

Daily Verses: December 2011

December 1

The trial of your faith

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

Extreme pressure must be applied in a test
before the strength of something can be trusted.
Similarly the true character of our faith
is seen by the way we react under pressure.
The life of Christ in us will shine brightest in the hardest times.
No matter how hard the test, faith in Christ gives strength to overcome.

December 2

Reconciliation not retaliation

James 1:20 'For the wrath of man works not the righteousness of God.'

We must be careful not to react in anger.
Words spoken in anger are soon regretted but can never be retrieved.
When we are moved by the love of Christ,
relationships can be restored;
hurts can be healed;
peace will fill our mind;
joy will fill our heart;
and conviction can bring others to repentance.
The love of Christ in us seeks reconciliation not retaliation.

December 3

The seed of the gospel

Mark 4:19 'And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word,'

The most precious gift we can receive is new life in Christ.
The Holy Spirit is able to produce new life
when the seed of the gospel is planted in our heart.
If we choose to follow the world; to seek what it can give; and to desire its pleasures;
then theology can fill our mind but Christ will never fill our heart.

December 4

Answered prayer

1 John 3:22 'And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.'

Prayer links the desire of our heart with the throne of God.

Jesus gave Himself for us
so we can come boldly into the Father's presence;
the Holy Spirit leads us and empowers us to bring our requests;
but answered prayer is also linked to how we live
and our love for one another.

December 5

Peace To all who trust in Him

2 Thessalonians 3:16 'Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.'

Jesus did not bring peace to the world.
He came for this purpose to bring peace to all who trust in Him.
Peace in knowing our sins are forgiven because Christ died for us.
Peace with one another because Christ lives in us.
Peace in our daily life because He is always with us.
Peace because we know we shall be with Him forever.

December 6

Sin is wiped away

Colossians 2:14 'Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us,'

When we trust in Jesus our sin is completely wiped away.
There is no record of our sin in heaven.
Jesus took our guilt on the cross;
our sin is crucified and buried with Him.
No further sacrifice is necessary for sin.
In Christ we are free from all condemnation;
completely separated from sin;
united with His righteousness;
and set free to be His people.

December 7

His greatness seen in weakness

Luke 1:49 'For He that is mighty has done to me great things; and holy is His name.'

His might is seen by the weak things;
His greatness by His humility.
When we trust in His care; we must also trust in His ways.
His wisdom is contrary to man's wisdom.
His love is beyond understanding.
Jesus did not seek the acceptance of religious leaders;
He had no interest in the self righteous;
He came for a people lost in sin and to make them His own.

December 8

His mercy is worth more than great riches

Luke 1:50 'And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.'

The mercy of the Lord is of more worth than great riches.
He surrounds His people with His love;
gives guidance through His word;
and leads by His Spirit.
He will show compassion to all who call upon Him.
The fear of the Lord is a righteous fear;
it is a fear that draws us to Him;
it will guard our heart from lust and will keep us from sin.

December 9

His strength is sufficient

Luke 1:51 'He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.'

When we trust in Jesus Christ alone we will never be disappointed.
His strength is sufficient to keep us at all times.
His word will never fail.
He is all we need.
He removes all fear from our heart;
He gives boldness so we can live for Him.
His strength does not fade with time;
and His promises cannot be taken away.

December 10

He lifts the lowly to royalty

Luke 1:52 'He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted them of low degree.'

Empires come and go.
The seats of power are soon vacated.
The rulers of this world do not retain their authority forever.
But in Christ the lowly are lifted to royalty.
His kingdom never ends.
It is established in truth bringing freedom and joy;
it is upheld by love giving us peace that endures;
and by His power we receive life that is eternal.

December 11

Jesus fills the emptiness of the needy.

Luke 1:53 'He has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He has sent empty away.'

His provision never fails.
The riches of the world are temporal with no lasting value.
Jesus fills the emptiness of the needy.

The lowest in society become the heirs of His kingdom.
He makes outcasts into worshippers;
prisoners into ambassadors;
gives purpose to the weary;
and brings the poor and needy into unsearchable riches.

December 12

Good news; great joy; and the gift of salvation.

Luke 2:10 'And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'

The good news is that Jesus came to save sinners.
Great joy is experienced by those who receive forgiveness
and new life in Christ.
The gift of salvation in Jesus Christ is open to all who believe.
There is no difference.
His gift is eternal life.
He took our sin so we can be righteous in Him.

December 13

Faithful in the small things.

Luke 16:10 'He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much: and he who is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.'

A faithful person can be relied upon.
In Christ we are one body;
a team working together.
When we are faithful in the small things then great things are achieved together.
If we seek the place of another we will be a hindrance to others.
If we remain faithful then we will lift others together.

December 14

His power working in us

2 Corinthians 13:11 'Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.'

The Christian life is the power of God working in us.
We can live a holy life because Christ dwells in us.
He keeps us from sin and fills our heart with joy.
He unites us with one another by His life; His word; and by His Spirit.
He surrounds us with His love and peace so all fear is gone.

December 15

Be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 'And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;'

We need to be filled daily with the Holy Spirit.
When we obey His word
and walk in His love
then the Holy Spirit will overflow within us.
The wine of the world destroys many lives
but the Holy Spirit brings reconciliation.
He fills our heart with joy;
gives wisdom to say what is right;
and peace to trust in the hardest times.

December 16

Jesus the bread of life

John 6:35 'And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that believes on Me shall never thirst.'

Jesus came so that we can have life.
In Him are all the resources of life.
If we desire the pleasures of the world we will not find life.
When Christ is our life then His word will be our daily bread.
The more our heart desires Him,
the more His life will flow through us.

December 17

We need never be ashamed of the gospel

2 Timothy 1:8 'Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord,'

We need never be ashamed of the gospel.
It is able to save the worst of sinners;
to break the power of sinful habits;
and to fill the empty with abundant life.
The Holy Spirit is our Helper.
He is able to make the feeble into mighty ambassadors for Christ.
He gives power so we can declare our faith in Christ;
to stand on His word;
and to live for Him.

December 18

He has done great things for us

Hebrews 9:28 '...to those who look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.'

He came the first time in weakness;
the eternal Son of God became like us to take away our sin.
He shall return a second time;
no longer the babe in a manger but King of kings and Lord of lords.
On that day His glory will be fully seen;
and all who belong to Him will be changed into His likeness.
He has done great things for us.

December 19

God's gift to mankind

2 Corinthians 9:15 'Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.'

Jesus Christ is God's gift to mankind.
There is no greater gift.
Our need is not just forgiveness;
our need is separation from sin.
Only through death could the Son of God bring us new life.
He conquered death through the cross;
separated us from our sin;
and unites us with His life.
All who love sin reject God's gift;
but all who will receive Him have life.

December 20

The law cannot produce righteousness

Galatians 4:5 'To redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.'

The law cannot produce righteousness; it will never change the heart.
It leaves the sinner condemned; unclean; and without hope.
Jesus removes condemnation;
gives a completely new life;
puts in us a new nature that desires holiness;
fills us with His love;
empowers us by His Spirit;
and makes us part of His family.

December 21

His gift must be received

Matthew 1:23 'Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.'

The eternal Son of God Himself had to become like us
so that we could be reconciled to Him.
His gift is priceless; but it must be received.
His love towards us is beyond measure; but it demands a response.
In Him are unsearchable riches; but we must put our trust in His salvation.

December 22

He shall reign forever

Luke 1:33 'And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.'

The kingdoms of the earth will pass away but His kingdom will never end.
Jesus came to earth to be our Saviour; our Lord; and our King.
He is able to save because He overcame sin and death for us;
He is able to keep because He defeated every power that would have destroyed us;
He is able to lead because He reigns forever.
There is no King like our King.

December 23

Love put on humility; kindness stood in our place.

Philippians 2:7 'But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.'

His power was revealed in weakness.
Love put on humility; kindness stood in our place.
Jesus Christ alone was able to take us through the judgment;
conquer death;
unite us with His life;
raise us to be seated with Him in heavenly places;
and make us joint heirs with Him.
He gave all for us.

December 24

Forgiveness; freedom; and new life

John 14:6 'Jesus said to Him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by Me.'

Jesus did not come to condemn; it is our sin that condemns us.
Jesus came to make a way for us.
In Him there is forgiveness; freedom; and new life.
There is no other way.
He alone is a firm foundation.
His kingdom is established on truth not tradition.
All who trust in Him will find life; all who reject Him will perish.

December 25

There is no greater gift than Jesus

John 3:16 'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

The Father could not give any greater gift than Jesus.
He could not love us more.
There are no barriers to His love.
Jesus took all our sins; our weaknesses; our failings;
so that we can receive His life; His strength; His promises.
He gave His life for us so that we can give ourselves to Him.

December 26

Salvation is all of God

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

Salvation is all of God.
The wisdom of God had to plan it;
the love of God had to do it;
and the grace of God had to give it.
There is no sin the blood of Jesus cannot cleanse.
There is no person He cannot save.
His love reaches out to all.
Only in Christ can a lost sinner be lifted to heights of royalty.

December 27

Jesus came to give us life not religion

Acts 7:48 'Howbeit the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands;'

The place where Christ dwells is in the hearts and lives of His people.
Jesus came to give us life not religion.
True worship can only be seen in our daily life.
Our attitude, our words, and our actions express our love for Christ.
If we love Christ we will love and obey His word.
His joy in us is the evidence of forgiveness;
His love in us is the evidence of discipleship.

December 28

We do not serve idols we serve a living Saviour.

Acts 17:29 '...we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.'

Christ lives in His people.
His love; His power; His goodness;
His righteousness; His peace; and His joy
can only be known through His word
and seen in the lives of all who trust in Him.
Jesus gave His life for us
so that we can live in the freedom of new life.
We do not serve idols we serve a living Saviour.

December 29

The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:18 '...and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'

The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ.
All other foundations will fail.
He alone is the rock on which His church is built.
He died for us;
He rose again for us;
and He ascended far above all powers for us.
On Christ Jesus no sin can condemn us;
no evil can destroy us;
and no enemy can defeat us.
He is our unshakeable foundation.

December 30

The presence of God in our midst

1 Corinthians 14:25 '...God is truly among you.'

The church is not a building; it consists of people who are one in Christ.
When God's people come together there will be excitement
because the presence of God is in our midst.
There will be love for one another
because Christ dwells in us.
There will be rejoicing
because of all that He has done for us.
There can be no pretence in His presence
because the Spirit of God searches the heart.

December 31

Salvation in Jesus Christ is more than forgiveness.

Ephesians 2:7 'That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.'

Salvation in Jesus Christ is more than forgiveness.
He gives eternal life;
unites us with the family of God;
lifts us to reign with Him;
and makes us the objects of His love.
Yet the riches of His grace are greater still.
In Christ we are freely given all things; joint heirs with Him.
Our response should be to give Him our heart; our life; our all.