

To help you read the Bible.

The Bible is a collection of 66 books. It is divided into two parts the **Old** and the **New Testaments**. The word **Testament** means covenant or agreement. The **Old Testament** contains **39 books**, and the **New Testament** contains **27 books**.

The Bible was written over a period of about **1,500 years**; by approx. **40** different human authors. It was written in three different languages. The **Old Testament** was written in **Hebrew** and **Aramaic**, and the **New Testament** in **Greek**.

The Bible is God showing Himself to us, and is a record of what God wants us to know about His dealings with mankind.

It was written down by people who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, who is Himself God.

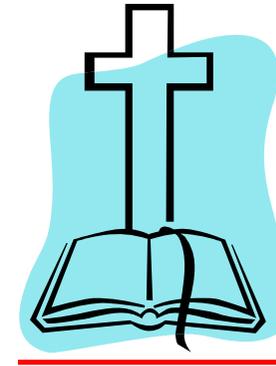
The **Old Testament** may be divided into three main sections. Genesis to Esther tells the **history** of God's dealings with mankind from the beginning of the world; through the calling, and establishing of the Jewish nation, to the return of the Jewish nation to Israel after their exile to Babylon.

The books of Job to the Song of Solomon are the **poetry** books
The books of Isaiah to Malachi are the **prophetic** books

The **New Testament** can be divided into four parts. The **four Gospels**; which tell the life of Jesus. The book of Acts which tells the birth and early growth of the church through the work of the **Holy Spirit**. The **letters** written to the churches or individuals, and the book of **Revelation** which tells what will happen to the world as **God** draws it to a close.

If you require further information, or a Bible reading plan; please contact *Micah Mobile Ministries*. Tel 07876 362872 or e-mail micahmm@uku.co.uk

30 Days with your



BIBLE

A booklet to help you with reading the Bible you have been given.

Day 1. The way to God.

John 14 v 6 : Jesus answered, " I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me." (page 1675)

The Christian faith is all about Jesus, and the fact that he is the only way to God. People have tried to find all sorts of ways to reach God. Doing good things, going to religious meetings, and giving money being some of the different ways, but it is always us trying to reach God.

God knew that we would never achieve the standard where we could reach Him, and so in His great love He sent Jesus to come and be the way for us. **(John 3 v 16, page 1650)** Jesus, himself, said He was the only way to God, and if we want to meet with God we must come the way He has set out for us.

Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment my rebellion, of leaving God out of my life, deserves. As Jesus has taken the punishment, God will not bring that punishment on me; if I receive what Jesus has done for me. **(John 1 v 12, page 1646)**

Prayer

Thank you Jesus, for taking the punishment for me. I receive Your free gift of life for ever with You.

Day 30. The Return

Acts 1 v 11 : " Men of Galilee," they said, " why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. " (page 1691)

Jesus, himself, promised that He would one day return to earth in physical form, and everyone would see Him. **(Matthew 24 vv 27 & 30 page 1539)** He also told His disciples what would be the signs of His return coming closer; these included wars, persecution of Christians for their faith, famines, earthquakes, lawlessness, and an abundance of people claiming to be the Messiah. **(Matthew 24 vv 5 to 14 page 1539 and Luke 21 vv 8 to 28 page 1635)**

The early disciples were eagerly looking for Jesus to come back, and we today need to be ready and waiting for His return. **(1 Thessalonians 4 vv 13 to 18 page 1840)** This world is not our home, but we look for the One who will return, and take us to be with Him, and so we shall be for ever in His presence. Let us make **Revelation 22 vv 20 & 21 (page 1939)** our final prayer.

Prayer ***We look forward to Your soon return Lord Jesus.***

Day 29. Actions speak louder than words.

John 13 vv 34 & 35 : (Jesus said) " A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (page 1675)

Jesus did not ask easy things of His disciples either then or now. None of us find it always easy to love all of Jesus' other followers, and they may not find it easy to always love us!!! Jesus made it very clear that this is what He expects us to do. So how can this be possible? Jesus never asks anything of us that He will not empower us, by His Holy Spirit to do. All he needs is that we are willing to do what He asks. Am I, are you, willing for Jesus to make me able to **love other Christians**.

Also Jesus, never asks us to do anything that He was not willing to do. He loved all His disciples, Judas included, and he knew that Judas was going to betray Him, and that Peter was going to deny Him, and that all the rest would run away and hide at the time He needed them most.

John in his letter *1 John 4 vv 19 to 21 (page 1903)* makes it very clear that to truly love God we must also love other Christians.

Prayer *Father please help me to please You by loving others.*

Day 2. Let's turn around

Matthew 4 v 17 : From that time on Jesus began to preach, " Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (page 1500)

God often has a different view of life to the one we have. *(Isaiah 55 vv 8 & 9, page 1149)* The word repent means to have a change of mind; which leads to a change of lifestyle. God wants us to repent so that we bring our way of living in line with His way of doing things.

When we receive Jesus into our lives, God begins a process of bringing our lives into line with His plans for us. Those plans are for our very best. *(Jeremiah 29 v 11, page 1221)* This is because God made us, and knows what is the very best for our lives.

When we **repent** it means that we agree with God's assessment of our needs, and we choose to bring our lives in line with what He says. We **repent**, not only when we first come to Jesus, but at any time when the way we are living is not in line with what God wants for us.

Prayer

Father I am sorry that my life has not been in line with Your ways. I now choose to do what You say in the way that You ask.

Day 3.

Live by

John 1 v 12 : Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (page 1646)

What does it mean to believe? It means that we agree with something enough to **live by** it. That is, we allow what we believe to change our lives.

That is what God wants us to **live by**, the things we believe about Him. The verse at the top of the page says that when we have received Jesus we become God's children, even those of us who believed on Jesus' name.

Those things that we really believe change the way we live. For example, if I believed that the world was flat I would not book up for a round the world cruise; as I would drop off the edge!!!! If I really believe that Jesus is God the Son, and that He died for me, and that I have received Him into my life; I shall want to live to please Him, and to be doing the things that are going to please Him. That is, I will **live by** His rules for my life. Also if I believe that God made me, loves me and wants the best for my life, I will want to **live by** His rules for my life.

Prayer

Father, I believe that You love me, and want the very best for my life, and I choose to live my life the way You want me to ;by the help of Your Holy Spirit.

Day 28.

Go

Matthew 28 v 19 : (Jesus said) "Therefore Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (page 1550)

Jesus tells us, when we have trusted in Him, to go and tell other people what has happened in our lives. Someone once described this as one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.

Jesus does not ask us to go and give a theological talk. He asks us to go and make disciples of people from all nations. Some of us will tell people where we live, but some of us will be called to go and talk to people in other towns or even other countries.

In *Acts 1 v 8 (page 1691)* Jesus tells his disciples to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. He calls us to be witnesses. A witness tells of that which he or she has seen for themselves, and Jesus asks us to go and tell that which we have personally found of Jesus for ourselves.

He asks us to tell others that they need to become disciples, and obey what Jesus has said to do.

Prayer Father help us to go and tell others of the good things that Jesus has done for us.

Day 27.

"L" plates

Luke 14 v 27 : (Jesus said) "anyone who does not carry his cross, and follow me cannot be my disciple." (page 1623)

Jesus said that to be His disciple, or follower, we must go the way He has gone. To be a disciple means we are a learner or pupil. Back to school with Jesus.

Jesus taught His disciples by firstly taking them with Him to see all that He was doing; and secondly sending them on ahead to the places He was going (***Luke 10 v 1 page 1611***). Finally when He went back to heaven He sent them out, full of the Holy Spirit, to do all that He had told them to do. (***Luke 24 v 49 page 1644 & Mark 16 vv 15 to 18 page 1585***)

Jesus' journey finally led Him to the cross, and if we are to follow Him we have to 'die' to our own wants and thoughts, and be willing to follow all that He wants, and do everything the way He would want it done. This takes time to work out in our lives, but as His followers or learners we must be willing to go His way, and do the things He asks. In ***Luke 14 vv 28 to 33 (page 1623)*** Jesus warns us to count the cost before following him.

Prayer Father help me to be a learner in Your ways, and be willing to do and think all that Jesus wants me to.

Day 4.

Bury the corpse

Romans 6 v 4 : We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (page 1754)

When you become a Christian you have a brand new life with Jesus, but the old dead life is still hanging around. If you had a corpse hanging around you, you would bury it. In just the same way Jesus asks us to get the old dead life buried. The method God has designed is called baptism. When we are baptised we go into the water, and as we are placed backwards under the water it is a symbol of us dying to the old way of life. As we are raised out of the water it is symbolic of us being raised to new life in Jesus.

If we are baptised, believing all that Jesus has said about our old and new life, we leave behind the old life, and all its hold on us, and we are raised up to a new life in Jesus. Being baptised does not make us a Christian, but it does get rid of the old way of life that would seek to hamper our new life in Jesus.

Prayer Father, please help me to do all those things that please You; including being baptised because Jesus has asked me to do so.

Day 5. Power for living

Acts 1 v 8 : (Jesus said) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (page 1691)

Jesus promised that His followers would be **filled** with the Holy Spirit so that they would have the power for living life for Him.

In ***John 7 v 37 to 39 (page 1660)*** Jesus tells His followers that if we are thirsty, that is wanting more of Jesus and all that He has for us, we can go to Him and drink. Jesus then promises that, if we believe, we shall receive the gift of the life giving Holy Spirit.

In ***Luke 11 vv 9 to 13 (page 1614)*** Jesus tells His followers that His Father, God, will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask, that they might receive; who seek that they may find, and who knock on the door so that God will open the door, and give them the gift that they are asking for. Jesus reminds us that God is a good Father who wants to give good gifts to His children, and will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

Prayer *Please Father God, fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I receive Him now. Thank you Father.*

Day 26. Don't be troubled

John 14 v 27 : (Jesus said) "Peace I leave with you: my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (page 1676)

We can know **peace** with God, through the Lord Jesus, and we can know the **peace** of God as we rest in Him.

The human race is not at **peace** with God because of sin which came into the human race through Adam's disobedience. But Jesus came to restore the way to God, and bring God's **peace** into our lives. (***Romans 5 v 19 page 1753)***

Jesus said that His **peace** was not like the peace of the world, which is quickly passing, and depends on an absence of problems. Jesus said that His **peace** would keep our hearts safe even in the middle of difficulties and the problems of this life. (***Philippians 4 vv 6 & 7 page 1830)***

In ***1 Peter 5 v 7 (page 1892)*** we are encouraged to bundle up all our worries and cares, and throw them to the Lord, because He cares for us.

Prayer *Father I thank You that I can be a peace with You because of what Jesus has done. Help me to stay at peace with You by doing all that You ask.*

Day 25.

Move a mountain

Mark 11 vv 22 & 23 : "Have faith in God," Jesus answered, " I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ' Go throw yourself into the sea', and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him." (page 1573)

Faith is vital in knowing God in our lives. Someone once said that FAITH can be said to be Forsaking All I Trust Him. I need to come to the place where I believe that God means what He says, and that He can be trusted. When someone becomes a Christian they believe that Jesus has died in their place, and they receive God's forgiveness. They have faith in what Jesus has done for them. God now asks us to live our Christian life by believing that He will continue to look after us. In *Romans 8 v 32 (page 1758)*, Paul tells us that if God loved us enough to give up His son for us surely He can be trusted to look after the other needs of our lives. Jesus tells us that if we put the things of his kingdom first, we can have faith that God will look after the rest. (*Matthew 6 vv 25 to 34 page 1505)*

Prayer *Father help me to believe all that You have said and to act upon it.*

Day 6.

Our Father

Luke 11 vv 1 & 2 : One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished one of his disciples said to him, "Lord teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them "when you pray, say: 'Father', " (page 1613)

Jesus, when he prayed, addressed God as **Father**, and He taught His disciples to do the same. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, and come into our life, we become children of God *John 1 v 12 (page 1646)* Jesus told us that we need to be born into God's family by the work of the Holy Spirit. *John 3 v 3 & 5 (page 1649).*

As children of God, we have the privilege of coming to God as our **Father**, and bringing our requests to Him on the grounds of our relationship.

We can sometimes struggle with knowing God as **Father**. If we have had a bad experience of fatherhood with our earthly fathers, God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, is able to release us from the negative experience, and bring us into a loving, caring relationship with Him. We are promised that the Holy Spirit will help us in this relationship, if we ask Him, *Romans 8 v 14 to 16 (page 1757)*

Prayer *Father please help me, by the Holy Spirit, to know You as father, and to develop my relationship with You.*

Day 7. The Father's love gift.

John 3 v 16 : For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (page 1650)

This is one of the most well known verses in the Bible, and it not only tells us of the marvellous love of God, but also of the willingness of **Jesus** to come to earth for us.

God, on a number of times during **Jesus'** life, spoke from heaven declaring that **Jesus** was His well loved son. ***Luke 3 vv 21 & 22, (page 1594)*** and ***Matthew 17 v 5 (page 1525).***

God loved **Jesus**, His son; but He also loved us , His creation, and for that reason He was willing to let **Jesus** come to die in our place.

Jesus told His disciples that if they had seen Him they had also seen His father, ***John 14 vv 8 & 9 (page 1675)***

Jesus once told his disciples that the most important thing in his life was to do God's will, ***John 4 v 34 (page 1652)*** and He wants us to follow Him in wanting to do the Father's will.

Prayer Father thank You for sending Your son ,**Jesus**, for me. Help me, like Him, to do Your will, so that I too can please You.

Day 24. All we need is GOD'S love

1 John 4 v 16 :God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him. (page 1902)

God is love, and that is why we can know love, and let that love show out of us.

God's love is unconditional, ***John 3 v 16 (page 1650)*** tells us that God loved the world before ever we showed any interest in Him. ***Romans 5 v 8 (page 1753)*** reminds us that God showed His love for us even when we were in sin, and rebellion towards Him.

If someone loves us that much, surely we can trust His love; and now He asks us to love other people. With the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives, we can ask Him for the strength to show His love to other people. God does not want us to live in the power of our love, but His love working through us.

In ***1 John 4 v 21 (page 1903)*** God tells us to love other Christians. In ***Mark 12 v 30 & 31 (page 1576)***, **Jesus** tells us to love God first and all other people next. In ***Matthew 5 v 44 (page 1503)*** **Jesus** says that we are to love our enemies!!!! We need the power of the Holy Spirit to help us do what God commands.

Prayer Father help me to love all the people that You have asked me to love. I cannot do this on my own.

Day 23.

Free yourself.

Matthew 6 vv 14 & 15 : (Jesus said) For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (page 1504)

Un-forgiveness against another person, or yourself is one of the most destructive emotions that there is, and the person it hurts is yourself.

Jesus told a parable to show that when we fail to forgive someone who has hurt or harmed us then we ourselves are imprisoned by our attitude. (***Matthew 18 vv 21 to 35 page 1527)***

Jesus also warned us that if we are not willing to forgive others then God will not forgive us. Every time we pray the Lord's prayer we ask God to ' forgive us our debts (sins) as we forgive those who sin against us' (***Matthew 6 v 12 page 1504)*** To forgive others for hurts they have done to us we must make the choice to forgive them. Forgiveness is not a feeling, but an act of our wills. If we struggle to forgive someone for some hurt they have inflicted on us we can pray and ask the Father to help us to be willing.

Prayer *Father I choose to forgive all those who have hurt me.*

Day 8.

The one who comes alongside.

John 15 v 26 : When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. (page 1678)

Jesus promised His disciples that when He went away He would send them the Counsellor, comforter, advocate, the one who comes alongside to help them. That is the Holy Spirit who would come from the Father to empower the disciples to live for Jesus.

The Holy Spirit can be seen at work all the way through the Bible. He is there in ***Genesis 1 v 2 (page 1)*** working in creation. He came upon people in the Old Testament to give them the power to do the work God had called them to do (***Judges 13 vv 24 & 25 page 395***).

It was the Holy Spirit who was instrumental in the birth of Jesus (***Luke 1 v 35 page 1588)***, and it is He, who Jesus promises will not just be with the disciples, but after Jesus has gone back to heaven He would be in Jesus' disciples (***John 14 vv 16 & 17 page 1676)***. He is still there at the end of the story: in ***Revelation 22 v 17 (page 1939)*** the Spirit and the bride welcome Jesus.

Prayer *Jesus please come and fill me with Your Holy Spirit I pray, so that I may live for You.*

Day 9.

Three and one.

Genesis 1 v 26 : Then God said " Let us make man in our image, in our likeness,..... (page 3)

Genesis 11 v 7 : (God said) Come, let us go down and confuse their language..... (page 16)

A number of times in Genesis when God is speaking He says " let us ", and in *Genesis 1 v 26 (page 3)* God says "let us make man in our image, in our likeness." He is not speaking to angels, but to someone who is an equal with Him.

In *John's* gospel there are a number of places where Jesus claims to be God. (*John 10 v 30 page 1667*) In *Revelation 1 v 8 (page 1913)* God declares Himself to be the Alpha and Omega, and in *Revelation 22 v 13 (page 1939)* Jesus says that he is the Alpha and Omega.

In *Acts 5 v 3 (page 1698)* Peter says that Ananias has lied to the Holy Spirit, and in *Acts 5 v 4 (page 1698)* Peter says that Ananias has lied to God.

In *Matthew 28 v 19 (page 1550)* Jesus said we are to be baptised in the name (notice, not "the names") of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Father thank you that we can come to You through the name of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 22.

Hilarious service

2 Corinthians 9 v 7 : Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (hilarious) giver (page 1803).

Paul in his second letter to the Corinthian church makes it very clear that God wants us to give financially to the work of the Kingdom of God, but He also makes it very, very clear that we should only give that which we choose to give, and that which we give willingly. No one should be forced, or intimidated into giving.

Paul, in *2 Corinthians 8 vv 13 & 14 (page 1802)*, explains that God's desire is that no one should lack their daily needs, but those of us who have should provide for those who do not; and not that we should give to keep another Christian in luxury.

Jesus, Himself, stated in *Matthew 6 vv 1 to 4 (page 1503)* that we should give to the needy, and He tells us of the way in which we should give; that is without making a great show about our giving.

Prayer Father, I ask you that you would show me what you want me to give , and where you want me to give it.

Day 21. Let's get together

Hebrews 10 v 25 : Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..... (page 1874)

A number of people often say “ you can be a Christian without going to church “, and that is true, but it is not God’s best. The first thing to notice is that the church is not a building, but the people of God who **meet together**.

God wants His people to **meet together**, firstly to worship Him, and secondly to encourage one another.

16 out of the 27 books in the **New Testament** are written to churches, that is groups of Christians, who **meet together** to worship God, and encourage one another.

We read of what happened among the early Christians in **Acts 2 v 42 (page 1694)**. Peter tells the people who want to follow Jesus that they need to **fellowship together**, and in **Acts 2 v 46 (page 1694)** it tells us that the Christians **met together** every day to worship God, to have meals , and share the good things that God had done for them with one another. As time passed in the early days of Christianity **Acts 5 v 42 (page 1700)** the Christians continued to meet together from day to day.

Prayer *Father please help me to meet with other Christians to worship You, and encourage one another .*

Day 10. The work of the Holy Spirit

John 14 vv 16 & 17 (Jesus said) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever --the Spirit of Truth.....(page 1676).

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit was the Spirit of Truth; that means we can rely on what He tells us to be true, and that He will guide us into all truth. (**John 16 v 13 page 1678**)

In **John 14 v 26 (page 1676)**, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will teach us all that we need to know, and that He will remind us of the things that Jesus has said.

Jesus said in **John 15 v 26 (page 1678)** that the Holy Spirit would **testify** about Jesus. The Holy Spirit always points us to Jesus, and makes much of him.

In **John 16 vv 8 to 11 (page 1678)** Jesus states that the Holy Spirit will convict, or convince, us that we are **guilty before God** because of our sin of not believing in Jesus. The Holy Spirit will convince us that we are not right before God **without Jesus**, and the Holy Spirit will convince us that the devil has already been judged, and that without Jesus we will be judged with the devil.

Prayer *Father, I pray that the Holy Spirit will do His work in my life, and that He will glorify Jesus through me.*

Day 11.

Apples & pears?

Galatians 5 vv 22 & 23 : But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..... (page 1816).

When the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives He produces the fruit that is listed above. Someone has said that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is not a basket of different fruits, but the segments of one orange. That means that we cannot pick and choose which fruit we have in our lives, but if the Holy Spirit is in control of our lives He produces His fruit in us.

In ***John 15 v 5 (page 1677)*** Jesus says that He is the vine, and that we are the branches. He states that if we stay in fellowship with Him we shall bear much fruit. He also tells us that if we stay in Him, the Father will prune away the rubbish in our lives so that we can bear more fruit. (***John 15 vv 1 & 2 page 1676)***

Jesus told his disciples that we would be able to recognise if people were true followers of Him by the kinds of fruit which is produced in their lives. (***Matthew 7 vv 15 to 20 page 1506)***

Prayer Father I pray that I might be open to your Holy Spirit, and allow Him to bring His fruit into my life.

Day 20.

Food.

2 Timothy 3 v 16 : All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. (page 1855)

If we want to grow from being babies to adults we need to eat food, and if we want to grow from baby Christians to mature followers of Jesus we must feed on God's word, the BIBLE.

All of the Bible is useful to help us to grow. It is good to read the Old and the New Testament, and very helpful to read right through the Bible (Should you want help to do this please, phone us at the number on the back of this booklet, and we will seek to help you if we can.)

Paul, in his letter to Timothy, clearly states that all of the Bible is useful to help us to be trained in God's ways. We need to let the Bible change the way we think and do things. We must not try to change what the Bible says to fit in with what we think.

Isaiah 55 vv 8 & 9 (page 1149) reminds us that God does not think the way we think, and does not do things the way we would do them. ***Isaiah 55 v 11 (page 1149)*** informs us that God's word will do what He wants it to do.

Prayer Father help me to read Your word, and get to know what You want for my life.

Day 19.

The way in.

Psalm 100 v 4 : Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name (page 937)

God calls us to come into His presence with **grateful hearts**. As Christians we need to ask the Lord to help us to have an **attitude of gratitude**.

When we think of all that God has done for us we need to come to Him with **gratitude**. Paul, in ***Philippians 4 v 6 (page 1830)***, instructs us not to worry about things, but to bring all our concerns to God with **thanksgiving**. We show our trust in God by doing what it says in ***1 Thessalonians 5 v 18 (page 1841)***; that is to **give thanks** to God in all circumstances. We can do this when we believe God wants the best for our lives, and so we can trust Him with the things we maybe don't fully understand.

Did Paul just say the words or do we see this **gratitude** in his life? When he was writing his letter to the ***Philippians***, he was imprisoned in a Roman jail. In ***Philippians 4 v 11 & 12 (page 1830)***, he tells us that he has learned in every circumstance to be content. When we trust in God, we can enter His presence with **thanks** and praise in our hearts and on our lips.

Prayer Father thank You that I am welcome in Your presence, and help me to come with trust in Your love.

Day 12.

Presents.

1 Corinthians 12 v 4 : There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. (page 1785)

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, He brings His **gifts** into our lives; but we must remember that these **gifts** are tools to be used not toys to play with. God fills us with His Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit brings His **gifts** so that we can be effective in building God's kingdom.

The Holy Spirit chooses which of the nine **gifts** He is going to give us, (***1 Corinthians 12 v 11 page 1785***) and this is so that the Christian church is built up (***1 Corinthians 12 v 7 page 1785***). The **gifts** listed in ***1 Corinthians 12 vv 1 to 11 (page 1785)*** are the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In ***Romans 12 vv 6 to 8 (page 1764)*** Paul mentions some other **gifts** which are very much needed in the building up of Christians.

In ***Ephesians 4 vv 11 & 12 (page 1821)*** we read about the ministry **gifts** that Jesus gives to build up Christians so that the church will grow up. These **gifts** are people who God places into the church to help others to grow.

Prayer Father I open myself up to receive the gifts that You want to bring into my life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 13. Build yourself up.

1 Corinthians 14 v 18 : I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. (page 1788)

Tongues is one of the most misunderstood gifts that the Holy Spirit gives. Firstly let us remember that **tongues** is from the Holy Spirit, and is not something we need to avoid or be frightened of. Paul in ***1 Corinthians 14 v 5 (page 1787)*** says that he would like everyone to speak in **tongues**. In ***1 Corinthians 14 vv 15 & 16 (page 1788)*** Paul states that he will pray and sing in **tongues** as well as in his natural language, and in verse 18 at the top of the page Paul says that he speaks in **tongues** more than any of the Corinthian Christians.

What is the use of speaking in **tongues** when you can't understand what you are saying? ***1 Corinthians 14 v 4 (page 1787)*** tells us that speaking in **tongues** builds us up as a Christian, and in ***Jude v 20 (page 1910)*** we are encouraged to build ourselves up by praying in **tongues**.

We are also encouraged in ***1 Corinthians 14 vv 1 to 33 (page 1787)*** to speak in **tongues** during a church service as long as there is someone who will interpret so that the whole church will be built up.

Prayer Father You say in Your word that You want me to receive all the good gifts that You have for me. Please let me speak in tongues that I may be built up in You.

Day 18. Chatting with Dad.

Mark 1 v 35 : Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. (page 1553)

Jesus knew the importance of spending time **talking** to His Father. Jesus set aside time to spend with His Father even though He had a very busy life. The more we do for the Father the more time we need to spend **talking** with the Father.

When Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to **pray**, Jesus taught them the **prayer** that we know as the Lord's **prayer**, which begins with the words " Our Father " (***Luke 11 vv 1 to 4 page 1613***). Whenever the Bible records Jesus' **prayers** they all begin with the word **Father**. We need to know that **prayer** is **chatting** to the Father. As children we were often told to put our hands together, and close our eyes so that we could **pray**. That was so that our attention was focused on what we were doing, not that we can't talk to God without those actions. God wants us to come to Him as our Father, and talk to Him about the things that are on our hearts, and wait to hear what He wants to say to us either through our minds or through His word.

Prayer Father help me make time all through the day to talk to You, and be in constant contact with You.

Day 17.

Clothes swap.

Ephesians 4 vv 22 to 24 : ...**(to) put off your old self..... (to) be made new in the attitude of your minds; and (to) put on the new self,.....(page 1821)**

Please read all the verses in the above Bible reference. Paul here is encouraging the Ephesians Christians to **put off** the **old way** of life, and **put on** the **new way** of life in Jesus.

God wants a complete change in our lives. He wants our thoughts and actions to change from our **old way** to the way He thinks and acts. (*Isaiah 55 v 8 & 9 page 1149*). How can we **put off** the **old ways** and **put on** the **new way**. In *Romans 12 vv 1 & 2 (page 1763)* Paul instructs us to offer up our bodies to God, and to let God transform, or change, our life by renewing our minds into God's way of thinking. Our change begins in our minds, by allowing God to change our way of thinking, but we have to choose to do this, and allow God to do this in us. He will not force His **ways** into our lives; He waits for us to choose to **put off** the **old way**, and bring our life into line with His **way** of doing things.

Prayer *Father thank You that you receive me just as I am, but You love me so much that You don't leave me like that. I choose to put off the old way, and receive the new way of life that You offer me.*

Day 14.

The centre.

1 Corinthians 2 v 2 : For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (page 1773)

The whole centre of the Christian faith is **Jesus Christ**, and the only way we can come to God is not through his life, but is in fact through His **death on the cross**. If Jesus had not died on the **cross**, and risen again from the dead we would not be able to come to God.

In *Galatians 6 v 14 (page 1816)* Paul states that the only thing he will boast about is the **cross**, because this is the place where Jesus won the victory over the devil, and opened the way to heaven so that we can spend eternity with God.

There are a lot of people who think that Jesus dying on the **cross** is stupid, but that will not surprise us when we read *1Corinthians 1 v 18 (page 1772)* This verse tells us that the message of the **cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. Let us stand in the power of God through the **cross** rather than what people think in their own minds.

Prayer *Father I thank You for Jesus being willing to die on the cross for me, and I receive all that he bought for me by his death*

Day 15.

Healing.

1 Peter 2 v 24 : (Jesus) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (page 1889)

This verse informs us that because Jesus has already died on the cross , and has been wounded for us, **we have been healed**. We need to receive that which Jesus has already done for us. In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah foretold what was going to happen to Jesus on the cross. *Isaiah 53 vv 4 to 6 (page 1145)*, and in verse 5, Isaiah states that by **His wounds we are healed**.

What do we need to do if we are sick? We need to believe what God's word says; that because Jesus has been wounded for us **we are healed**, and we need to receive that healing in our lives.

In *James 5 v 14 to 16 (page 1885)* God's word tells us that if we are sick we are to call for the leaders of the church to come and anoint us with oil, and pray for us in the name of Jesus, to be healed. Any prayer for healing must be in the name of Jesus, and from someone who believes in only asking Jesus for healing.

Prayer Father please heal me, because Jesus has bought my healing by His death on the cross.

Day 16.

Wholeness.

Luke 9 vv 1 & 2 :He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons, and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (page 1608).

Jesus came to bring us into **wholeness**. When He sent his disciples out He told them to bring salvation, healing and deliverance. Jesus does not want to do half a job in our lives. He firstly wants us to know the **wholeness** that comes from receiving His salvation, and coming into relationship with our heavenly Father. The Father will then continue to bring salvation and **wholeness** into our lives by changing us spirit, soul and body (*1Thessalonians 5 v 23 page 1841*).

Jesus wants us to know **wholeness** in our soul and body as He ministers His healing into our lives. He also wants us to be free from being tormented by demonic forces, and in His name we can know deliverance from any demonic influence which may afflict our lives. God's heart is for His people to be completely **whole**, and that is what He offers to us today.

Prayer Father I receive all that Jesus has won for me by his death on the cross, salvation, healing and deliverance, and I thank You for the wholeness you have brought me.