



# **SCRIPTURES SPEAKING**

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# **ESPECIALLY TO ME**

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By Lester Hemphill

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**God is SO GOOD; although I have ADD,  
Attention Deficit Disorder**

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## INTRODUCTION

Hello. I am always glad to hear about other people searching for or finding a walk with the Lord. This walk is indeed rewarding. I may not have met you, but I can say for certainty that you are special with God.

This collection of scriptures is for anybody, regardless of whether he/she has ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). The spiritual needs of people with or without are similar. If I compiled scriptures for people without ADD, I would compile the same scriptures. However people with ADD especially need to read these scriptures. God loves you regardless of whether you have ADD.

This collection of scriptures is from a person with a lifetime handicap of ADD. This is a handicap that is shared by such past persons as Mozart, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Henry Ford, Edgar Allan Poe, George Bernard Shaw, and the disciple Simon Peter. Typically, ADD persons have poor self-esteem that tends to conceal that God loves them. But ADD persons have positive traits such as enthusiasm, empathy, and caring. A spiritual walk with the Lord could build on these positive traits.

The Bible is the word of God. It was written by persons inspired by God. Many writers contributed to the Bible over centuries.

Although the Bible is the word of God, the Bible speaks to each person individually. Interpretation of God's word is dependent on each person's walk with the Lord. Some people believe that the Bible is literally inerrant; however I don't share that belief. I believe that Bible interpretation ought to consider the situation that caused the writer to write that. There are various styles of writing in the Bible. Some scriptures are works of beauty, especially some Psalms. When you see a beautiful flower, God speaks to you.

The Bible is full of timeless words of wisdom. The Bible has certainly withstood the test of time.

For me, The Bible has richly provided words of wisdom that greatly help me compensate for my ADD. Foremost are the words saying that God loves me and has loved me since before birth. My poor self-esteem is compensated greatly by knowing that God loves me. God has loved us since the beginning. John Wesley named that love since beginning as "Prevenient Grace."

This pamphlet is just a sample of the bountiful loving wisdom. For me, it took years of a spiritual walk to learn of these. When you study scripture, you will find other scriptures that speak to you as vividly as these do.

Caution -- this pamphlet is not your Bible. I desire that you continually study the Bible (much beyond what is in this pamphlet). As of the day I wrote this pamphlet, I plan to write another pamphlet on what to study in the Bible. That will be for whenever you decide to become better acquainted with The Bible.

I hope that this pamphlet whets your appetite to learn more and more about the priceless gems in the Bible.

I suggest that you first skim this pamphlet. Then study this pamphlet. You might take multiple sittings to get through this pamphlet. The chapter

headings are designed to steer you to which spiritual needs are most prominent in your life.

Reflect on these scriptures when studying. In this way, God speaks to you about the scriptures. However there is a hazard to ADD persons in reflecting on scriptures -- the tendency for mind to get off track. I know vividly about the ADD shortcoming of difficulty in focusing. Certainly you may pray to God for help in focusing. When your mind gets back on track, pray, "God, I am back." On the other hand, getting off track sometimes causes God to speak to you in beautiful ways.

With some of the scriptures, I put my own commentary after the scripture. The commentaries are in italics, to help distinguish Lester Hemphill from the scripture. Do let the scripture speak to you whichever way God speaks to you. If the scripture speaks to you differently, so be it. In some cases, my commentary suggests further scriptural reading, to more deeply understand that scripture.

Some people find it helpful to tape helpful scriptures to such places as bathroom mirror, computer desk, refrigerator door, or wherever you eye frequently looks. Some carry the slip of paper in their billfolds. Evangelist Clyde Dupin gives out small slips of paper with scriptures, for this reason. I have a suggestion. When you find an especially helpful scripture in this pamphlet, photocopy the page and cut out that scripture for posting on wall or carrying in billfold. Alternatively, if you downloaded this from the web site, print another copy of the page with that scripture. It may be illegal to photocopy copyrighted material, but you have the permission for photocopying to post on wall or put in billfold.

Here is a legend item. With each scripture, I indicate in parentheses the version of the Bible. NRSV is New Revised Standard Version. NIV is New International Version. KJV is King James Version. Speaking of versions, reading another version sometimes gives you a different viewpoint of the scripture.

I end the introduction with sharing briefly with you. A spiritual walk has greatly helped me. In early 1974, God vividly called me to cut way down on my drinking. Overnight I changed into a hardly at all drinker. The awesomeness of that miracle showed me God's power -- and it resulted in my conversion. Since then, my spirituality has evolved through several spiritual milestones. My local church is a supporting body of believers to me. Participating in my church's prayer chain especially helps my spiritual walk. If it hadn't have been for the Lord, I hate to think how my life would be today.

May the word of God find a welcome in your heart.

*Lester Hemphill*



## **GOD IS GOOD**

Genesis 1:31 (NRSV) God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 100:1-5 (NRSV) Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 118:24 (NRSV) This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*COMMENTARY -- This verse has been put to music in recent years.*

## **SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM**

Matthew 6:31, 33 (NIV) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' \_\_\_\_\_ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*COMMENTARY -- These two verses are punch lines. For full text read Matthew 6:24-34. It begins with that money ought not be your master.*



## **SALVATION FROM JESUS IS AWESOME**

Matthew 9:11-13 (NRSV) When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. \_\_\_\_\_ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

*COMMENTARY -- This is from the story of when Jesus called Matthew to be one of the twelve disciples. Matthew had been a tax collector, a despised occupation during Biblical times. Read Matthew 9:9-13.*

John 1:5 (NRSV) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

1 Timothy 2:5 (NRSV) For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,



## **GOD LOVES US NOW AND DID LOVE US FROM THE BEGINNING**

Psalm 139:1-14, 6, 13-16 O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. ----- Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ----- For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

*COMMENTARY -- This Psalm of David has a special meaning for ADD persons; however pray to see Psalm 139 in a positive manner. When first compiling this pamphlet, I didn't want to include this Psalm, because of concern for ADD people who believe they were cursed by God. On further reflection, I now see Psalm 139 as having a special loving meaning for ADD persons. God knows and forgives our shortcomings. God created us with ADD so that we be special gifts to God's world. For a reason, we are unique creations. Perhaps it takes days and years of a spiritual walk, in order to see Psalm 139 positively. Dwell on positive traits of ADD, such as enthusiasm and compassion.*

Isaiah 63:7 (NRSV) I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

Jeremiah 1:5 (NRSV) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

*COMMENTARY -- Anti-abortion activists quote this scripture. This scripture also has application to all of us. God loved us all before we were born, even if we might not be prophets. God had a plan for us all, since before we were born.*

Jeremiah 31:3 (NRSV) The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

John 1:12 (NRSV) But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

John 15:9 (KJV) As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

Romans 5:8 (NRSV) But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 8:35,37-39 (NRSV) Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? \_\_\_\_\_ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*COMMENTARY -- Romans 8:28-39 is rich with assurances.*

Ephesians 2:10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

*COMMENTARY -- This is Paul's assurance to ADD persons, that we were created this way for a purpose.*

1 John 3:1 (NRSV) See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.

1 John 4:10 (NRSV) In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

*COMMENTARY -- The Mosaic law in Leviticus prescribed detailed procedures for sacrifices and burnt offerings to atone for sins. Jesus died on the cross, so that none of those Levitical sacrifices are necessary for you and I.*

1 John 4:19 (NRSV) We love because he first loved us.



## LOVE AS PRIMARY TO CHRISTIANITY

Matthew 22:36-40 (NRSV) "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

COMMENTARY -- The first four of the Ten Commandments are about how to love God (no other gods, no graven images, no taking Lord's name in vain, and remember sabbath day). The other six of the Ten Commandments are about how to love your neighbor (honor parents, no murder, no adultery, no stealing, no false witness, and no coveting). Deuteronomy 6:5 has the Mosaic dictum for loving God with all your heart. Leviticus 19:18 has the Mosaic dictum for loving your neighbor as yourself.

The "as yourself" is important. If you hate yourself, it is impossible to love your neighbor.

John 13:34 (NRSV) I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

1 Corinthians 8:1 (NRSV) \_\_\_\_\_ Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

COMMENTARY -- In summary, if one lacks love, all the wonderful deeds and gifts are for nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV) And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NRSV) By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

James 2:8 (NRSV) You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

1 John 4:7 (NRSV) Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:16 (NIV) And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:18 (NRSV) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

Micah 6:8 (NRSV) He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

COMMENTARY -- Here is an Old Testament prophet speaking of love as primary. Micah is the prophet who prophesized that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. The words "O mortal" appear in some of the books of the prophets, as meaning, "This is God talking."

## **GRACE AS GOD'S FREE GIFT**

Isaiah 55:1-2 (NRSV) Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

COMMENTARY: No, this scripture doesn't advise going to the supermarket and carry out groceries without paying for them. The rich food here is symbolic language that means God's grace. Come feast on God's grace, that cannot be purchased. Grace is a free gift. Why do you instead pay good money for commercial stuff that isn't God's grace? Why do you purchase the wrong thing?

John 1:16-17 (NRSV) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 3:16-17 (NRSV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

COMMENTARY -- John 3:16 is probably quoted by Christians the most often of all scriptures. This is because it is so rich with assurance of Jesus's salvation. It is during Jesus's dialog with Nicodemus that begins with being born from above (or born again). After spiritual birth, believing in Jesus brings spiritual riches of a walk with a loving Jesus, who is not mainly here to condemn us.

John 8:32 (NRSV) and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

COMMENTARY -- The grace and unconditional love of Jesus is the truth. This truth can indeed free you. Other people have found other spiritual truths. Be open to any truth that the Lord reveals to you, especially when it sets you free.

Acts 13:39 (NRSV) by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Romans 3:22-24 (NRSV) the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

COMMENTARY -- Belief in Jesus brings a free gift of being right with God (instead through works). This is although we have sinned and fall short of the glory. Many people reject the free gift, because they don't believe that any such free gift is possible. What's more, this gift cannot be earned. Romans 4 through 6 has more about justification by faith. Martin Luther was especially influenced by Paul's writings to the Romans about justification. by faith.

Romans 8:15-16 (NIV) For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, {"Abba,} Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Galatians 5:2-6 (NRSV) Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised (read: set of rigid rules), Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised (read: set of rigid rules) that he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

COMMENTARY -- Circumcision does not necessarily mean the surgical body alteration. Circumcision refers to any kind of legalistic procedure to establish salvation. Some people believe that a rigid set of rules is the way to salvation. This scripture came alive to me, when I substituted the phrase "set of rigid rules" wherever word circumcision appears. Paul also says that anybody into legalism is a slave to the entire set of rules. Jesus can free you from that legalism. By the way, Chuck Swindall calls Galatians 5 "The Declaration of Independence," in his book, Grace Awakening.

Ephesians 2:4-5,8-9 (NRSV) But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ --by grace you have been saved -- For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God -- not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Titus 3:7 (NRSV) so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hebrews 10:8-10,12 (NRSV) When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. \_\_\_\_\_ But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God,"

COMMENTARY -- The Mosaic law in Leviticus prescribed detailed procedures for sacrifices and burnt offerings to atone for sins. Jesus died on the cross, so that none of those Levitical sacrifices are necessary for you and I.

## ***FORGIVING SINS***

Genesis 45:4-11 (NRSV) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there - since there are five more years of famine to come - so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

COMMENTARY: The story of Joseph is among the most touching forgiving Bible stories. Among twelve sons, Jacob most favored Joseph, because Joseph was the first one that favored wife Rachel bore; although Joseph was not the first son. Sibling jealousy came, big time. The brothers especially resented Joseph's technicolor dreamcoat (as Andrew Lloyd Webber calls it). The brothers sold Joseph into slavery and convinced their daddy, Jacob, that Joseph is dead. The slave owners took Joseph to Egypt. Over many years, Joseph became a high ranking government official in Egypt. He became an assistant to the pharaoh. In Egypt, Joseph had the foresight to store a bountiful food supply to prepare for a famine. The famine came in both Israel and Egypt. Jacob and the other eleven sons were starving in Israel. The other sons decided to go to Egypt to look for more food; however they didn't expect to see Joseph there.

The most touching episode was when Joseph indicated to his brothers who he is. An unforgiving brother would say, "You sold me into slavery so get out of here." Instead Joseph forgave his brothers. Joseph said, "You didn't send me to Egypt, because God planned for me to move to Egypt, so that I can provide for you during this famine."

Psalms 51:1,3,7, 10-12 (NRSV) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

\_\_\_\_\_ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. \_\_\_\_\_ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. \_\_\_\_\_ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

COMMENTARY -- King David wrote this Psalm after confession about his adulterous affair with Bathsheba.

Luke 15:4-7 (NRSV) "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Luke 15:18-24 (NRSV) I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe --the best one --and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

COMMENTARY -- The parable of The Prodigal Son illustrates God's awesome forgiving love. The full story of The Prodigal Son is in Luke 15:11-32.

John 8:5, 7, 11 (NRSV) Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" \_\_\_\_\_ Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her. \_\_\_\_\_ And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. \_\_\_\_\_"

COMMENTARY -- This was about the woman caught in adultery. Mosaic law called for stoning any adulterous woman. John 8:3-11 tells the full story, when none of the Pharisees would admit to being free of sin.

1 Timothy 1:15 (NRSV) The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners -- of whom I am the foremost.

COMMENTARY -- Paul's past had included persecution of Christians. For instance, Paul (then named Saul) had approved the stoning of Stephen. In this scripture, Paul admitted that he has been the foremost among sinners.

1 John 1:9 (NRSV) If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY -- Good News For Modern Man version of The Bible is worded that God keeps his promise to forgive our sins.

1 John 2:1 (NRSV) \_\_\_\_\_ But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;



## **GOD GUIDES US AND SHEPHERDS US**

Psalms 23 (NRSV) The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff -- they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Psalms 119:105 (NRSV) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 121:1-5 (NRSV) I lift up my eyes to the hills -- from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

Isaiah 41:13 (NRSV) For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."

John 10:14-15 (NRSV) I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 14:6 (NRSV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

COMMENTARY -- To get the context of this scripture, read John 14:1-14. Jesus described the relationship of The Son to God The Father. Doubting Thomas and Phillip had a problem with understanding this.

John 14:26 (NRSV) But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

COMMENTARY -- John 14 is the best description of The Trinity that I have seen. Starting with verse 15, Jesus tells how The Holy Spirit fits into the relationship with The Father and The Son.

John 21:3-6 (NIV) "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Colossians 1:17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

## **YOU WILL WANT TO OBEY**

Psalms 1:1-2 Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

Jeremiah 31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self,

2 Corinthians 3:3 and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 8:10 This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Hebrews 10:16-17 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," he also adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."



## **PRAYER**

Psalm 50:15 (NRSV) Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

Matthew 6:5-6 (NRSV) "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:8 (NRSV) \_\_\_\_\_ for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 7:7-11 (NRSV) "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Romans 8:26 (NRSV) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

COMMENTARY -- This includes the often quoted "the peace which passeth understanding" from King James Version.

James 5:15-16 (NRSV) The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

COMMENTARY -- James 5:13-16 is an excellent passage describing a body of believers in action.

## POSITIVE THINKING

Exodus 4:10-12 (NRSV) But Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." Then the LORD said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak."

Leviticus 19:18 (NRSV) \_\_\_\_\_ but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

COMMENTARY -- Here I am emphasizing the "as yourself." If you hate yourself, it is impossible to love your neighbor. Note that this is in the Jewish law. Later Jesus called this one of two greatest commandments.

Jeremiah 29:11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV) but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

COMMENTARY -- This one is quoted in Norman Vincent Peale's book, The Power of Positive Thinking.

Romans 5:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

John 9:2-3 (NRSV) His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.

John 14:12 (NRSV) Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these

\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:28 (NRSV) We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:31 (NRSV) \_\_\_\_\_ If God is for us, who is against us?

COMMENTARY -- This one is also quoted in Norman Vincent Peale's book, The Power of Positive Thinking. For really juicy assurances read Romans 8:28-39. That goes on to say that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father \_\_\_\_\_ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV) but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Galatians 3:28 (NRSV) There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

COMMENTARY -- Persons of disorders like ADD -- they too are the same as so-called normal persons, in God's eyes. Paraphrase -- "There is no longer ADD or normal." Hence ADD-ers and normals are "One in Christ."

Ephesians 3:20 (NRSV) Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

Philippians 4:13 (KJV) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

COMMENTARY -- This one is also quoted in Norman Vincent Peale's book, The Power of Positive Thinking.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

James 1:2-4 (NRSV) My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

**AΩ**

## **GOD IS HERE AND ALWAYS WILL BE HERE**

Isaiah 49:15-16 (NRSV) Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me..

Isaiah 54:10 (NRSV) For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

Matthew 4:17 (KJV) From that time Jesus began to preach, \_\_\_\_\_ for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Luke 17:20-21 (NIV) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."

COMMENTARY -- Caution, beware of the New Age interpretation of this scripture. This scripture does not mean that you are God, as New Age people preach. Instead it means that inner power is available to you, through prayer power and a walk with the Lord.

John 14:2-3 (NRSV) In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

COMMENTARY -- King James Version says, "In my Father's house are many mansions." At the time of King James "mansion" meant a dwelling place. To most of us today, a mansion is a huge house that only the wealthy can afford. The newer translations instead say "many dwelling places" or "many rooms." This means that the Lord has plenty of room to place us all into his kingdom. The Lord can fit you in. Jesus emphasized this by saying, "If that were not true, I wouldn't say so." Jesus went on to say that the Lord will prepare the place for you. By the way, this scripture is commonly used at funerals.

John 14:18 (NRSV) "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

Hebrews 11:1 (NRSV) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 13:5 (NRSV) \_\_\_\_\_, for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Hebrews 13:8 (NRSV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.



## **GOD IS PROTECTOR**

Psalms 91:1-6 (NRSV) You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Matthew 11:28 (NRSV) "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

John 14:27 (NRSV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

1 Peter 5:7 (NRSV) Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

## **HUMILITY AND MERCY**

Matthew 5:3-7 (NRSV) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Matthew 20:16 (NRSV) So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Luke 18:10-11, 13-14 (NRSV) "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. \_\_\_\_\_ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

COMMENTARY -- Tax collectors made their money by charging more than Roman Empire demanded. Tax collectors ripped off the people. The Pharisees were experts in the Jewish Law. This parable told of a reversal from expectation. The tax collector looked good in this parable, because he confessed with humility.

## **LIVE IN HARMONY WITH OTHERS**

Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV) "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Romans 12:16-19 (NRSV) Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

COMMENTARY -- Leave it to God for the vengeance.

Romans 14:1-5 (NRSV) Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

COMMENTARY -- Paul spoke against factions and divisions. I am especially against division within the Body of Christ. Paul gave the example of Jewish dietary laws. Especially divisive in today's world is red flag issues, such as abortion and homosexuality. Divisive issues are a tool of the devil to turn believer against brother believers. ADD persons are especially drawn to divisive issues, because ADD persons crave stimulation. God loves us all.

Romans 14:14 (NRSV) I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Romans 14:19 (NRSV) Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NRSV) For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body --Jews or Greeks, slaves or free --and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Ephesians 4:29 (NRSV) Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

2 Timothy 2:23-25 (NRSV) Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, correcting opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth.

Titus 3:9 (NIV) But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.

COMMENTARY -- Timothy and Titus were two young preachers who assisted The Apostle Paul. The epistles to Timothy and Titus were instructions that Paul wrote to them. In these two scriptures, Paul advised how not to speak of God's word. In addition, promoting controversy begets self-righteousness.

James 1:19-20 (NRSV) You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

## **ANGER**

Proverbs 19:11 (NRSV) Those with good sense are slow to anger, and it is their glory to overlook an offense.

Matthew 5:22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.

COMMENTARY -- Well all sometimes go astray here. None of us are perfect. A resulting hell is the guilt feelings following anger. Consider defining hell as absence of a spiritual walk. Some versions of the Bible substitute "you idiot" for "you fool." Avoid any derogatory name such as "meathead," "turkey," or worse yet obscene names.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NRSV) Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil.

COMMENTARY -- Here is one that grants that we are only human. Paul recognized that we will get the flares of irritation. However Paul advised to avoid processing the anger. If you process, "I will get him the next time he pulls that," then you are letting the sun go down on the anger.

James 1:19-20 (NRSV) You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

James 3:5-6 (NRSV) So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell.



## **HELP SPREAD GOD'S KINGDOM**

Matthew 5:16 (NRSV) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

COMMENTARY -- With a spiritual walk with The Lord, there will be times that you will be amazed at the way your light is shining. You would be reflecting Christ.

Matthew 28:19 (NRSV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

COMMENTARY -- You don't need to literally march people to the river to baptize them. This scripture is called the Great Commission. Jesus used figurative language to urge us all to win other people over to Christianity, with our actions.

John 4:7,9 (NRSV) A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." \_\_\_\_\_ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

COMMENTARY -- Jesus will ask you to help carry his kingdom, regardless of your social status. During Biblical times, there was discrimination against Samaritans. Yes, Jesus asks ADD persons to help carry his kingdom.

John 15:16 (NRSV) You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIV) There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NRSV) So we are ambassadors for Christ, \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:9 (NRSV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY -- Martin Luther advocated priesthood of all believers. A priest is not necessarily a clergyman. Each of us is a priest to support other persons in their spiritual journeys.

## **ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY**

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, \_\_\_\_\_

## **SURPRISE ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST**

Matthew 24:36 (NRSV) "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

COMMENTARY -- Some Christians put undue emphasis on the Second Coming of Christ. My belief is that you don't know when an encounter will come in your life. It could be meeting some person, who really represents Christ. In some cases, it is during final hours before passing on from this earth, to be with The Lord. There is an end time with each of us.

Time and again, some person has publically announced a specific day when The Second Coming of Christ will happen. Invariably that day comes and nothing special happens. The forecaster looks ridiculous, every time. The forecaster forgot Matthew 24:36.

The parable of the bridesmaids, Matthew 25:1-13 is further reading admonishing you to be ready any time.

Luke 24:13-20,25,28-32 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. \_\_\_\_\_ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

\_\_\_\_\_ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

COMMENTARY -- This took place on the day of the resurrection. This was a real surprise encounter with Christ. There were some ADD signs in the two men walking the road to Emmaus -- in that they were not tuned in to what was going on. They were slow in realizing that their eyes were opened to recognize Jesus. Would you recognize Jesus when walking a road to Emmaus?

## **BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS OF CHRIST**

Matthew 7:15 (NRSV) "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

COMMENTARY -- A prominent example is David Koresh and the Waco, Texas, situation in April 1993. In 1979, there was the Jonestown mass suicide. Unfortunately people are vulnerable when they have any kind of condition producing poor self-esteem. Cult recruiters promise false miracles to sufferers.

Today, New Age philosophy has lured many people away from the real Christ. Especially ADD persons have been lured. The self-help movement has become fraught with New Age.

Even some mental health professionals promote occult philosophies, such as Buddhist meditation techniques and New Age.

Other than the occult, you still need to beware of anybody who preaches any message deflecting you away from the real truth of Christ. After the time Jimmy Swaggart was photographed with prostitutes at a motel, many people were devastated that their hero had fallen.

Keep in mind two foremost characteristics of mainstream Christianity, so as to discern which religious groups are counterfeits: (1) the Trinity consisting of God as three in one, the Father creator, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, (2) the Bible as the all sufficient guide to spiritual matters. For instance, Mormons have a second scripture The Book of Mormon, in addition to the Bible.

Matthew 24:5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray.

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

Matthew 24:24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.