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August Month

August 1

Power; wealth and earthly splendour

John 18:36 'Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world...'

An earthly kingdom is known by its power; wealth; and outward splendour.
The kingdom where Jesus reigns is in the hearts and lives of His people.
His power brought us salvation;
His wealth is our eternal inheritance;
His splendour is seen by His love working in us.

August 2

Teachers producing teachers

2 Timothy 2:2 'And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful people, who shall also be able to teach others.'

The message of new life in Christ is reproductive.
Life produces life.
Teaching must also be reproductive so people whose lives represent the gospel can teach the gospel.

August 3

Jesus our Mediator

1 Timothy 2:5 'For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;'

A mediator is someone who stands in the gap in order to bring peace.
Jesus is the only mediator between God and man.
If He wasn't God He couldn't save us;
...if He had not become Man He couldn't reach us.
He is our peace.

August 4

Resist steadfast in the faith

1 Peter 5:8-9 'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith'.

Resist means to stand against; steadfast is to stand firm.
We stand against the devil by standing firm in the faith.
Saved by His grace;
...kept by His Word;
...led by His Spirit.

August 5

The hope of His calling.

Ephesians 1:18 'The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling,'

A calling is something we give our lives to do.
It is the opportunity to be part of something that is bigger than us.
His calling is to be one with Him so the life of Christ is in us, and
His word to be our food and drink.

August 6

We are His riches

Ephesians 1:18 '...and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints'.

We are His riches; the value He saw in us is revealed by the price Jesus paid for us.
He gave His life for us.
He became like us so we can be like Him;
...a glorious people changed into His likeness.
We are His inheritance;
...a people belonging to God.

August 7

His power toward us

Ephesians 1:19 'And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power'.

The power of Jesus is far beyond all other.
The power of death could not hold Him;
...all powers no matter how evil are under His feet.
He overcame them for us so that we can be victorious in Him.

August 8

A life of worship

Hebrews 13:16 'But to do good and to share in fellowship forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.'

A sacrifice is something that is offered in worship.
The whole of the Christian life is associated with worship.
Doing good and caring for one another are opportunities to worship with a heart full of love and appreciation.

August 9

The words we speak

Colossians 4:6 'Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man.'

We are known by the way we speak.
Grace is associated with joy and kindness.
Words that are seasoned with salt are not hastily spoken.
Our words must be kind; considerate; and chosen wisely.

August 10

The Spirit of the Lord brings freedom

2 Corinthians 3:17 'Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.'

The Spirit of the Lord brings the freedom of new life in Christ.
It is the freedom of being born into the family of God.
We have a new nature that is
...free to love others;
...free to be holy; and
...free to be joyful knowing He is always with us.

August 11

The faithfulness of the Lord

2 Thessalonians 3:3 'But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.'

The faithfulness of the Lord is always working for the good of His people.
His word strengthens us so we can stand in difficult times.
He gives wisdom so we can lead others.
He guards and protects us so no evil thing can ever overcome us.

August 12

Praying in symphony

Matthew 18:19 '...if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.'

The words 'shall agree' literally means 'a symphony'.
There is power in prayer when God's people are
...in perfect harmony with one another and
...pray together with one unified voice.

August 13

Boldness; confidence; assurance

Hebrews 4:16 'Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.'

Boldness is to speak without fear.
We speak boldly because we are righteous in Christ;
...we speak confidently as we are accepted in Christ; and
...we have assurance as we are joint heirs with Christ.

August 14

Examine yourselves

2 Corinthians 13:5 'Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves. Do you not know yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you?'

If Christ is in us we will desire to know His word;

...to be in fellowship with others; and
...to live daily for Him.
Christ is seen in us by our love for one another and by our joy in His love for us.

August 15

Key to spiritual success is prayer.

Luke 5:15-16 '...and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.'

Jesus did not seek recognition from the crowd.
He moved away from the crowd to pray.
The key to spiritual success is prayer.
We must never become too busy to pray.

August 16

The Lordship of Christ

Romans 6:14 'For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace.'

Have dominion means 'to be lord over'.
Without Christ sin has control over us.
When we receive Christ, the power of sin is broken and Jesus Christ is the Lord of our life.
Lordship of sin is bondage; the Lordship of Christ is freedom.

August 17

Like Christ

1 John 4:17 'Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.'

When we receive Christ,
His life dwells in us;
His righteousness clothes us; and
His Spirit leads us so that daily we are being changed into His likeness.
When we see Jesus we shall be like Him.

August 18

Courage; confidence; and joy

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.'

The presence of the Lord gives courage to face those who oppose us;
...confidence to stand firm in times of difficulty; and
...joy even in times of sadness.
Our words should express our courage; confidence; and joy in the Lord.

August 19

Sharing an effective faith

Philemon 6 'That the sharing of your faith may become effective by acknowledging every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.'

The source of our faith is the life of Christ working in us.
Our faith increases as we grow in the knowledge of who we are in Christ.
The Holy Spirit empowers us so that our faith becomes effective.

August 20

Patience and Longsuffering

Colossians 1:11 'Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;'

Patience means being steadfast under trials.
Longsuffering is restraint from anger.
The resources we have in Christ are mighty.
We are strengthened to overcome anger and to come through it joyfully.

August 21

Love for Christ

2 John 5-6 '...that we love one another. This is love that we walk according to his commandments.'

Love for Christ is seen by our love for His word.
If we love His word then we will love one another.
The love of Christ working through us is able to break down barriers;
...open doors;
...heal deep wounds; and
...will draw others to Christ.

August 22

Showing mercy

Luke 6:36 'Therefore be merciful, as your Father also is merciful.'

Showing mercy means having compassion on others.
It is more than forgiveness.
It means to let the fruit of the Spirit be in control.
The Holy Spirit enables us to love those who wrong us;
...to be kind to the people around us; and
...to glorify Jesus in our everyday lives.

August 23

In everything give thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 'In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.'

Thankfulness beautifies the believer.
We thank Him for His unfailing love that surrounds us;
His word that works in us;
His grace that is freely given to us;
His righteousness that covers us; and
...for His perfect peace keeping us.

August 24

Evidence of growth

Romans 15:14 '...you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.'

As we grow in Christ these things should become evident in our lives:

Goodness which is the nature of Christ in us;

...love for His word as we learn to trust and depend upon Him; and

...a desire to encourage one another in the Lord.

August 25

Provoking one another

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

Provoke means 'stir into action'.

The way we provoke others is by being an example to follow;

...by encouragement; and

...by helping one another to grow in Christ.

When Christ is our life then His love in us will fill us with joy in doing good works.

August 26

Faith; hope; love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 'And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.'

Our faith is known by our works.

Faith is a total dependence upon Christ and His word.

Hope stands firm on the promises of God;

He will fulfil His word.

The love of Christ works in us as we grow in the new life that Jesus gives.

August 27

Spiritual warfare

2 Corinthians 10:4 '(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)'

Spiritual warfare requires spiritual weapons.

It is Christ in us who is victorious.

It is His word that breaks the chains of oppression and brings freedom.

It is the Spirit of God who empowers us.

August 28

Denying self

Matthew 16:24 'Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.'

Denying self has nothing to do with acts of self denial.
It refers to handing over the throne of our life.
When Jesus is Lord of our life there will be a hatred of sin and a love for righteousness.

August 29

Abundance of joy in affliction

2 Corinthians 8:2 'How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.'

Affliction refers to being under pressure.
In Christ there is an abundance of joy even in the hardest times; and
...the lack of money cannot remove the freedom and joy of a giving heart.

August 30

Christ our anchor

Father is seeking worshippers

John 4:23 '...true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him.'

The Father is seeking worshippers.
True worship is the love of Christ in us glorifying the Lord with our lives.
It is more than singing Christian songs.
It involves our innermost thoughts and desires and all that we do.

August 31

The fullness of God

Ephesians 3:19 'And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.'

We grow in the knowledge of the love of Christ by experiencing His love.
The fullness of God means His presence dwelling in us;
His power working through us;
His love controlling us; and His word being in us.

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