

The background of the entire image is a close-up, top-down view of a tree trunk's cross-section. It features prominent, concentric growth rings in shades of light to medium brown, radiating from a central pith. The texture is smooth but shows natural wood grain variations.

TRAINING

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IN GODLINESS

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# TRAINING

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# overview

...Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. | Timothy 4:7-8

Godliness matters! It's worth our pursuit and effort and training. The word "Train" is defined as follows:

*(tran) v. trained, training, trains*

- 1) To coach in or accustom to a mode of skilled behavior or performance.
- 2) To make proficient or qualified with specialized instruction discipline, drill and practice.
- 3) To prepare physically, as with a regimen, for a test of skill: train athletes for track-and-field competition.
- 4) To cause (a plant or one's hair) to take a desired course or shape by bending, pruning or tying
- 5) To focus on or aim at (a goal, mark, or target); direct.

*v. intr.*

- 1) To give or undergo a course of training: trained daily for the marathon.

This is what we want to do together this semester: To work hard and train ourselves to trust God and all that He reveals about how He designed life. The study looks at 10 different characteristics that flow out of our trust in God. Prayerfully and diligently approach Him as you complete these studies. And encourage one another as you meet and discuss all God is revealing. (Hebrews 10:24,25).

Jerry Bridges says about training in godliness, "Godliness is more than Christian character. It covers the totality of the Christian life and provides the foundation upon which Christian character is built. We are to train ourselves to be godly. We are to pursue godliness—the word "pursue" indicating unrelenting, persevering effort. It is both the privilege and duty of every Christian to pursue godliness, and to train himself to be godly, to study diligently the practice of godliness."

**Here's the key though:** Training is more than "just try harder!" The promise of our new life in Christ is that God has "given us everything we need for life and godliness." (2 Peter 1:3) He has given us a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26,27) with new power (2 Corinthians 5:17) and new desires (Romans 6:17). So, while it *will* take effort, our effort can be directed at letting the new life God implanted in us to seep out.

Our growth in godliness is much like a tree, which must drink deeply and expose itself to sun and fight against pests and disease (that's a lot of work) but who grows from the inside out by a power far beyond its ability. Godliness is already in you, let it out!

May this semester be another 'ring' in your growth as we together trust God and search the Scriptures.

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# importance of the Scriptures

As we pursue Godliness through our relationship with Jesus Christ, it is necessary that we grow in our conviction and ability to get a “grasp” on God’s Word. As you work through this study, seek to implement the various elements (fingers) of this Hand Illustration. As you take the time in these channels of grace, your relationship with and experience of God grows.



The “Word Hand” shows five very important methods of relating to God through his word.

## HEARING

*Romans 10:17*

Hearing the Word from godly pastors and teachers provides insight into others’ study of the Scriptures as well as stimulating your own appetite for the Word.

## READING

*Deuteronomy 17:19,20*

Reading the Bible gives an overall picture of God’s Word. Many people find it helpful to use a daily reading program that takes them systematically through the Bible.

## STUDYING

*Acts 17:11*

Studying the Scriptures leads to personal discoveries of God’s truths. Writing these discoveries down helps you organize and remember them.

## MEMORIZING

*Psalms 119:9, 11*

Memorizing God’s Word enables use of the Sword of the Spirit to overcome Satan and temptations...to have it readily available for witnessing or helping others with a “word in season.”

## MEDITATING

*Psalms 1:2, 3*

Meditation is the thumb of the Word Hand, for it is used in conjunction with each of the other methods. Only as you meditate on God’s Word--thinking of its meaning and application in your life--will you discover its transforming power at work within you.

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# how to do this study

The **Training in Godliness** Bible Study is composed of three sections each week:

1. developing Biblical framework
2. key passage section
3. developing a practical emphasis

The first and third sections are focused on developing a broad Biblical framework and practical emphasis for the subject at hand. In these sections, we will explore our own background on the subjects, explore the wisdom of other saints, and look throughout the Scriptures to build a foundation for the Big picture of God's revelation that will help us to grasp an understanding of His Truth. These sections will have practical elements to them to help us focus on applying God's Word to our lives. This is the chief aim of our study, namely, "That we would live lives worthy of Him who calls us into His Kingdom and Glory" (I Thes. 2:12) or as Colossians 1:10 says, "that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and growing by the full participation in God."

The second section each week is the Key Passage Section. In this section, we will analyze a key text of scripture in an inductive manner. The Inductive approach looks at the whole text in its context and pulls out facts, interprets them, and then applies them. We will follow a basic Observation, Interpretation, Application outline. This is explained further in the following page but for the purpose of introduction:

Observation is carefully going over the text to see what is going on, the "who, what, where, when, how, and why." We want to pull out the facts through the nature of Scripture and to avoid presumptions and fallacies, because God's Word speaks for itself.

Interpretation is working to discover what the author intended to communicate. We want to interpret literally in the correct context. That is we never take out of God's Word what is not there, or read in our will as His.

Application is taking the plain meaning and putting it to practical use. We want to consider, "how is God asking me to trust him?". What sin to get rid of, what commands to yield to, the pitfalls to avoid, the actions to engage in, and the promises we are to keep.

Additionally are sections for questions, which arise as you study, and definitions of key words. In the Response and Application sections, several questions are provided with each study to facilitate your conclusions and transformation into the likeness of Jesus. Also, use the back of the sheet to write out other ways in which the Spirit of God is directing you through His Word.

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# key passage analysis directions

## Observations – What does it say? / Interpretation – What does it mean?

Look closely at the verse. Answer some or all of the following questions.

- **Who** are the people involved?
- **What** happened?
- **What** ideas are expressed?
- **What** resulted?
- **What** is the purpose?
- **What** is the stated reason?
- **How** are things accomplished?
- **How** well?
- **How** quickly?
- **What** images (pictures) are in the passage?

Take the time to investigate the context of the passage. What do the verses before and after the key passage have to say and how do they shed light on the key passage?

Look for these things in the passage as you try to understand it:

- **Meaning:** What is the text saying?
- **Manner:** How is the text saying it here? How is the emphasis here different than other places in Scripture?
- **Motive:** Why is the text saying this? What is the intent, why is it here, and what is the appropriate response?

## Questions and Key Words:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you study the passage. These may be questions of structure, meaning or intent of the passage. Also, define any unknown or key words that are necessary to understand the passage better. Use an English dictionary or a Bible dictionary (such as Vine's) to determine the meanings of these words.

## Application – What should my response be?

Faith is the goal of our Bible study. We want to put God's Word into practice—recognizing God's voice and responding in trust. The benefit of Bible study is not derived from the method, the technique, or the diligent efforts to decipher the text as an end in itself. The benefit is in seeing His eyes, understanding more of His heart and responding with your heart to Him. Application does not happen by chance—application is by intent.

As you complete this section, answer the questions given for the purpose of applying the Scriptures to change your life through a deeper experience of Jesus. Also, ask the questions of what you have learned about God and yourself from studying the passage. Ready? Let's Get Started!!!

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# study 1: humility

*Definition: the quality or state of being humble; not proud or haughty or pretentious.  
Acknowledging the truth about yourself to God and others.*

What should your attitude of Humility be towards...

Others? - **Philippians 2:3-4:**

Yourself? - **Romans 12:3:**

God? - **Revelation 4:9-11:**

When the corn is nearly ripe  
it bows the head and stoops  
lower than when it was green.  
When the people of God are  
near ripe for heaven, they grow  
more humble and self-denying.  
- John Flavel

What command do you see in these verses?

**James 4:10, Matthew 23:12**

How do we see God's response to 1) Pride and 2) Humility in **I Peter 5:5-6**?

1)

2)

How does this motivate you towards humbling yourself before God and man?

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What warnings do we see God giving here against being prideful?

**Proverbs 8:13:**

**Proverbs 11:2:**

**Proverbs 16:18:**



## key passage: James 4:4-10

Observations and Interpretation: What does this passage say and what does it mean?

Questions and Key Words: Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

Grace:

Proud:

Humble:

Respond and Apply:

Why would God's Spirit be Jealous (envy) for us?

What are the implications of verse 6?

How can you practically live v. 7-8?

What are the promises that God gives in this passage?

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How do the following passages call us to live humbly in response to:

God's Word – Isaiah 66:1-2:

Prayer – II Chronicles 7:14:

Ministry – I Corinthians 3:5-7:

Others – Romans 12:9-10:

True Humility brings many *rewards* and *promises*, observe a few of them:

1) Isaiah 57:15:

2) James 4:6:

3) Luke 18:14:

Take some time to journal what you've learned and consider how God is asking you to trust Him.

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Scripture memory verse: I Peter 5:6



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## study 2: faith

### A) Salvation

To be a godly man or woman, one must first know the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is a relational word. It means personal trust, not just belief.

1) **Faith** enables us to know Christ. **Ephesians 2:8-10**

Does Grace come without faith? Why or Why not?

How does faith enable us to be created in Christ?

2) **Faith** justifies us through good works. **James 2:17-26**

Can a person have faith and yet not display any works correlating to their faith?  
Why or Why not?

Does your faith exemplify good works?

Why were Abraham and Rahab used as examples of this? (v. 21-26)

### B) Vision

Faith encourages us to hold fast to the vision or purpose in the life that God has given us.

How has the following people's faith enabled them to live out their vision and purpose?

1) Abraham: **Gen. 22**

2) Hannah: **1 Samuel 1:8-28**

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Expect great things from God.  
Attempt great things for God.  
- William Carey

## key passage: Hebrews 11:1 -40

**Observations and Interpretation:** What does this passage say and what does it mean?

**Questions and Key Words:** Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

Faith:

**Respond and Apply:**

How do you see the lives of people responding to God as a result of their faith?

Pick one person from this faith "Hall of Fame" and write what you learn from how they lived by faith in the promises of God.

What is the relationship between faith and the promises of God?

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C) Living by faith

Hebrews 12:1-3 calls us to learn from the example of the people in Hebrews 11. How does this text call us to live in light of these examples of faith?

Romans is Paul's great treatise on faith. Look at the variety of ways he describes faith (from The Message paraphrase of the Bible). Circle one that that grabs you or captures what you've been discovering in this week's study. Why does this description stick out to you?

obedient trust      believe      respond to what God does      letting him set the pace      trust

risky faith-embrace of God's action for them      personal trust      embrace

(Abraham) plunged into the promise      embrace and believe      throw open the doors to God

belief and commitment      cultivate your relationship with God      obedient belief

Take the space below to write what you have learned from this lesson and how you will seek to live a life of faith for Jesus and His Kingdom.

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Scripture memory verse: **Hebrews 11:6**



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## study 3: eternal perspective

The Scripture says that only a few things last forever. There are three eternal things that one can spend his life pursuing. What do you think these things are?

1) Psalm 90:1-2

2) John 5:28-29

3) Isaiah 40:6-8

Apart from God nothing matters.  
We think that health matters, that  
freedom matters, or knowledge or art  
or civilization. And but for one insistent  
word they would matter indeed.  
That word is ETERNITY.  
- A. W. Tozer

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What do the following verses say about *pursuing* these three eternal things?

1) Psalm 63:1

2) Jeremiah 15:16

3) Matthew 6:9-13

If you were to die today and we were able to secure a printout that synthesized how you spent your time and your money, what would we conclude that you had given your life in exchange for?

1.

2.

3.

Eternal perspective is living your life with eternity in mind, investing your time, talents and resources in things that matter. Most people live their lives in the fast lane only to come to the end and realize that they have nothing of significance to show for their lives. What a tragedy!



## key passage: Matthew 6:19-34

**Observations and Interpretation:** What does this passage say and what does it mean?

**Questions and Key Words:** Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

Treasures:

His Kingdom:

His Righteousness:

**Respond and Apply:**

What are the treasures on earth that hinder you from storing up treasures in heaven?

What does it mean to store up treasures in Heaven?

How do your worries distract you from living with an eternal perspective?

What are three practical ways you can live with an eternal perspective: (seeking first His Kingdom and His Righteousness)?

1.

2.

3.

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We will all stand before God someday. Look at the following passage and discuss how this eternal reality should affect us now. How does this passage challenge you?

I Corinthians 3:10-15

Observe what the following passages say about an eternal perspective:

A) Colossians 3:1-4 (check out The Message version)

B) I John 2:15-17

Time is short.  
Eternity is long.  
It is only reasonable that  
this short life be lived in  
the light of eternity.  
- C.H. Spurgeon

II Corinthians 4:13-18 is an amazing passage describing Paul's heart in living for what is eternal. Take a few minutes to meditate on this passage and describe how this week's study has affected your perspective on what you live for. Ask God how He would like you to trust Him.

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Scripture memory verse: II Corinthians 4:18



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# study 4: courage

Living with an Eternal Perspective will require **courage** and **boldness** as we live in a world and culture that is hostile to these values and those who live for them.

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Courage is not the freedom from fear, but moving forward despite fear.

Why is it necessary to have courage to live godly in the following areas?

...*In Leadership:*

Joshua 1:1-9 (God is preparing Joshua to lead the people into the promised land)

...*In Witness:*

See Paul's prayer request in Ephesians 6:18-20

...*In Suffering:*

Read Acts 21:10-14 and Acts 20:18-24. What was the suffering that Paul faced?

How was he living with an eternal perspective and thus, showed great courage?

...*In Love:*

Read John 15:12,13. How might Jesus' call to love take courage?

*Every single day we make choices that show whether we are courageous or cowardly. We choose between the right thing and the convenient thing, sticking to a conviction or caving in for the sake of comfort, greed or approval. We choose either to take a careful, thought-out risk or to crawl into a shrinking shell of safety, security and inactivity. We choose either to believe God and trust Him, even though we do not always understand his ways, or to second guess Him and cower in corners of doubt and fear. These choices come our way every day...*

- Bill Hybels

## key passage: Acts 4:1-20

**Observations and Interpretation:** What does this passage say and what does it mean?

**Questions and Key Words:** Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

Proclaim:

Courage:

**Respond and Apply:**

What was the opposition that Peter and John faced?

How did the conviction in (v. 12) grip these men's lives?

How can you have the reputation that Peter and John had in (v. 13)?

How can you be bold like they were in (v. 19-20)

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**2 Timothy 1:7** says, “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self discipline.” In the following passages, how do we see the difference in the lives of the disciples because of the Holy Spirit?

**John 20:19**

**Matthew 26:69-74**

Now think about Peter and John in the **Acts 4:1-30** passage that we studied on the previous page as well as Peter’s speech in **Acts 2**, (see 2:36-40) How are they different?

Discuss three ways you desire to live with greater courage and boldness for Jesus as a result of this study.

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Scripture memory verse: **2 Timothy 1:7**



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## study 5: integrity

First take a moment to think about what integrity means. Below are ten words you might use in an integrity definition. Select the three words you find most helpful to define integrity.

Whole                      Consistent  
Fair Principled  
Trustworthy      Open                      Honest  
Scrupulous  
Truthful                      Faithful

All ten of the words describe in part the character of someone who has integrity. The Latin root of the word integrity is similar to that for integer, meaning whole number. The concept of wholeness, or consistency is clearly relevant-- being the same person inside, outside, alone or with others.

A) How do the following passages describe a person of integrity towards God and one without integrity?

1) Proverbs 10:9

2) Proverbs 11:3

B) How did the Lord describe Job to Satan in **Job 2:3**?

How did Job view the importance of His wholeness/integrity as he responds to his foolish friends' advice in **Job 27:2-5**?



## key passage: Daniel 1-3

**Observations and Interpretation:** What does this passage say and what does it mean?

**Questions and Key Words:** Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

**Respond and Apply:**

Why did Daniel resolve himself to holiness in 1:8?

How do you see integrity displayed in Chapter 3?

How did God show Himself faithful to these men of integrity?

What are areas of integrity that you can grow into your own life?

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C) Challenges to integrity

Which of the following common hurdles to integrity most often challenges you? Why?

...*Peer Pressure*: Everyone's doing it

...*Fear of Men*: What will they think?

...*Personal Cost*: It's so hard the right way

...*Secrecy*: No one will know

...*Blame*: It's not my fault

D) Living with integrity

What effect does living with integrity have on the relationships around you? Lack of integrity?

How could trusting the following truths foster a life of integrity in you?

...*God's Love for you*:

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1

...*God's Plans for you*:

"For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

...*God's Presence in you*:

"For we did not receive the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand the things freely given us." 1 Corinthians 2:12

As you meditate on the above questions, write your thoughts in the space below:

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Scripture memory verse: **Acts 24:16**



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## study 6: compassion and mercy

In what ways are the characteristics of Compassion and Mercy alike? What ways are they different?

1) God's Compassion and Mercy towards us

A) Read the following two passages which show Jesus having compassion on people:

**Mark 1:40-42** and **Matthew 9:35-38**

Why does Jesus have compassion on these people?

How does Jesus respond to these people in compassion?

B) According to 1 Peter 1:3-5, what has God's mercy given us?

C) What is the relationship between God's mercy and our salvation? (**Titus 3:5** + **Eph 2:4-5**)

D) What do we learn of the Lord's compassion from the following verses?

1) **Lamentations 3:22-23**

2) **Psalms 103:13**

3) **Psalms 145:8-9**

E) How have you received God's compassion and mercy in your life?

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## key passage: Matthew 25:31-46

**Observations and Interpretation:** What does this passage say and what does it mean?

**Questions and Key Words:** Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

### **Respond and Apply:**

In this passage, who are the Sheep and who are the Goats?

How does Jesus describe the lives of the sheep? (v.34-40)

How does Jesus describe the lives of the Goats? (v.41-46)

What are three ways that you can show mercy to people this week?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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2) Our compassion and Mercy towards others

A) Observe from the following verses the commands God gives us as we relate to one another:

1) Micah 6:8

2) Luke 6:35-36

3) Colossians 3:12-14

4) Jude 20-23

B) Jesus tells us to learn mercy in the way we relate to non-Christians. How (1) do you see this in **Matthew 9:10-13** and (2) can you live out this mercy with “sinners” today?

1)

2)

Meditate on the song at the right and write how you will live a life of compassion and mercy:

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“Let Me See This World”  
Let me see this world, dear Lord,  
as though I were Looking through your eyes.  
A world of men who don't know you, Lord,  
a world for which you died.  
Let me kneel with You in the Garden,  
blur my eyes with tears of agony.  
For if once I could see this world the way You see,  
I just know I would serve You more faithfully.  
Let me see this world, dear Lord, through Your eyes.  
When men mocked your holy name,  
when they beat you and spat upon you, Lord,  
let me love them as you love them just the same.  
Let me stand high above my petty problems  
and pray for men bound eternally.  
For if once I could see this world the way You see,  
I just know I'd serve You more faithfully.

Scripture memory verse: Lamentations 3:22-23



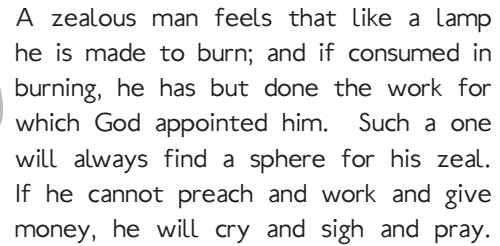
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## study 7: passion and zeal

Read Titus 2:11-14. This passage describes the fruit produced in our lives by God's Grace. List each of these:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_



A zealous man feels that like a lamp he is made to burn; and if consumed in burning, he has but done the work for which God appointed him. Such a one will always find a sphere for his zeal. If he cannot preach and work and give money, he will cry and sigh and pray.

- J.C. Ryle

The English Standard Version along with other Bible translations translate this last phrase in (v.14) as "Zealous for good works." What do you think it means to be zealous for good works?

What words do the authors use to describe zeal/passion in the following verses? And what areas are they passionate about?

1) Matthew 18:8-9

2) 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

3) Philippians 3:7-11

4) Colossians 1:28-29

5) Colossians 3:23

What things in life are you passionate about?



## key passage: Revelation 3:14-22

Observations and Interpretation: What does this passage say and what does it mean?

Questions and Key Words: Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

Deeds:

Hot:

Cold:

Respond and Apply:

What is the spiritual condition of the people in the church in Laodicea?

How does call them to live a life of passion?

What does it look like for your life to be one who is "*hot*" for Jesus?

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If you set yourself on fire, people will come to watch you burn. - John Wesley

In **Romans 12:1-2**, Paul urges us to *offer our bodies as living sacrifices, not being conformed to the pattern of the world but transformed...* Notice the passion in Paul's language "I urge you". If God has done so much (**Rom. 1-11**), our response of gratitude and faith moves us to action. From v.9 on, Paul has a string of commands, all intense in language and passionate in intent.

What do these mean for your life?

Love must be sincere (v.9)

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Hate what is evil (v.9)

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Cling to what is good (v.9)

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Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (v.10)

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Honor one another above yourselves (v.10)

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Never lacking in ZEAL...serve the Lord (v.11)

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Be Joyful in hope (v.12)

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Patient in affliction (v.12)

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Faithful in prayer (v.12)

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How does God want you to trust Him with the passions and zeal He's placed in you?

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Scripture memory verse: **Romans 12:11**



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# study 8: relationships

It's important to know that God designed us for relationships. But they can be so hard!  
What is enjoyable to you about relationships with others? What is scary?

God has lots to say about how relationships work. Read through the 59 "one another" verses from the New Testament and record some observations:

1. "...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)
2. "...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)
3. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
4. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
5. "...Love one another..." (John 13:35)
6. "...Love one another..." (John 15:12)
7. "...Love one another" (John 15:17)
8. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)
9. "...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)
10. "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)
11. "...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)
12. "...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)
13. "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)
14. "...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)
15. "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)
16. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)
17. "...Have equal concern for each other." (I Corinthians 12:25)
18. "...Greet one another with a holy kiss." (I Corinthians 16:20)
19. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12)
20. "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)
21. "If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other." (Galatians 5:15)
22. "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Galatians 5:26)
23. "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)
24. "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)
25. "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)
26. "...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)
27. "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." (Ephesians 5:19)
28. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)
29. "...In humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)
30. "Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9)
31. "Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)
32. "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:13)
33. "Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)
34. "...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
35. "...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)
36. "...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)
37. "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 4:18)
38. "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
39. "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
40. "Encourage one another daily..." (Hebrews 3:13)
41. "...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)
42. "...Encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)
43. "...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)
44. "Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)
45. "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
46. "...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)
47. "...Love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 3:8)
48. "...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)
49. "...Love each other deeply..." (I Peter 4:8)
50. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4:9)
51. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)
52. "...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..." (I Peter 5:5)
53. "Greet one another with a kiss of love." (I Peter 5:14)
54. "...Love one another." (I John 3:11)
55. "...Love one another." (I John 3:23)
56. "...Love one another." (I John 4:7)
57. "...Love one another." (I John 4:11)
58. "...Love one another." (I John 4:12)
59. "...Love one another." (II John 5)

## key passage: Genesis 2:5-25

Observations and Interpretation: What does this passage say and what does it mean?

Questions and Key Words: Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

not ashamed:

Respond and Apply:

Describe the relationship between the man and the woman?

What reasons does the passage give for creating male *and* female. (See also 1:27)

Unfortunately the story doesn't end in chapter 2. The man and woman choose to disobey God and the consequences are dramatic and immediate. Read Genesis 3:1-13 and fill in the following chart.

<i>Verse</i>	<i>Effect on Relationships</i>	<i>How I experience this today?</i>
3:7		
3:8-10		
3:12-13		
3:14-19		

Sin disintegrates relationships. It brings guilt ("I did something wrong") AND shame ("I *am* something wrong".) The chart above is a look at the effect of shame. Do you resonate with the concept of shame? How so?

Shame always creates a fear of being known. Intimacy and trust are seen as threats rather than invitations to a full life. We avoid forgiveness and restoration. We believe lies about ourselves and others to maintain a defensive detachment that feels safe. Yet, as we saw earlier God calls us to an unwavering commitment to love others and face our fears with honesty. But how?

In Genesis 3:8-9 God initiates with the man and woman in their shame. What does this reveal about God?

Read Romans 5:8 and 8:1. How have you experienced God's initiative in your shame?

We can never work our way out of our shame. Never. Thanks to God, we don't have to.

- Bill Tell

What would it look like for you to trust God to live in love rather than shame?

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Scripture memory verse: Romans 8:1



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## study 9: servanthood

Jesus was the ultimate model of a servant in His motives, attitudes and deeds. How do you see His servant heart according to the following passages:

A) **Mark 10:45**

B) **Isaiah 53:11-12**

C) **Philippians 2:6-8**

### 1) *The Attitude of a Servant*

Our attitudes towards service can be either rooted in A) self-righteousness or B) humility.

In **Philippians 2:5** we are called to have the same humble attitude towards others and servanthood that we see Jesus had.

A) Self-Righteous Attitude

How does Jesus describe a person who is self-righteous in **Matthew 23:25-28**?

B) Humble Attitude of Service

An example of this attitude is found in the Beatitudes (**Matthew 5:1-12**)

1) Read these verses and list several different attitudes of a righteous person?

2) Which of these attitudes are your strengths and which are your weaknesses?

The great Christian duty is self-denial, which consists of two things: first, in denying worldly inclinations and its enjoyments, and second, in denying self-exultation and renouncing one's self-significance by being empty of self.

- Jonathan Edwards



## key passage: John 13:1-20

**Observations and Interpretation:** What does this passage say and what does it mean?

**Questions and Key Words:** Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

Servant:

**Respond and Apply:**

What did Jesus know (v. 3)? How did this effect what he did?

Is there a difference between a servant and someone who serves? If so, what?

How does Jesus washing the discple's feet connect to his command in 13:34-35?

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What do the following passages say about the attitude and object of our service?

A) Colossians 3:23-24

B) Ephesians 6:5-9

2) *Living as a Servant*

Opportunities to live as a servant are all around us. The key to being a servant is being observant. What are some needs around you everyday?

How is God asking you to trust Him in this area of servanthood?

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Scripture memory verse: 1 John 3:18



# study 10: joy and contentment

Make a list of the things that bring you joy and happiness:

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How have you experienced the joys mentioned in the previous passages? Christ is not only a remedy for your weariness and trouble, but he will give you an abundance of the contrary, joy and delight!  
- Jonathan Edwards

It is so important not to waste what is precious by spending all one's time and emotion on fretting or complaining over what one does not have.  
- Edith Schaeffer

What would Paul's (and God's) perspective be on these things according to **Philippians 3:7-8**?

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Paul describes the contentment in Christ in **Philippians 4:11-13**. Why can he make this statement?

Where are Biblical sources of Joy according to the following passages:

1) Psalm 119:11-12

2) 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

3) James 1:2-3

4) 1 Peter 1:8-9

5) Philemon 7

6) 3 John 4

Have you experienced the joys mentioned in the previous passages?

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## key passage: II Corinthians 12:1-10

**Observations and Interpretation:** What does this passage say and what does it mean?

**Questions and Key Words:** Define key words and write down any questions that come to mind.

Sufficient:

**Respond and Apply:**

How do you see God building contentment into Paul's life?

How does Paul say to respond to the things such as weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, difficulties, etc?

What are some areas that you want to want to be content with? (i.e. circumstances, money, relationships, trials, etc.)

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How is ultimate joy described in **Psalm 16:11**?

How is this contrasted with the pleasures of sin in **Hebrews 11:25**?

Observe the contentment in **Psalms 73:25-26** and **27:4**. Write these Psalms in your own words:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

How would you explain the statement at the right?

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"God is most glorified in us  
when we are most satisfied in Him."  
- John Piper

Joy has its channels. How can you, personally, find joy/contentment in generosity (**2 Corinthians 8:2-4**)?

In Persecution (**Acts 5:40-41**)

In Who God's made you (**Romans 12:3**)

In Ministry (**Luke 15:7**)

In Jesus (**John 15:11**)

Scripture memory verse: **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**



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# wrap-up

Write a sentence or two about the importance of each of the characteristics from this study and how you've seen growth this semester:

*"...Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." - 1 Timothy 4:7-8*

Humility: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Faith: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Eternal Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Courage: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Integrity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Compassion and Mercy: \_\_\_\_\_

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Passion/Zeal: \_\_\_\_\_

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Relationships: \_\_\_\_\_

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Servanthood: \_\_\_\_\_

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Joy and Contentment: \_\_\_\_\_

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