of us as at the moment of salvation.

God's 33 Gifts to Believers

1. Forgiven
2. Child of God
3. Having access to God
4. Reconciled
5. Justified
6. Placed "in Christ"
7. Acceptable to God
8. Heavenly citizenship
9. Of the family and household of God
10. In the fellowship of the saints
11. Within the "much more" care of God
12. Glorified
13. A heavenly association
14. On the Rock, Christ Jesus
15. A part in the eternal plan of God
16. Redeemed
17. A living relationship with God
18. Free from the law
19. Adoption
20. Brought near
21. Delivered from the power of darkness
22. Entrance into a new kingdom
23. A gift from God the Father to Christ
24. Circumcised in Christ
25. Members of a royal and holy priesthood
26. A chosen generation, a holy nation, a peculiar people
27. His inheritance
28. The inheritance of the saints
29. Light in the Lord
30. United to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
31. Blessed with the earnest first-fruits of the Spirit
32. Complete in Him
33. Possessing every spiritual blessing



Salvation is solely a work of God, not of man.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.”

— Ephesians 2:8–9

Our response is to repent (turn from going our way and doing things in our power) and to receive that free gift of God. As we unwrap that free gift of God we discover 33 transforming truths. Life and all eternity can be spent studying God’s Word and coming to a true appreciation of the depth, majesty and wonder of all the good things God has done for us.



Sonlife equips local church leaders and local church youth ministries to follow the example of Jesus in making disciples through balanced Biblical priorities.

For information on training events contact us at:

Sonlife
PO Box 23842
Portland, Oregon 97281
971-340-4675
www.sonlife.com