

DIRECTED BY THE SPIRIT

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Biblical Encouragement to Humbly Seek
Spiritual Wisdom and Direction

"He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way."



PA BIBLE
TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

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Teaching 1: God's Spiritual Wisdom and Working

- For this workshop, we will focus on the “direction of the Spirit,” the wisdom that God gives through the Holy Spirit.
 - **God gives spiritual wisdom to those who humbly seek him.**
- The *first step* to having the knowledge and wisdom of God, is to *revere him*.
 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge!
- Our aim is not merely for the wisdom of God, but God *himself*:
Ephesians 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him

God Gives Spiritual Wisdom to Those Who Humbly Seek Him

Psalm 25:1 – 5, 9 - 14

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long..

8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

11 For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

12 Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.

13 His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.

14 The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

- A psalm like this is a faithful reminder that this is for *all* who seek the LORD, even the sinner, even someone like me!

The General Work of the Spirit

- The Spirit of God is wholistic to us. As God's personal empowering presence, the Spirit lives in us to lead us into the truth, working in us to do God's will.
- The Spirit enables us to *live* and to *walk* in the desires of God.
- We are led by the Spirit; we walk by the Spirit, and this is what will teach us to be “the Sons of God.”
- The Spirit is meant to transform our desires, our way of thinking, our direction of life, and lead us into the truth, in Christ, according to the will of God.
 - This encompasses our whole being, that we would be a new kind of people, with new desires, new thoughts, and a new way to live; all by the Spirit which dwells in us.

God is Working *In You*

Philippians 2:12 - 13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- This is an *internal experience* of the Spirit of God re-directing our thoughts, patterns, and desires.
 - We then participate with the working of God in us by abiding and obeying.

The Spirit of God *Leads Us*

Romans 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Galatians 5:16 - 18

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- When the Spirit comes into our hearts we cry out “Abba Father,” and the “love of God is shed abroad in hearts by the Holy Spirit which he has given to us.”
 - This gives us *new hearts*, desires, ways, purposes, thoughts, etc. ...
 - The most important aspect of the direction of the Spirit is to be led into *godliness* in every aspect of our humanity

The Helper

John 14:16 - 17, 25 - 26

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,
17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 16:12 - 15

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The Helper will

- Be a “helper”- aider, encourager, succorer, advocate
- Be “in you” forever.
- Guide into truth.
- Receive of the Father and *show* it unto you (many ways).
- Teach you all things.
- Bring to remembrance the Word of God.
- The Helper is the means by which the wisdom and truth of God is brought to us.

The Spirit Equips Us for Service

Philippians 2:13 - 16a

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

16a holding fast to the word of life...

Awareness of His Personal Presence

- The Spirit of God works in us, teaches us, leads us, brings us along, gives us new heart and desires... what do we do?
 - We are to be *aware* and *watching* for God’s working.
- We want to develop a *keen sensitivity* to the presence of God in our everyday life.
 - Where are our thoughts and attention while we do our everyday tasks and lives?
 - Are we acknowledging Him in all our ways so that we are sensitive and attentive to His spiritual promptings?

God-minded (acknowledge)

Proverbs 3:5 - 7

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

- We want to “acknowledge God in all of our ways”- develop in our “practice of God’s presence.”
 - A consistent and conscientious awareness of the presence of God in every moment of life. This “with-ness” is a *relationship*,
 - In this way, we can orient ourselves toward God that we bring our thoughts and attention to *him throughout the day*:
 - We are to be “*God-minded*” instead of so deeply steeped in other things.
 - We do this through prayers, meditation, stillness, thoughtfulness, reading, reciting, etc...

You Are *Not* an Exception

Psalm 25:8 - 9

8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Teaching 2: God Gives Wisdom: Ask and Wait

- He is good to us, he is our *Father*, and he gives wisdom, guidance and truth as part of our *relationship* with him.
 - There will be difficult and trying seasons of our lives and faith, God is no less with us or for us, and he gives wisdom and direction even in (and through) those things.

Seek

Proverbs 2:1 - 7

1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,
2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;
3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,
4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,
5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding

- God is the wise one, but he has left the “seeking” to us!
 - In our *seeking*, we are *showing* that we desire God and his wisdom above all others.
 - This keeps us from trusting in our own wisdom, the world, or idols.

He is Good

James 1:17 - 18

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of
firstfruits of his creatures.

Ask and Wait in Faith

James 1:2 - 8

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.
7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;
8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- **The context is *trials*.**
- **Truth to trust:** God HAS all wisdom; God GIVES wisdom freely.
 - God is *good*- he wants us to have *his* wisdom.
 - He doesn't want us to *rely on ourselves*, or something else.
 - He also wants us to have utter confidence that He has all the wisdom we need and will give it to us.
- **"if any of you lack wisdom"**- This also means we need a proper perspective of ourselves, to know *when* we lack wisdom!
- **"let him ask God."**- This proves out the intentions of our heart- *who* are we seeking?
- **"Without reproach"** - God doesn't find fault with you because *you don't know...*
- The man who doubts goes back and forth from trusting God to trusting other sources.
 - This produces *instability*.
 - Prayerful trust in God brings *peace*.
 - Prayerful trust in God is knowing that *he cares* for your *cares*.
 - "How often God's answers come, and find us gone! We have waited for a while, and, thinking there was no answer, we have gone our way but as we have turned the first corner the post as come in. God's ships touch at our wharves; but there is no one to unload them . . . It is not enough to direct your prayer unto God; look up, and look out, until the blessing alights on your head." - FB Meyer

Asking for the Wrong Reasons (hindrances)

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

- You can ask, but not receive because God knows the *heart*.
 - In their case, they were asking to *spend on their passions!*

Philippians 2:13-14

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

- Often as well, God IS working in us to do his good pleasure- we just don't want to do it, or we don't like the answer!
 - Not with muttering and displeasure...and not with doubtful debate.
 - Instead, a *humble readiness to do his will*.

Hindrances

- 1) The wrong motive (Jas 4)
- 2) Grumbling, complaining, not liking the answer (Phil 2:14)
- 3) Not waiting- (“Wait I say on the Lord- Psalm 130:5-6”)
- 4) Earthliness
- 5) Self-wisdom
- 6) Self-reliance
- 7) Laziness
- 8) Too busy, too hurried in our relationship with God.
 - a. Jesus modeled relational “with-ness” - **Luke 5:16** “But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.”

Modes of Communication

- 1) God is clear.
- 2) Inner “knowing” ... the helper “*in you*” and God is working “in you.”
- 3) A feeling or sense of peace (Phil 4:6)
- 4) A token or sign of God’s favor (Ps 86:17 “a sign of your favor”)
- 5) Audible or visual
- 6) Prophetic, Other people, Angels
- 7) Collective sense- (“assuredly gathered” Acts 16:10, “seemed good to us” Acts 15:25)
- 8) You need to personally learn to hear God’s wisdom – it’s relational
- 9) Providential Guiding

Psalm 25:1 - 15

1 Of David. To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

6 Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

11 For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

12 Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.

13 His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.

14 The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Teaching 3: A Walking Relationship

John 11:6 - 11

6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him."

This is Living Fellowship with the Father – Not a formula

Mark 9:14 – 29

14 And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them.

15 And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him.

16 And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?"

17 And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. |

18 And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able."

19 And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me."

20 And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.

22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

23 And Jesus said to him, "'If you can'! All things are possible for one who believes."

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

25 And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

26 And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead."

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

28 And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

29 And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

The Realities of the Spiritual Realm

2nd Kings 6:8 - 17

8 Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, "At such and such a place shall be my camp."

9 But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there."

10 And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice.

11 And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?"

12 And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

13 And he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him." It was told him, "Behold, he is in Dothan."

14 So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Daniel 10:1 - 14

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks.

3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.

4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)

5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.

6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.

7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves.

8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength.

9 Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.

10 And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.

13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

The Greater Reason to Rejoice

Luke 10:17 – 20

17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Teaching 4: What You Need to Know – When You Need to Know

All May Not Be Clear Initially

Jeremiah 32:6 - 10

6 Jeremiah said, “The word of the LORD came to me:

7 Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’

8 Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.’ Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

9 “And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver.

10 I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales.

Before What to Do, There May First Be a Leading in What *Not* to Do

Acts 16:6 – 10

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Wait in Prayer for God’s Timing

Nehemiah 1:1 – 4, 1:8 - 2:6

1:1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel,

2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem.

3 And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

8 Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples,

9 but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’

10 They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.

11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.” Now I was cupbearer to the king.

1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

2 And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid.

3 I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

4 Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

- This difference in time between the months of Chislev and Nisan was four months
 - Nehemiah prayed and fasted to seek God about this for four months
- So much of the vision and plan is built with God through this time spent with him
 - So that when the right moment comes, you are ready for it with God

5 And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.”

6 And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

Revelation May Be Progressively Revealed to You

Acts 11:1 – 18

1 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying,

3 “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

4 But Peter began and explained it to them in order:

5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me.

6 Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air.

7 And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’

8 But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

9 But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’

10 This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven.

11 And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea.

The Meaning of This Vision Was Initially Unclear to Peter

Acts 10:17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate

And What Peter Didn't Know About the Day Before...

Acts 10:1 – 8

1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort,

2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius."

4 And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

5 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.

6 He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea."

7 When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him,

8 and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

11:12 And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

13 And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter;

14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

- God showed Cornelius the purpose of all of this, but he had shown Peter very little.
 - Both men believed and obeyed.
- Cornelius knew Peter would declare a message to him and his house that would save them.
 - This is why he packed the house with his relatives and close friends.

15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.

16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

17 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

- So often, we want God to give us a full explanation before we are willing to follow...
 - We want the A to Z, and then we will start walking.
- Here, God gave an apostle a perplexing vision and a command to just go with these men.
 - A was connected to B, B was connected to C, and the final outcome was better than any plan of man.

Trust in God's Purposes and Providence

Genesis 50:15 - 21

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."

16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died:

17 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

18 His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?"

20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Trust in God's Leading and Plan for YOUR Life

Esther 4:1 – 14

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

2 He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.

3 And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

6 Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate,

7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.

8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people.

9 And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say,

11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

- This was a perfectly logical reason for Esther to greatly fear.

12 And they told Mordecai what Esther had said.

13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews.

14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

God is Always Working Good

Romans 8:28 - 30

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- Don't think of your life as only a series of pass/fail juncture points of decision.
 - There are meaningful moments in life, but there is also much mercy and grace.
- Trust instead of God's general and providential leading
 - Set your sails to seek him and trust the winds of God's grace to carry you to the intended destinations.