

Thought for the Day 2010

September 2

Crucified with Christ; Risen with Christ

Galatians 2:20 'I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me.'

The cross separates us from everything that would condemn us.
The old is gone; crucified with Christ.
The resurrection unites us with His life.
We are a new creation; risen with Christ.
Jesus came for this purpose so that His life can be in us.

September 1

A good fight

2 Timothy 4:7 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.'

A good fight has no greater weapon than the love of Christ.
It is fought in the power of His might and not in our own.
Christ alone is the armour for the fight.
The aim of the fight is to glorify Jesus; and
...to bring His freedom, life and joy to others.

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.

August 30

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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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.

July 31

The sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:17 '...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God'.

The sword of a Roman soldier was attached to his belt.

The sword of the Spirit is taken from the belt of truth.

It is a word from scripture that the Holy Spirit puts on our heart for a specific purpose.

It is essential to fill our minds with scripture so the sword is ready.

July 30

Fulfil your ministry

Colossians 4:17 '...Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfil it.'

Ministry is service.

The Lord fulfils His purpose through His people serving one another.

The Holy Spirit enables us to do our part individually so that together His purpose is fulfilled.

We must be careful to fulfil our part in His purpose.

July 29

The preaching of the cross

1 Corinthians 1:18 'For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.'

Jesus died in our place to deliver us from the power of death;

...set us free from sin,

...guilt and condemnation;

...to make us a new creation;

...to give us new life, and

...to bring us into the family of God.

July 28

Rejoice in the Lord

Philippians 4:4 'Rejoice in the Lord at all times: and again I say, Rejoice.'

Joy will attract others to Christ.

Our rejoicing is in the Lord.

We rejoice because of His love surrounding us;

His power protecting us;

His promises securing us; and

...for all that He has done for us.

In all things we can rejoice because of His presence with us.

July 27

The Christian athlete

1 Corinthians 9:25 'And everyone who contends for the prize is self controlled in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.'

An athlete must train hard;
...keep a disciplined lifestyle; and
...be focused on the race.

The Christian runs for the prize of pleasing Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

July 26

Paul's ministry known by those he led to Christ

2 Corinthians 3:2 'You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.'

Paul's ministry was known by his love and care for those he led to Christ.
They were written on his heart.

He prayed for them;
...encouraged them;
...taught them; and
...desired to be with them.

The power of the gospel was seen working in their lives.

July 25

Growing in grace

2 Peter 3:18 'But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.'

Growth is a product of life;
...it takes place inwardly and is seen outwardly.
His grace working in us will be seen by the beauty of His character;
...knowledge of who we are in Christ will make us strong.

July 24

Fishermen

Mark 1:17 'And Jesus said unto them, Come after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.'

Fishermen go where there are fish.
They use the right method; they sail far out into the sea;
...they face stormy weather;
...they work through the night.
The world needs the gospel;
...fishermen are needed to go to the world.

July 23

The anointing that abides in us

1 John 2:27 'But the anointing which you have received of him abides in you,'

The Holy Spirit is able to lead us in our daily life.
In Christ we are the temple of the Holy Spirit and the anointing abides in us.
We must learn to be sensitive to the anointing;
...to recognise the anointing; and
...be willing to follow His guidance.

July 22

Faith and love

Colossians 2:2 'That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding,'

Faith and love should be the outward witness that Christ is our life.
Faith looks to who we are in Christ and rests in this;
...love seeks to express this faith through our relationships with others.

July 21

Riches; jewels; and wealth

2 Corinthians 8:9 '...He became poor, that you through his poverty might be rich.'

The riches we possess is Christ; the pearl of great price.
The jewels we wear are the jewels of a godly life through Christ dwelling in us.
The wealth we rely upon every day is the abundant wealth of the promises of God; our anchor and our refuge.

July 20

Ambassador in chains

Ephesians 6:20 'For which I am an ambassador in chains: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.'

In prison Paul calls himself 'an ambassador in chains'.

He had a purpose to fulfil.

Prison opened important doors of opportunity for Paul to represent Christ.

He did not pray for freedom; he asked for prayer to speak boldly.

July 19

His love stood with us

Romans 5:8 'But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.'

The word commends means 'to stand together'.

Christ died for us because He loved us.

The love of God stood with us even when we were devoted to sin.

He loved us then, and His love will continue to stand with us forever.

July 18

Scripture is 'God breathed'

2 Timothy 3:16 'All scripture is given by inspiration of God'.

The meaning of the phrase 'inspiration of God' is 'God breathed'.

The New Testament was not dictated by God.

The Holy Spirit moved through the minds; hearts; lives; and experiences of His people.

The 'breath of God' is seen in scripture, and in the lives of His people.

July 17

The Lord's perfect timetable

2 Peter 3:9 'The Lord is not slow concerning his promise'.

The eternal plan and purpose of God for our lives is that we will be like Jesus.

The Lord is not slow in fulfilling His word but

He patiently waits for those who will receive Him, and

...tenderly cares and protects those who are His.

The Lord has a perfect timetable.

July 16

Effective prayer

Romans 8:26 'Likewise the Spirit also helps our weaknesses: for we know not what we should pray for as we should.'

Effective prayer is more than words.

It is the cry of the heart.

We may not know what to pray, but the Holy Spirit knows and He is our Helper.

The Holy Spirit will lift the prayer of our heart to the throne of grace.

July 15

Lifted to royalty

Psalm 113:7-8 'He raises up the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the dunghill; That he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people.'

Jesus Christ is able to make a beggar into a prince.

He alone can lift a person from the depths of sin to the heights of the family of God..

July 14

Looking unto Jesus

Hebrews 12:2 'Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...' Looking means 'to turn away from other things and to look towards'.

Our lives will reflect the things our eyes are fixed upon.

If we look with desire upon the things of the world then the world will be seen in us.

Looking to Jesus means to be like Him.

July 13

Prepared for good works

Ephesians 2:10 'For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.'

The word ordained means 'to prepare beforehand'.

God has not only prepared good works for us to do now,

He is also preparing us for the works He will have us do in the future.

July 12

Lightness of our afflictions

2 Corinthians 4:17 'For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;'

The scripture refers to the 'lightness of our afflictions'.
They are light because the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness; and
...it is through these afflictions that His power is seen working in us.

July 11

Seeking things above

Colossians 3:1 'If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.'

Seeking means to desire the Lord with all our heart;
...to learn so we know and understand the scriptures;
...to meditate on His word;
...to be watchful in prayer; and
...to give our energy in serving Him with our lives.

July 10

More than conquerors through His love for us.

Romans 8:37 'No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.'

It is His love for us that makes us more than conquerors.
Who can condemn us? No one; Christ gave Himself for us.
What can separate us from His love? Nothing; He will never leave us.
His surrounding love can never be overcome.

July 9

Holy Spirit keeps us from conflicts.

Galatians 5:15 'But if you bite and devour one another, take heed that you be not consumed one of another.'

The Holy Spirit will keep us from conflicts but we must be willing to yield to His leading.
It is most important that the life of Christ is seen in us.

His love will give us the heart to serve others even when our interest is ignored.

July 8

United with Christ to love one another

Matthew 11:30 'For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

A yoke was used to join two things together.

His yoke is easy because it joins us to Christ and in Him we are brought into the freedom of new life.

His burden that we carry is to 'love one another'.

It is not heavy because the joy of the Lord gives us the strength to do it.

July 7

The presence of the Lord

Hebrews 13:5 '...be content with such things as you have: for He has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you.'

The presence of the Lord with us is the greatest blessing in life.

David feared no evil thing because of the presence of the Lord (Psalm 23:4).

It is the joy of knowing that He is there at all times surrounding us.

July 6

The trial of our faith

1 Peter 1:7 '...the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire...'

Extreme pressure must be applied in a test if the strength of something is to be relied upon.

Similarly we must face trials to test the strength of our faith.

No matter how hard the test, our faith is able to overcome.

July 5

The supernatural supply of the Lord never fails

Philippians 4:19 'But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.'

The Lord keeps and provides for His people.

Even in famine God provided for Elijah;

...not through the rich and wealthy,
...but through a widow woman (1 Kings 17:9).
The supernatural supply of the Lord never fails.

July 4 (PM)

God's superlatives

2 Corinthians 9:15 'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!'

The blessings we have in Christ are beyond our thoughts or words:
unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8);
incomprehensible peace (Philippians 4:7);
unspeakable joy (1 Peter 1:8).
His indescribable gift (2 Corinthians 9:15)

July 4 (AM)

Joy unspeakable

1 Peter 1:8 'Whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:'

Joy is the hallmark of the Holy Spirit.
A person who is filled with the Holy Spirit will be filled with joy;
...supernatural joy that is beyond words.
It is the joy of His presence in us.

July 3

Peace beyond human reasoning

Philippians 4:7 'And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.'

The peace of God is beyond human reasoning; remaining constant even in the midst of the storm.
It rests secure in the promises of God; and
...guards the heart from stress and
...the mind from distress.

July 2

Unsearchable riches.

Ephesians 3:8 'Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;'

Words cannot tell the riches of our inheritance in Christ; they are unsearchable.

In Him we are

...lifted to royalty;

...given a kingdom;

...filled with His Spirit;

...changed to be like Him.

July 1

Steadfast; immoveable; doing good works.

1 Corinthians 15:58 'be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.'

We are to be steadfast in character so the life of Christ works in us;

...immoveable in serving Him so His love can flow through us; and

...doing good works in abundance so His joy is seen in us.

June 30

Energized by the Spirit not anaesthetized by the world.

1 Peter 1:13 'Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;'

It is necessary to keep our minds fixed on Jesus so we do not become anaesthetized by the world.

In contrast the Holy Spirit will energize us to fulfil His plan and purpose.

June 29

Learn by imitation.

Ephesians 5:1 'Be therefore followers of God, as dear children;'

The word followers means 'an imitator'.

In Christ we have been brought into a family relationship with God.

We are to be like children who learn by imitation so we

...love as He loved and

...forgive as He forgave.

In this way the life of Christ in us develops and grows.

28 June

The Lord protects us from excessive temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13 '...but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond that which you are able;'

The Lord protects His people from excessive temptation.
He puts limits on the temptations we face
...so that we are strengthened in overcoming temptation
...and never destroyed by our inability to resist it.

27 June

Experiencing the presence of God.

John 14:23 'Jesus answered and said unto him, If a person loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.'

Love for Christ is seen by our love for His word.
We will experience the presence of God to the extent that we walk in obedience to the word of God.

26 June

The works of the devil.

1 John 3:8 'For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.'

It would have been easy for the Son of God to destroy the devil
...but it cost everything to destroy the devil's works.
He overcame death to bring life;
...was condemned so we can be justified;
...and became sin so we can be righteous.

25 June

The Holy Spirit leading us.

Romans 8:14 'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.'

The Spirit of God guides us
...and the word of God teaches us
...so that we grow daily into the likeness of Jesus.
The Holy Spirit bears witness within us that we are the family of God

...and we know we can trust in His word because we are His children.

24 June

Washed; kept; presented perfect.

Jude 24 'Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy'.

The word faultless means without any blemish.
We are washed in the blood of Jesus;
...kept by the power of God;
...and we shall be presented perfect into the presence of His glory.

23 June

Separated from sin; united with God's people

Hebrews 11:25 'Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;'

Moses could have held a position of power and wealth in Egypt,
but he chose to be one with the Lord and to stand with His people.
Our love for the Lord will separate us from sin and unite us with His people.

22 June

His strength comes upon our weakness

Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'

The word strengthens in this verse means 'to be endued with power'.
It is when we are weak that His power is able to come upon us.
The Holy Spirit will always glorify Jesus
...and it is in our weakness that the character of Christ is most clearly revealed through us.

21 June

Self control guards the tongue

James 1:19 'Therefore my beloved brethren, let everyone of you be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.'

New life in Christ develops and grows.
We must learn to walk in it by guarding our tongues from making a quick response in anger.

Self control is a fruit of the Spirit that will keep us from saying things we later regret.

20 June

The shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16 'Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.'

The attacks of the enemy come in different ways:

Thoughts that attack the mind;

words spoken against us;

or trials that make it difficult to go on.

The shield we take up is the Lord and in His word we will trust.

19 June

Supernatural supply comes out of natural resources

Luke 5:4 'Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch.'

The Lord knew where the fish were but the disciples had to cast their nets into the water to get them.

The supernatural supply of God will only happen after we have started to use what we already have.

18 June

Four rules to follow

2 Timothy 4:5 'But watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.'

Four rules to follow:

Be thoughtful in all things and never act with careless haste;

...keep going in times of hardship;

...be ready to share the gospel when there is opportunity; and

...fulfil the work the Lord has given you to do.

17 June

Righteousness, peace and joy

Romans 14:17 'For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.'

God's kingdom is seen by the presence and power of God working within us.
The righteousness of Christ covers us;
the peace of God keeps us; and
the joy of the Holy Spirit strengthens us in our daily life.

16 June

Looking for the Lord's return

Titus 2:13 'Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;'

The Lord will return in all of His glory, and all who belong to Him will be changed into His likeness.
If we focus our eyes on this it will
...keep us from sin;
...give strength in difficulty; and
...fill us with love to serve others.

15 June

Not ashamed of the gospel

Romans 1:16 'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes;'

The gospel of Christ is not a doctrinal argument; it is the power of God to salvation.
It does not need to be made more acceptable;
it needs those who are not ashamed of its message to let it be known.

14 June

The Lord sees and acts on behalf of the righteous

1 Peter 3:12 'For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers:'

The righteous of the Lord are those who have put their trust in Christ alone;
they walk in the new life He gives;
and desire to know Him more.
The Lord sees and acts on their behalf;
He hears the cry of their heart and
He answers.

13 June

Jesus, God's treasury of riches

Colossians 2:3 'In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.'

Jesus Christ is God's treasury of riches to man.
His riches purchased our freedom from a sinful life;
...brought us into the family of God; and
...made us joint heirs with Christ.
Now all things that are His by right have been given to us by the riches of His grace.

12 June

The gospel everything in reverse

1 Corinthians 1:27 'But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;'

The plan and purpose of God in Jesus Christ turns everything in reverse.
The weak are strong;
...the poor are rich;
...the last are first;
...the least is great; and
...foolishness is the wisdom of God.
In Christ the despised things become mighty.

The simplicity of the gospel

2 Corinthians 11:3 'But I fear... your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.'

The simplicity of the gospel is that in Christ we have
...freedom from the penalty of sin,
...freedom from the power of sin and
...one day we shall be free from the presence of sin.
Jesus came to give us life that is new; abundant; and eternal.

11 June

We are the Temple

1 Corinthians 3:16 'Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?'

We do not go to the temple to worship; we are the temple.
Our mind is the Holy Place where God dwells.
Our heart is where love is expressed in worship and prayer.
Our daily life is where we offer sacrifices of joy to the Lord.

10 June

Humility

Philippians 2:3 '...but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.'

Humility is freedom to look on others more highly than ourselves.
In Christ we have been lifted to the greatest heights.
We are the children of the King, and everything we are is by His grace.
Our status is in Christ and not in ourselves.

9 June

Faith works; love toils; patience endures.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 '...your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;'

Faith works; love toils; patience endures.
Faith seeks to serve the Lord by doing His will, but
love must face the difficulties and hardships.
Patience will remain firm under the pressure of time.

8 June

The purpose of God for our lives

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 without hypocrisy.'

The purpose of God for our lives is
...that love will be seen flowing from the life of Christ in us;
...that peace will be seen resting in His righteousness; and
...that faith will be seen working in every situation.

7 June

The goal is 'to please Him'

2 Corinthians 5:9 'Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.'

The meaning of the word 'accepted' in this verse is that the Lord will be 'well pleased'.

Love is the motivation.

We are not under law; the love of Christ is to be in control of our daily lives.

The goal we should seek is to please Him.

6 June

Experiencing Jesus

John 4:29 'Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?'

The Samaritan woman met Jesus personally.

Her excitement is seen by her desire to tell others.

True Christianity is more than doctrine; it is experiencing Jesus through His word and His life, and

our excitement and joy will attract others to Him.

5 June

Give with hilarious joy

2 Corinthians 9:7 'God loves a cheerful giver.'

In this verse the word cheerful means to give with hilarious joy.

It is the expression of a new heart that comes from new life in Christ.

We love to give because the Holy Spirit fills us with joy.

It is the joyful giving of ourselves, not just our money, so that the love of Christ will be seen in us.

4 June

The promises of God

2 Peter 1:4 'Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature'.

We become more like Jesus as we learn to rest in the promises of God.

They are priceless in value because His word never fails, and

we can depend on them because of His great love for us.

3 June

True repentance

2 Corinthians 7:10 'For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation'

True repentance is always positive.

It means to change our thinking.

Sorrow is a heaviness of guilt when we look at ourselves but repentance looks to Christ and says 'I will arise'.

Jesus lifts us from guilt to be the ambassadors of His grace.

2 June

Citizens of heaven

Philippians 3:20 'For our citizenship is in heaven; from which also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:'

When our citizenship is in heaven then earthly things are held lightly.

The goal we seek is to please our King knowing that one day He will return.

Our joy is that on that day we shall be changed into His likeness.

1 June

Holy Spirit empowers us

1 Thessalonians 1:5 'For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance;'

True Christianity is not just a theory; it is the life and the love of Christ dwelling in us.

The Holy Spirit empowers us in every area of our lives,

so we are able to rest secure in the promises of God.

May 31

Power to overcome

2 Timothy 1:7 'For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.'

When Christ dwells in us

...we have power to overcome cowardice, timidity and fear;

...we have the love of Christ that overcomes destructive emotions; and

...we have the mind of Christ that overcomes all selfish desires.

May 30

Freedom in Christ

Galatians 5:1 'Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.'

We are born free in Christ, and we must stand firm in this freedom.
Holiness can never be achieved by keeping the law.
Holiness is the life of Christ working in us.
Freedom is walking in new life.

May 29

The Armour of God

Ephesians 6:11 'Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceitful schemes of the devil.'

The Christian life is a spiritual warfare.
The enemy seeks to find areas of weakness; we must be protected at all times.
Our armour is Christ, and it is by His word, His strength and His power that we stand.

May 28

The down payment of the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:22 'Who has also sealed us, and given the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts.'

The life of Christ in us is the seal that sets us apart from the world.
The Holy Spirit is given to us as the down payment of our full inheritance in Christ.
He is our guarantee right now that what God has promised He will fulfil.

May 27

Cast your anxieties on Him

1 Peter 5:7 'Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you.'

The same word is used in Luke 19:35 when garments were cast upon a colt that Jesus sat upon.
We are to cast our anxieties upon the Lord in the same way as this.
When we cast our anxieties on the Lord, He gives us His wisdom, peace, assurance and joy in return.

Comment

[April E. Carson](#)

After 35 years as a believer, tonite this verse is difficult to apply. Lost my job(no replacement), lost housing on 1st, and have had heart problems recently. I need God to help me put one foot in front of other.

[Follower of Jesus](#)

It's like being at the Dead Sea which is the lowest place on the surface of the earth. But this is where we find 'spiritual minerals' that will beautify us for worship. The Lord wants you to worship Him and trust Him. He will bring life and joy out of your Dead Sea experience.

May 26

Put on the New Man

Ephesians 4:24 'And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.'

New life in Christ is a gift we receive freely, but it is our responsibility to put on the new life every day.

It is like putting on clothing.

In Christ we have power over sin, but we must choose daily to live a victorious life.

May 25

Grace

Titus 3:7 'That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.'

Grace is something that is freely given, undeserved and brings joy.

We can never earn grace, and we can never be worthy of grace.

Our joy is in Jesus Christ who saved us not because we are worthy but because He loved us.

May 24

Prayer

James 5:16 'The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.'

Prayer is the way God unites His work with us.

We can pray with confidence knowing Christ lives in us, and

...we stand not in our own righteousness but in the righteousness of Christ.
Effective prayer is when the Holy Spirit leads and empowers our prayer.

May 23

Pentecost

Acts 2:11 '...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.'

The believers on the day of Pentecost were worshipping, but the Holy Spirit led them in worship.

The Holy Spirit glorified Jesus through them;

...gave them a new tongue to praise Him; and

...filled them with boldness to be witnesses declaring Jesus is alive.

May 22

Unity

Acts 2:1 'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.'

When the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost the disciples were in unity with one another.

They loved Christ and were united in their love for Him.

If we desire to be witnesses to Christ we must also love one another.

May 21

Be not slothful

Hebrews 6:12 'That you be not slothful, but followers of them 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.

Don't grow weary.

In Christ we have been brought into the family of God and His riches are our inheritance.

May 20

Glory in Tribulation

Romans 5:3 'And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation works patience;'

It is in times of difficulty that we learn to rely upon Christ and His strength.
The word tribulation refers to 'being under pressure'.
We are able to remain steadfast under pressure because Christ lives in us.

May 19

New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:17 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.'

Jesus came to set us free from the bondage of trying to live a better life.
In Christ we have received new life that develops and grows.
Discipleship is learning how to walk in it.

May 18

Victorious Christian

2 Corinthians 2:14 'Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ'.

A victorious Christian regards
...the will of the Lord as more important than personal comforts;
...is filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit that is not changed by circumstances; and
...has no desire for self glory but only seeks to glorify Jesus.

May 17

Not in word only

1 Corinthians 4:20 'For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.'

Knowledge of the scriptures is not enough.
The Holy Spirit must bring the word alive in our hearts and minds.
The power of the Holy Spirit will be seen working in the lives of those who have received Christ.
This is the evidence of the kingdom of God.

May 16

Love for countrymen

Romans 9:3 'For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.'

Paul overflowed with the love of Christ for his own countrymen.
He loved them as Christ loved them.
Christ alone was worthy to be accursed for us.
Paul's love expresses the heart of an intercessor.

May 15

Approved of God

2 Timothy 2:15 'Be diligent to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'

The Lord seeks workers who will faithfully serve Him;
...those who desire His approval more than the praise and recognition of others; and
...those who will truly love and obey His word.

May 14

Justified by faith

Romans 5:1 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.'

A guilty person can never be justified.
Yet the scripture says we are justified in Christ.
The miracle of the gospel is that in Christ we have been made a completely new creation.
The old is gone, crucified with Christ. New life has come.

May 13 (Ascension Day)

Jesus will return

Acts 1:11 'This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven.'

The same Jesus who ascended shall return.
This is the reason we can have joy in all circumstances.
One day we shall see the King in His glory, and we shall be with Him forever.

May 12

Be tender hearted

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

The desire for revenge will make our hearts hard.

We must keep our hearts tender; always ready to show mercy.

How much we forgive others shows how much we love the One who has forgiven us.

11 May

Word of Christ

Colossians 3:16 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;'

In this verse the scriptures are called the word of Christ.

If we love Christ, we will love His word.

If we desire Christ, we will desire His word.

If we walk in close relationship with Christ then our hearts will be filled with His word.

10 May

Be gentle

2 Timothy 2:24 'And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all, able to teach, patient.'

We can be wrong even when we are right.

The bad taste of a quarrel or fight can last a lifetime.

It does not honour the Lord.

Servants of the Lord Jesus Christ must be gentle at all times so that His character is seen in us.

9 May

Supernatural love

1 John 3:16 'By this we know the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.'

This is love that goes beyond having reasonable care and consideration for others.

It is supernatural love; the love of Christ.

We are known as the disciples of Christ by this love.

8 May

Run for the prize

Philippians 3:14 'I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.'

The disciple of Christ is like an athlete who runs to win the prize.
His or her eyes are fixed on the goal regardless of difficulties and trials.
The prize to be won is more than gold; it is the reward of bringing glory to Christ Jesus.

7 May

Life of Christ in us

John 15:5 'I am the vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.'

It is the life of the vine that produces fruit, and
...it is the life of Christ in us that produces the fruit of the Spirit.
Love, joy, peace will appear as we learn to let His life flow through us.

6 May

Do all things heartily

Colossians 3:23 'And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;'

The smallest thing is important when it is done for the Lord, and
...we should do it with all our heart.
The world will only see that Christ dwells in us through our actions, and
...how we do things is the outward expression of our love for the Lord.

5 May

Humility

1 Peter 5:5 '...be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble.'

The roots of humility are planted in greatness not weakness.
Humility means to have a low opinion of ourselves.
It is to be the clothing or outward adorning of the Christian.
We can take the lowest place because our boast is in Christ, and not in ourselves.

4 May

Christ dwelling in our hearts

Ephesians 3:17 'That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith'.

Christ is to dwell continuously in our hearts, which is the innermost part of our being.
Our heart is the place where we worship the Lord; it is the Lord's temple.
The desires of our heart are expressions of worship to the Lord in His temple.

3 May

Faith and Love

Ephesians 1:15 '...I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints'.

Paul always desired to see two things in the churches, faith and love.
Faith rests in the Lord Jesus and everything He has done for us, and
...love responds to this in our actions to others.

2 May

Grace of God working

2 Corinthians 12:9 'And he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.'

The grace of God is the power of Christ working in our life.
His power will be seen in us when we learn to trust in Him and not in ourselves.
Whenever the Holy Spirit leads, He also strengthens and empowers.

1 May

Draw near to God

James 4:8 'Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.'

This is a promise.
How much we experience the presence of God depends upon how close we draw near to Him.
We do not need to plead with God to help us in difficult times,
...we need to come close to Him and He will come close to us.

30 April

Peace ruling.

Colossians 3:15 'And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also you are called in one body; and be thankful.'

The word rule in this verse means 'to act as an umpire'.

The Holy Spirit leads us by the peace of God.

We must learn to be still so that the peace of God can guide us in daily decisions.

29 April

Thankfulness

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

Wherever the Holy Spirit is in control there is great joy.

Thankfulness is the expression of joy.

In Christ we have been given everything.

We give thanks because we have His life, His strength, and His word.

27 April

The greatest King; the greatest love; the greatest gift.

Revelation 1:5 'Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood'

The greatest King; the greatest love; the greatest gift.

He gave Himself for us because of His love for us, and

...it is His love for us that draws us to Him.

We love Him because He loved us first, and

...His love for us can be seen in our love for others.

26 April

Love of Christ in action

Galatians 6:9 'And let us not be weary in well doing'

The Greek word 'kalos' is used here describing actions we must never be weary of doing.

It is a word meaning something precious or beautiful to look at.

We should never be tired of letting the love of Christ be seen in our actions.

It is these actions that attract people to Christ.

25 April

Energizing power

Ephesians 3:20 'Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,'

The word translated works is the Greek word 'energeo'.
It is the supernatural power of God that is in us; energizing us.
It is not our strength and power; it is the life of Christ working in us.

24 April

Life of Christ controlling.

Romans 12:1 '...present your bodies a living sacrifice'

To be a living sacrifice is more than being obedient.
It means
...giving ourselves joyfully to the will of the Lord so
...our daily lives are an offering of love to the Lord.
It is letting the life of Christ be in control of our lives at all times.

23 April

Lifted from slavery to royalty.

1 John 3:1 'Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:'

Jesus died to set us free from our sins, and
His resurrected life has given us new life.
In Christ we have become the family of God.
He has lifted us from slavery to royalty.

22 April

Addicted to ministry

1 Corinthians 16:15 '...you know the house of Stephanas ...that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints'.

The King James Version translates the Greek word 'tasso' as addicted.
It is good to be addicted to ministry.
People with a heart to serve are the greatest asset in the church.
It's a wonderful addiction.

21 April

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 'love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self control'.

The nature of Christ will be seen in the life of the worshipper.
This is produced by the fruit of the Spirit.
A worshipper will bring forth the sweet fruit of holiness.

20 April

Worshipping Witnesses

Philippians 3:10 'That I may know him'.

The body of Christ is called to be worshipping witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ.
The Great Commission to preach the gospel to all nations can only be fulfilled by those who have hearts filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and
...no other desire except to know Christ.

19 April

The only stone

1 Peter 2:7 '...the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner'.

Islam reveres the Black Stone at Mecca (Ka'ba).
But the only stone that can take away sins is the Lord Jesus Christ.
He is the stone that the builders rejected.

18 April

Love of Christ

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

The Greek word 'sunecho' that is translated 'constrains', literally means 'hold together'.
In Christian ministry it is the love of Christ that holds everything together.
True worship is serving one another with the love for Christ.

17 April

Greatest enemy, the greatest blessing.

Hebrews 2:14 '...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;'

Death is mankind's greatest enemy.

If there was no death then there could be no salvation.

The way of salvation is through the death of the Son of God on the cross.

God used the greatest enemy of mankind to become the greatest blessing of mankind.