

Daily Verses
May 2012

May 1

Truth will keep us from conformity to the world.

Romans 12:2 'And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.'

We are kept from the gravitational pull of the world
by the Holy Spirit leading us;
scripture guiding us;
the life of Christ dwelling in us;
and by the power of God keeping us.
Truth will keep us from conformity to the world.
We experience truth; we grow in truth; we walk in truth;
and we are set apart from the world by truth.
The world can never understand our love for Christ;
our confidence in His word;
our joy in serving Jesus;
or our assurance of eternal life.

May 2

The evidence of the Christian life is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:5 'That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.'

The gospel of Christ is more than right doctrine;
it is the power of God.
When Christ dwells in our heart
then the power of God will be seen in our life.
Right doctrine will lead us to Christ;
but only the power of God can produce the life of Christ in us.
The evidence of the Christian life is the power of God.
It is the power to overcome anger;
power that removes envy;
power to be holy;
power to love others as Christ loved us;
power to forgive;
and the power to be children of the living God.

May 3

We have certainty; boldness; and confidence.

2 Corinthians 3:12 'Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:'

The gospel does not need to hide behind words;
nor does it need the pretence of pomp and ceremony.
The gospel of Christ is truth.
The evidence of the gospel can be seen
by its power that works in the lives of those who trust in Jesus.
There is no confusion in the gospel.
We have certainty; boldness; and confidence.
Certainty because we have received new life;
boldness because the Holy Spirit gives full assurance of faith;
and confidence because we know through experience
that what the Lord has promised He will fulfil.

May 4

Our message is Christ.

Colossians 1:28 'Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:'

Our message is Christ.
He died for us; He lives in us through faith in Him;
and we shall be presented to Him.
It is His life in us that is precious.
We are one with Him; one body in Christ.
The sign of life in a Christian is the desire to know His word.
We grow in Christ as we grow in the knowledge of who we are in Christ
and all He has done for us.
The more we love Christ, the more we will seek to put on Christ;
to walk in the freedom of new life;
and to let His life be seen in us.

May 5

The gospel of Christ or the superstitious rituals of religion.

1 Timothy 4:7 'But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself rather unto godliness.'

The gospel of Christ changes the heart;
it brings us into right relationship with God;
gives life to our innermost being;
and begins a work in us
conforming us into the image of the Son of God.
The superstitious rituals of religion cannot change the heart;
cannot bring peace with God;
make pleasure a primary objective;
and seek to gratify the desires of self even when doing good works.
In Christ we have a different focus.
We can take the lowest place

because we are children of the living God.
We can face difficult circumstances with great courage
because we have the promises of God.
Our joy is that the Lord is with us.

May 6

The law compels but love is voluntary.

Romans 13:10 'Love works no evil to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.'

In Christ we are set free from the bondage of the law
and we are brought into the freedom of the love of Christ.
The law compels but love is voluntary.
The law enslaves but love sets us free to serve.
The law condemns but love is free from all condemnation.
The law controls our outward actions through the fear of punishment
but love controls our outward actions through the joy of new life in Christ.
The law can never produce righteousness
but love rests in the righteousness of Christ.
The law can never make us like Christ
but love radiates the life of Christ in us.

May 7

It is the preaching of the cross that brings us into new life.

1 John 5:12 'He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life.'

The purpose of scripture is to bring us into union with Christ;
He is eternal life.
It is not enough to agree with scripture
or to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
It is the preaching of the cross that brings us into new life.
The cross was God's answer on our behalf for sin; judgment; and death.
When Jesus rose again
He broke through every barrier that separated us from life itself.
It is faith in Christ alone that brings us into new life
and this new life is born in us through the power of the Holy Spirit.
It is the gift of God; undeserved and freely given.

May 8

Common sense; honesty; diligence and a willingness to work.

1 Thessalonians 4:12 'That you may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that you may have lack of nothing.'

Common sense; honesty; diligence; and a willingness to work should be the hallmark of every Christian.
Common sense will keep us from wrong advice;
honesty will keep us from wrong actions;
diligence and a willingness to work will keep us from a wrong reputation.
The Christian life must never be separated from normal everyday life.
The truth of the gospel will be seen by the way we speak;
the way we live;
and the way we conduct our business.
Faith in Christ will make us an example within our community.

May 9

Our words are the expression of our heart.

Psalm 19:14 'Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.'

Our words are the expression of our heart.
If we speak much about the concerns of life,
it is because our heart is meditating upon them.
We need to take time to meditate on scripture;
to think about the goodness of Jesus;
His great love for us;
and His everlasting covenant that is our inheritance in Christ.
All the promises of God are ours;
we have nothing to fear when Christ is our life.
He keeps us safe and secure in His care.
Let others trust in their riches but we will trust in the Lord our God.

May 10

The power of God and the message of the gospel.

Luke 4:32 'And they were astonished at His doctrine: for His word was with power.'

The people listened to Jesus because He had authority and power.
He did not seek the recognition of established authorities;
held no allegiance to religious hierarchy;
and did not ask permission to preach the gospel.
He was hated by religious leaders.
He had power they could not deny;
authority they could not control;
and spoke against the hypocrisy of their religion.
The message of the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.
We do not need permission to preach the gospel.
We need to be filled with the Spirit of God;
burning with the fire of God;
reaching out with the love of Christ;
and desiring only that others find new life in Jesus.

May 11

Faith in Christ and love one for another.

1 John 3:23 'And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment.'

The two main characteristics of the Christian life
are faith in Christ and love one for another.

Faith in Christ is able to breakthrough every barrier
that would prevent His love from being seen in us.
It is not a determination to trust in Christ;
it is the calm assurance of knowing that our life
and the lives of those we love are in His care.

Faith rests in His leading so that love can be in control of everything we do.

May 12

Light and fruit.

Philippians 2:15 'That you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world;'

The light of the gospel shines brightest in the darkest places.
Christians need to go among the people.

It is our character that reveals who we are in Christ.

People will want to know Jesus
when they examine the fruit of the Spirit in our life
and find it pure and without any inconsistencies.

When Christ is our life
then we are lights showing Jesus is alive,
and fruit bringing the sweetness of Jesus into the lives of others.

May 13

Radical love.

Ephesians 5:2 'And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.'

The love the Bible speaks about is radical.
It is supernatural love that bears no grudges;
delights in forgiveness;
and gives freely with a joyful heart.
It is worship that is offered to God
by bringing His love into the lives of others.
It does not seek to earn God's pleasure;

it seeks only to bring Him pleasure.
It desires to do His will;
to love others as He loved us;
and to see others lifted to new heights in Christ.
It is His love in us that we give back to Him
as an offering of thanksgiving for His great love towards us.

May 14

Love gives; love serves; love cares.

1 Corinthians 16:14 'Let all your things be done with love.'

The love of Christ is the bond of fellowship in the church;
it will unite all who are kept by it;
and it holds together everything that it leads and motivates.
It is the evidence of new life in Christ;
the standard of discipleship;
the energizing power of the church;
and it is the command we must always follow
- to love as He loved us.

Love gives; love serves; love cares.
It is the most effective advertisement for the church;
the most powerful weapon in any conflict;
and it will always be the greatest need in the church.

May 15

Division will make the body of Christ ineffective.

1 Corinthians 12:25 'That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.'

Division will make the body of Christ ineffective.
It is by being linked together that we are able to lift one another.
The poorest, weakest, or lowest are essential in the body of Christ.
If we do not see the potential in others
then we will never understand the relationship of the body of Christ.
We fulfil our goals by carrying the burdens of others;
by praying for one another;
and encouraging one another.
Every Christian has the responsibility
to fulfil his or her role within the body of Christ.

May 16

Faith works; love toils; hope remains steadfast.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 'Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ,'

Faith works; love toils; hope remains steadfast.
A living faith is seen by our love for scripture;
righteousness; and fellowship.
Love for Christ is evident when we do His will;
walk in His ways; and care for one another.
A living hope trusts in the promises of God.
It remains steadfast even in difficult times.
Faith relies upon the work of Christ;
love is the outworking of the life of Christ in us;
and hope is the strength of Christ working in us and through us.

May 17

Seated with Christ in heavenly places.

Ephesians 2:6 'And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:'

When Jesus ascended, He did it for us
so that we can be seated with Him in heavenly places.
He has lifted us from the bondage of sin
to the freedom of a victorious life.
He sat down because He finished the work for us.
Sin is dealt with.
We do not need to overcome sin. He has done it for us.
We need to move into the freedom that Christ has won for us.
We are more than conquerors in Christ.
He has lifted us to the place where we can live
far above every power that could destroy us.

May 18

The love of Christ holds everything together.

2 Corinthians 5:14 'For the love of Christ constrains us'.

The Greek word 'sunecho' that is translated 'constrains'
literally means 'to hold together'.
The love of Christ holds everything together in the Christian life and ministry.
We are kept by His love; surrounded by His love;
and nothing can separate us from His love.
It is His love that changes us into His likeness.
His love motivates us to reach out to others with the gospel of Christ.
His love strengthens us in difficult times.
His love fills us with joy so we remain steadfast in Him,
and worship with thankful hearts even in the hardest times.
His love gave all for us.
It is by His love working in us that we can give our lives back to Him.

May 19

Pure heart; good conscience; genuine faith.

1 Timothy 1:5 'Now the end of the commandment is love out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:'

A pure heart is one that is cleansed by the blood of Jesus;
washed continuously by the word of God;
and filled with the love of Christ.

A good conscience means having peace in our minds.
It is the peace of knowing that we are in Christ;
that we are in His will;
and that His love is in control of our life.

Faith unfeigned means our faith is genuine.
We are not putting on a religious mask.
Christ is our life not our religion.

We know we have eternal life because the Spirit of God dwells in us.

May 20

Kind; tenderhearted; forgiving

Ephesians 4:32 'And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.'

Kindness opens the way for reconciliation.
The desire for revenge will make our hearts hard.
We need to keep our hearts tender;
not letting the wrongs of others destroy our lives;
not pushing people away by holding on to a wrong attitude;
and always being ready to show mercy.

Our willingness to forgive others
shows how much we love the One who has forgiven us.
When we move into the freedom of forgiving others
then we also move beyond any hold
that unforgiveness can have upon our life.

May 21

Effective prayer is mighty.

2 Corinthians 1:11 'You also helping together by prayer for us,'

Effective prayer is mighty.
It unites the church with the resources of God.
There is nothing that cannot be overcome through prayer.
Prayer gives us opportunity to help and care for one another.

Prayer gives us responsibility to be faithful in serving one another.
Prayer lifts us above our own interests.
It brings us into fellowship with the whole body of Christ.
When we love one another as Christ loved us
then we will be diligent to pray for one another.

May 22

Be not slothful; we are children of the King.

Hebrews 6:12 'That you be not slothful, but followers of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.'

In this verse the word slothful refers to
acting like one who does not have the right of inheritance.
We are children of the King.
We are joint heirs with Christ.
We have been brought into the family of God
and His riches are our inheritance.
We are not outcasts;
we are royalty in Christ.
We should never grow weary;
our work is not in vain;
the Lord will accomplish His purpose in all that we do.
We need to remain steadfast and faithful to do His will.

May 23

The promise; the gift; the assurance.

1 John 2:25 'And this is the promise that He has promised us, even eternal life.'

The promise of God could only be given at God's expense.
He not only promised eternal life;
He became sin for us.
In Christ we are brought through judgment and death into new life.
We know we have eternal life
because His Spirit is given to us as the down payment on our eternal inheritance.
We know we are accepted in Christ
because His Spirit confirms His word within us.
We know we can draw daily on His strength; His provision; His protection
because Christ is our life.

May 24

The Most High came down to our level

Philippians 2:6 'Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:'

His love; His power; His greatness;
His wisdom; and His strength are revealed by His humiliation.
If He had not become Man, He could not have reached us;
if He was not God then He could not save us.
God became Man and died for us.
Jesus, the Son of God did what seemed impossible.
He separated man from sin;
reconciled man to God;
and brought new life to all who will receive Him.
The Most High came down to our level
so that we can be lifted to the heights of His glory.

May 25

Our boldness is in Christ.

Hebrews 13:6 'So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.'

Our boldness is in Christ.
We have courage because He is the rock on which our life is built.
We have confidence because He holds the steering wheel of our life.
We have joy even in the face of adversity
because in all things He is with us.
There is nothing we need fear.
He lifts us above our circumstances
so that His love can shine through us
in a world that needs to see the light of the gospel of Christ.
His presence with us, and in us,
is worth more than all the riches of the world.

May 26

The Love; power; excitement; and joy of the early church.

Acts 1:14 'These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.'

The disciples were united by the life of Christ dwelling in them;
perfectly harmonised together by the love of Christ;
they were filled with joy because Jesus is alive, and they knew it;
they were filled with excitement and expectation
which overflowed in mighty prayer.
They looked not to their own resources
but for the power of God;
they knew that the promise of the Father
was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
The church today needs to experience the same love;
the same power; the same excitement; and the same joy.

May 27

The Holy Spirit is our inheritance in Christ.

Acts 2:39 'For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.'

The promise is given because Jesus is ascended;
He is glorified for us;
He reigns for us.
He became like us so that we can be united with Him.
The Holy Spirit is our inheritance in Christ.
This is the promise that is ours.
When our heart thirsts for more of Jesus
then the Holy Spirit will bring us
into new realms of knowing Him;
He will increase our love for His word,
and our love for one another;
and He will bring us into new heights of worship in serving Him.

May 28

Intimate relationship with God.

Hebrews 10:19 'Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,'

Access to God is the highest privilege.
We not only have access;
we can enter into the throne room of God with great boldness.
This is more than privilege; it is intimate relationship with God.
We stand not in our righteousness
but in the righteousness of Christ.
His life dwells within us.
We enter on the basis of the blood of Jesus shed once for us,
and the Holy Spirit brings our requests before the throne of God.
We are completely surrounded by the love; the power;
and the presence of God.

May 29

Let us draw near.

Hebrews 10:22 'Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,'

If we never pray we will never experience the power of prayer.
The confidence we have is in Christ.
We are accepted in Christ; loved in Christ; chosen in Christ.
We should be as children who run into the presence of the living God.

We need no priest to represent us;
Christ has opened the way for us.
It is our responsibility to keep our hearts pure.
We cannot pray with a hypocritical mask
or if the love of sin holds our heart captive.
We must be filled with the love of Christ;
keeping our life open before Him;
growing daily in His word.

May 30

In Christ we can stand steadfast in every storm of life.

Hebrews 10:23 'Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;')

In Christ we can stand steadfast in every storm of life.
He is the only foundation that will never fall.
We can be unshakeable in turbulent times
by relying upon His promises.
They will keep us when others have no hope.
We can speak with certainty in uncertain times
because He has promised He will never leave us.
His presence with us is enough.
We can rejoice even in the midst of sorrow
because Christ is our eternal hope.
We need fear no evil because Christ is our mighty fortress.

May 31

Provoking to love and good works.

Hebrews 10:24 'And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:'

We provoke by setting an example.
We encourage by working together;
helping one another;
and expressing appreciation for one another.
We stir one another up by praying together;
and sharing with one another the needs of others.
The love of Christ in us is the magnet that will draw others to Jesus.
Good works are like pictures in the gallery of our life
that show the beauty of Jesus in us.
Our love for family; for the church; and for others
will show the genuineness of our faith.
Good works will show that our faith is active and not just words.