

Devoted Disciple

Series 3: Devoted Heart
Blessed Life

10 Daily Scripture Passages
Psalms 1-12
Personal Time,
Paired Discussion,
Participating in Fellowship

Series 3. Psalms: Devoted Heart.

Booklet 1. Blessed Life

Psalm 1-12

Overview: (Booklet Overview)

Your life is constantly under attack, for to be *alive* is to be whole in your unseen *heart and soul* as well as your earthly body. And, troubles in the world war against your soul, making you fearful, unfaithful, and Godless. So, the Lord God gives you the Psalms to re-establish your heart and soul in His Lordship, so that you might devoted to Him and abounding in His blessing. Approach the psalms prayerfully, taking the opportunity to devote yourself fully to the Lord in the deepest, most vulnerable parts of your life! Shalom.

Devoted to the Lord:

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ Mark 12:30.

As Jesus instructed us, we are to *love the Lord our God* with all that we have, with all our lives. In the Bible, such love is a *giving* love, to present to him all of who you are... heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Importantly, we give, that is, *devote* ourselves to him every day. Why? Because it is too easy to lose focus and give ourselves to unworthy things. We give ourselves up to the *flesh*, to live merely in satisfying our own desires. To the world and its agendas and anxieties, following its own purposes. And, even to things such as career, ambition, or greed.

To keep your faith focused on God and your love given faithfully to Him, have regular *devotional times* with the Lord. Every day, in the morning or some other good time, commit to meeting with the Lord in *devotion*. This booklet helps you go through keep Bible passages to hear from God and share with your friends, family, and fellowship groups. Start here!

Devote yourself to the Lord God: At the start of every devotional, use the Checklist below to Devote All of who you are to the Lord! Position yourself to hear the Word from Him by *faith*. *Do you have a...*



- Do I want to humble myself under the Lord God by faith?
- Will I live as my own Lord, relying on my own understanding?

Prayer of Devotion: Lord God, I devote myself to you today: In soul—humbling myself under your Lordship; In mind—to know you and your Word by *faith*; In heart—to love Jesus and the Father to do your will; and in soul—to give my life to you as a living sacrifice! Please teach me now by your Holy Spirit, that I might be live out your holy Word! In Jesus name, Amen

❑1. Blessed Life: Delighting in the Lord's Law

Read Psalm 1

How can I live a life blessed by the Lord?

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. **Psalm 1:1-2**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Why is the Lawful Word of the Lord God the source of Blessing and Life? How should we view and approach the Lawful Word of God?

QA: How does the Lord bless us if we are part of His *Righteous People*? How does the Lord's "righteousness" by faith (Gen. 15:6) differ from a Self-sufficient Self-righteousness (Is. 64:6)?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How can I live a blessed life of righteousness? (Ps. 1:1-2)

1.Delight and Meditate on Lord's Law: The "Law" of the Lord is His Word, because it reveals God's will for you and me. And, God's Word is the "law," because it has the power to shape our lives according to what God says is "good" and "evil." God is good, so we can "delight" and "do" all that God reveals to us in His lawful Word!

Q2. How will the Lord bless me to walk by His Law and not Sin? (3)

2.Law of Lord nourishes and bears fruit: God's powerful Word is not just the "law" for my life, it is the *natural law* for how all spiritual life works! So, when my mind first then my life is rooted in God's lawful Word, I will be filled with his spiritual life. Bearing fruit in my life. God's "fruit" comes from your very soul, nourishing you and those in your life! (Gal. 5:22-23)

Q3. What happens when I live by the Lord's Law? (5-6)

3.Lord knows and protects my Righteous Way: When I delight in the Lord's lawful Word, I show the Lord by my "way" of life to be "righteous," as He is righteous! The Lord is really interested in me and my life, because I am becoming more and more like him in His righteousness, just as He planned from the very beginning (Gen. 1:26-28). If I live with God in this way, I will one day "stand" before him, reflecting his righteous life (1:5-6).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How can I live a life blessed by the Lord?

3.1. Blessed Life: The Lord God blesses you in the unseen depths of who you are, in your soul. As you learn to *delight* in the Lord’s life-giving Word deep in your soul, you will grow like a sturdy *tree* bearing abundant *fruit* (Ps. 1:3)!

The Lord’s *blessing* starts with His *Law*. See, God’s Word to you is the *Law*, because it has the power to shape your life according to God’s own heart purposes and will, the *good* to enjoy and the *evil* to reject. This *Law* is the *natural law of new life and righteousness*. Bearing *righteous fruit* in your life.

Thinking on and practicing the Lord’s *lawful Word* keeps you on the *way of the righteous* (1:6) to avoid the *way of the wicked*. Many walk in *wicked* thinking and behaviors (1:1). But, the Lord pays attention to you to *bless* you if you walk with him as *righteous*! (1:6)

Notes: Meditating on Law¹ of the Lord (Ps. 1:2). God’s Word is called the “Law” because it reveals God’s unwavering power to shape life itself. It has the authority to command humble obedience. For, this Law expresses the will and purpose of the Creator God as earth’s true “Lord.” So, to “meditate” on the Law is to remember and think on passages from the Word of God to live by the Law until its “lawful” power starts to “water” your life and its truths yield “fruit” (1:3; Josh. 1:8-9).

□2. Shielded Soul: Seeking Salvation in the Lord.

¹ **Law:** The term “Law” or *Torah* (Hebrew) is the first five books of Moses that reveals God and His Will first to the Jewish people and then to the world. Jewish readers focus on the set of commandments contained in the Law codifying both God’s moral requirements (Ex. 20) and his commands for all aspects of Jewish cultural life: diet, food, civic code, dress, and social mores. To obey the Law is to be called “righteous” (*tzadig*). People can either seek to be “righteous” based on *faith*—relying on the Lord for redemption (Gen.15:6) or *self-works*—attaining a self-righteousness based on one’s own ability, efforts, and human merit (1 Sam.). The history of Israel shows their need for the former *righteousness* and the deficiency of the latter. Ultimately, the “righteousness of faith” focuses on God’s promise of the coming Seed of David, Mashiach, for redemption.

Read Psalm 3.

How will my soul be safe in this hostile world?

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. **Psalm 3:1-3**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How does the world and its troubles threaten us as the people of God?

QA: What will our Lord God do for us to keep us safe and give us peace in this threatening world?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How can I be safe when surrounded by hostile people? (Ps. 3:1-3)

1.Lord Shields Me as my glory and encouragement: People of this world are the spiritual “foes” of God’s people, for they turn our eyes from the “salvation” in God (Ps. 3:2). However, faith opens our eyes to the reality of the Lord’s protection as our spiritual “shield” (3:3); the “glory” of His work in our lives; and our helper to “lift” up our heads to see Him in faith.

Q2. How can I rest when I have great needs? (3:4-5)

2.Lord Answers and Sustains me. The Lord gives you “rest” when you “cry aloud” (3:4) sacrifice to him your great needs. To keep silent is to carry unmet needs yourself. But, crying to the Lord allows him to “answer” you, to remind you that He is able as your Lord to care for your needs and “sustain” you to sleep then wake up, refreshed (3:4-5).

Q3. How will I be saved when the crowd is against me? (3:6-8)

3.Lord God Saves and Blesses me. When David fled his son Abasalom, he felt the whole nation turn against him, even the “many thousands” on the side of his son (3:6). But, David did not fear, for he knew that the Lord over-ruled even a multitude of people. So, God never loses His ability to “save” you and “break” the threat of your enemies (3:7). If you are one of God’s people, like David, nothing can separate you from the Lord’s “blessing” and safe care!

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will my soul be safe in this hostile world?

3.2. Shielded Soul (Ps. 3): Your *soul* is the deepest part of who you are, your true *self* which turns like a child to God and his salvation. But, there are *many foes* in the world who would damage your *soul* with their words of toxic unbelief, saying to you: “There is no salvation for (you) in God!” (3:2).

So, the Lord reminds you that your *soul* should rest only in him, not in the hostile and unbelieving world. King David discovered this when his whole world turned against him, starting with his son Absalom.

As David learned, remember that the Lord is your soul’s only *shield!* (3:3). When *unbelievers* seek to shame you, the Lord is your *glory!* When you can only see a hostile world beneath your feet, the Lord is the one to *lift your head!*

In the deepest part of your *soul*, cling to the Lord and His salvation, for only He blesses you and all His people! (3:8)

Notes: Shielded Soul² (Ps. 3:2-3) Your “soul” is the hidden part of your true “Self” which captures who you really are. Your true Self is often hidden and guarded, because it can be affected by the words of others (Ps. 3:2), sinful desires (1 Pet. 2:11), or the world (Matt. 16:26). So, the Lord is the only one to truly “shield” your soul (3:3) and “save” it from the world’s threats because He has the spiritual authority and Word to shield those of faith Eph. 6:16

□3. Joyful Heart: Offering My Life to the Lord

² **Soul:** The Lord God created *man for life*, and this *true life* was a fusion of fleshly and spiritual life (Genesis 2:7). So, the Lord God fashioned man a biologically living body of matter, but man was not fully alive as a *hai nefesh*—a “living soul” until the Lord God breathed into the man His own life-giving spirit. Thus, our souls (Hebrew: *nefesh*) and (Greek: *psyche*) are only alive when we have a spiritual life infused into us by God.

Read Psalm 4

How will my heart find relief when others shame and anger me?

Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

Psalm 4:4-5

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: What are the inner troubles that may hinder our trust relationship with God?

QA: How can we count on the Lord to faithfully help us so that He replaces these inner troubles with His peaceful presence?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does the Lord keep me from shame? (Ps. 4:1-3)

1. My Lord Claims Me for himself as God of my righteousness: God's answer to feelings of *shame* is *belonging*, for "the Lord has set apart the Godly for himself" (4:3). Shame begins when we let people define us, but David reminds you that if you are "Godly," the Lord considers you precious and belonging to Him. You are "set apart," for the Lord is "God" over every part of your life, even your "righteousness" (4:1).

Q2. When others make me angry, how can I keep from sin? (4:4-5)

2. By Faith, I trust and offer my Self sacrificially to Lord. Anger grows when you cling to the toxic or broken things of life which are triggering your anger. But, David knew that he had a greater responsibility than just to himself. He had a Lord who held all of his life in His loving grace. As you “trust” the Lord, also “sacrifice” to the Lord all that needs to be *entrusted* to His care (Rom. 12:1-2). Especially the things triggering anger.

Q3. How will my faith differ from faith set entirely on earthly good? (4:6-8)

3. Lord fills my Heart with Joy and Peace to dwell safely. Beware, for there are *vain words* (4:2) and even an earthly religion (4:6) that seeks *good* from God only in this earthly realm. But, there are riches from God beyond abundant *grain* and *wine* (4:7). Seek the *joy* and *peace* filling your *heart* (4:7-8) which the Lord will give you. For the Lord answers your prayer with His *grace* (4:1)!

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will my heart find relief when others shame and anger me?

Joyful Heart: The world is full of distressing things which seek to steal the Lord's joy from your heart! Motivated by jealousy, worldly people will often shame you so that you feel *devalued, worthless*, like you don't belong. But, the Lord reminds you that He has *set you apart for himself!* (4:3). You do *belong*, you do have *value*, because he values you for himself as His *godly* one! To be *set apart* for the Lord is to be *holy* and precious to Him, for we are the "riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (that is, His *holy ones*) (Eph. 1:18).

As one of His *godly ones*, you will still be angered by the things of this life, which neither honor God nor value His people. By faith, be sure to *offer* your life to the Lord as belonging to Him, along with all of life's *triggers* and *temptations*.

Then, the Lord will fill your heart with His *joy* (4:7)!

Notes: God of (over) my Righteousness³ (Pfs. 4:1). *Righteousness* is living completely under the Lord's *righteous Law*. If *righteousness* is the destination, there are two roads to reach it. If God is in charge of your righteousness, you will submit yourself to Him as your *Lord*, trusting Him alone and His salvation to lead a righteous life, as seen in the life of Abraham (Gen. 15:6b).

On the other hand, if you place your *Self* as the Lord of your own life and its *righteousness*, you will rely on your own wisdom, power, and values to keep the Law in your own way. This is called *Self-righteousness*, as seen in the life of King Saul (1 Sam.15:22-3).

□ 4. Steadfast Love: Home from Uncertain World

³ **Righteousness:** (Hebrew: *tzedakah*) and (Greek: *dikaiosune*) is to perfectly keep the *commands* (Hebrew: *mitzvot*) of God to be judged by God as *righteous*. Because it is the Lord who judges as *righteous* and not simply human appraisal, *how* you seek to be righteous matters—whether you seek to obey God's commands by *faith*—submitting to the Lordship of God to please Him *His way*, or by *works*—enthroning your *Self* to decide independently *how* you choose to obey and *what* you will obey.

Read Psalm 5

How will the Lord's Steadfast Love lead me home in righteousness?

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. **Psalm 5:7-8**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Why it important to seek the Lord and meet with him early every day?

QA: How does the Lord dwell with us in His *steadfast love*?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does the Lord meet me daily? (Ps. 5:1-3)

1. My Lord listens to me as I **offer myself** in the morning. David was as committed to the Lord as the Lord was to him. This commitment was shown in how they met with each other. Every *morning*, David made it his priority to give the Lord his first moments (5:3). His *groanings* uttered the deep needs of his heart, and he gave these to the Lord too (5:1). Like David, give all of who you are to your Lord as your *sacrifice* and His due (5:3;Rom. 12:1-2), for He also gives His *attention* to you (5:2)!

Q2. How can I dwell with the Lord? (5:4-7)

2. My Lord accepts me in His **House** with steadfast **love**. This mutual commitment between David and God bound them together in the Lord's *steadfast love* (5:7). *The Lord's steadfast love* is strong because it is a *covenantal love*. When the Lord God loves you with His *steadfast love*, He promises you, like David, a permanent place as a member of His *house* and a *worshipper* in His *spiritual house, His Temple* (5:7)

Q3. Surrounded by enemies, how will Lord lead me? (5:8-12)

3. My Lord leads me in His **righteousness** to joyful refuge. When you live with the Lord in His covenantal, *steadfast love*, enemies will seek to disrupt this faithful relationship. So, the Lord is the one to *lead* you in His *righteousness*. Human, and even your own *self-righteousness* will always fall short when tested in this world. But, the Lord's righteous life, shared with you, will reveal through your life an eternal glory as you *rejoice* in his *refuge*; *sing* out of His *joy*; *love* and *exult* in His *name*; and become *righteous* under His *covering favor* (5:11-12).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will the Lord's Steadfast Love lead me home in righteousness?

Home in Lord's Steadfast Love: Like David, you might find the outside world an unwelcoming place. Full of *wickedness* and *boasting*, worldly people offended God by their *evildoing* (Ps. 5:4-5).

But, the Lord's *steadfast love* makes a safe *household* for His family, a *holy Temple* where they honor their Lord and God (5:7) and are *covered* by His protective *blessing* (5:12).

When you take *refuge* in the Lord's *household* (11), you will *rejoice* and *sing for joy* in His sheltering presence. As you satisfy your soul with the *abundance of His steadfast love* (7), you will find yourself responding to His *steadfast love* by *loving* His name and *exulting* in Him as your Lord and God.

God's *steadfast love* is a sacrificial love, for it joins family members together in covenant. Like David, renew your love for the Lord by *preparing a sacrifice* of your life, presented to the Lord morning-by-morning (4:3; Rom. 12:1-2). .

Notes: Lord's/ My Righteousness⁴ (Ps. 5:8, 12; Gen. 15:6). Living under the Lord God's *steadfast love* (5:7) is to be under His *blessings* (5:12) as a member of His household. As members of His family, we are called to live *righteous* lives to obey our Father's will, His perfect *Law* as our household rules. But, we must remember that we are *righteous* because He *leads us* in His *righteousness*, as we obey and follow him by Faith (3:8).

☐5. Troubled Soul: Seek Lord's Saving Grace

⁴ **Credited as Righteousness:** Before you can even obey God, you must surrender to His Lordship and His way by faith, for the Lord says: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of ... slavery" (Ex. 20:2a). By faith in the Lord God and His Mashiach, your *righteousness* is credited to you (Gen. 15:6). If you are *unbelieving*, insisting on living independently as your own "Lord" and working to achieve your own *righteousness*, you gain only an imperfect *Self-righteousness* (Is. 64:6).

In this way, even Abraham realized his *human helplessness* to obtain what God had promised, so He *believed God*—he trusted and *entrusted* his life and future entirely into the Lord's hands. Such a faith was "counted to him as righteousness" (Gen. 15:6).

Even so, when we realize our *helplessness as sinners* to this world's enslavement to *spiritual death and darkness* (Is. 9:2), we trust Jesus Christ as God's means of redemption and we are *made righteous* (Rom. 3:23-26).

Read Psalm 6

How will the Lord help me in my troubles?

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me,
O Lord, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled.
But you, O Lord—how long? **Psalm 6:2-3**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. What are the troubling things that we face in the world? How do our troubles and fears diminish our view of God and what He will do for us?

QA: How does God promise to help us in our troubles? How does the Lord replace our fears with faith when we go through our troubles?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How will the Lord help me in my troubles? (Ps. 6:1-5)

1. Lord Heals my troubled **body** and **soul**. When the Lord loves you with His *steadfast love*, He takes responsibility for your whole *life* (6:5). He supplies His grace to meet the needs of your life, even when you feel this life *languishing* (6:2) in the desert of this world. He knows that this earthly life *troubles you*, down to your very *bones* (6:2). Yet, that is not all. These earthly troubles and spiritual burdens *trouble* your very *soul* (6:2-3). So, He *heals* you, body and soul.

Q2. Where is the Lord when I am troubled beyond words? (6:6-8)

2. Lord hears my troubled weeping. Sometimes, the *troubles* of life well up from your deepest parts, and you *moan* and *weep* tears of *grief* (6:6). There are no words, because your *eyes* have seen too much of this world. You know all too well the many *foes* and *workers of evil* (6:7) who care nothing for you nor your tears. But, the Lord is close to you in His *steadfast love*. Your Lord hears and understands the *sound* of your weeping (6:8) and takes up your righteous cause against *evil works* (6:8).

Q3. How does the Lord respond to my troubled prayers? (6:9-10)

3. Lord accepts me and my **prayers**. When you are ready to turn to the Lord in your troubles, offer your *pleas* before him (6:9). Know this. The Lord has already accepted you in His *steadfast love*, so He naturally *accepts your prayers* (6:9). By giving your troubled prayers to the Lord, you invite Him to act decisively in your life. To untrouble you. To renew your languishing life. To unburden your weary soul. In your relief, all that remains is to watch your *enemies* as their shame and troubles turn them further away from God (6:10).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will the Lord help me in my troubles?

Grace for my Troubled Soul. The world is full of *trouble*, so David called to the Lord for his *grace* (6:1). Worldly trouble *languishes* life and wearies the *bones*, so David prayed, “heal me, O Lord!” (2). The world even *troubles* our deepest *soul*, so we call out to the Lord, “How long?” *How much longer can I go on without you, O Lord?* (3).

In His *steadfast love*, the answers your troubles with His abundant and sure *grace* (2). Steadfast love binds your life to His in covenant, so the Lord himself takes responsibility to *deliver* and *save you* from your troubles (4). So, pour out your heart to the Lord, even if simple *moaning* or helpless *weeping* (6) is all you can give to him. But, know that the Lord has already *heard* you; He has *accepted you and your prayer* (9). Taking your trouble and giving you His peace.

But, *your enemies* who trouble you will be *greatly troubled themselves*, with no one to help (10).

Notes: Lord’s Steadfast⁵ Love and Grace. We have seen that the Lord’s *steadfast love* is the *sacrificial, covenant love* which brings you into his household as one of His people (Psalm 5:7). Under this *steadfast love*, the Lord considers you as one of his own and treats with only *grace*, the favor and blessing to unfailingly work for your *good* as one of his sons, even if this *good* means *discipline* free you from this world’s entanglement (Heb. 12:5-11).

⁵ **Steadfast Love** (Hebrew: *chesed*), **Covenant** (Hebrew: *berit*), and **Grace** (Hebrew: *chen*). The Lord God’s *steadfast love* is His unwavering, unconditional and good love He shows to His people who are in a *covenant relationship* with Himself, who prove their *love* for the Lord by *keeping His commandments* (Ex. 20:6). *Steadfast love* brings God’s people into His *household* to live under His blessing and *grace*, receiving all things freely as His children (James 1:17).

Many are mistaken to think that the Lord God lavishes such an *unconditional* love on all human beings, a falsehood disproven by God’s judgment by flood on the world at the time of Noah. Rather, only Noah and his family were shown the Lord’s saving, *steadfast love* because they knew him and abided in His commandments. Likewise, the promise of Jesus Christ’s unconditional love (Greek: *agape*) and salvation is reserved for those who *abide and keep His Word* until the end (John 8:31-36; 15:1-8; Mt. 24:12-13).

□6. Heart of Faith: Judged Righteous by the Lord

Read Psalm 7

How can I withstand the Lord's righteous judgment?

The Lord judges the peoples; judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me.
My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.

Psalm 7:8, 10

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: If God is the Judge of All Things, how will He protect us from the threats and threatening people of this world?

QA: How can our hearts find refuge in the Lord God when we are confronted by dangerous threats?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. What can I do when harmful threats pursue me? (Ps. 7:1-5)

1. Heart of Faith takes **Refuge** in Lord's Justice and Salvation. Like David, you may know the threat of pursuing enemies (Ps. 7:5). In the midst of this human threat, David's heart took *refuge* in the Lord His God, crying out, "save me" and "deliver me"! (7:1). Like David, know that the Lord God is your only sure *refuge*, for the Lord sees and defends your righteous cause against the threat of enemies (7:3-5).

Q2. Who has the power over my enemies and other people? (Ps. 7:6-7)

2. Lord Rises to Judge His Enemies and all people. It is comforting to realize that the Lord God does not leave the world to descend into aimless violence and chaos, but He *appoints* a certain *judgment* (7:6). As the Lord, God will assemble the *peoples* so that His *righteous ones* and their *enfuriated enemies* both come under His ruling judgment. By faith, rest in your *integrity* and *righteousness* to survive His judgment (7:8).

Q3. How can I withstand the Lord's judgment? (7:8-17)

3. Lord Gives His Righteousness (17) to Hearts trusting His salvation (10). When God judges between people, it is critical that you be found *righteous* in His eyes, for the Lord *establishes the righteous* but stops the *evil of the wicked* (7:8-9). Importantly, this *righteousness* which the Lord demands of His people is always "his righteousness" which He gives to His people, who respond in *thanks* for His gracious gift (7:17; Gen. 15:6). The Lord God gives His people His *righteousness*, but they make it theirs (7:8) by *repenting* of their own unrighteousness (7:12), trusting His *salvation* and *shielding* by faith (Gen. 15:6), and living it out with *integrity* (7:8).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How can I withstand the Lord's righteous judgment?

Lord's Judgment saves Righteous and their Hearts of Faith (Gen.

15:6) Sometimes we feel helpless in this threatening world of chaos. David felt threatened, as wicked enemies *pursued* him "like a lion" who would "tear my soul apart" (7:2).

So, David's heart clung to God in a survival faith which we need today as well. David's faith was sacrificial, for he put his entire life and future in the care of God, saying: "Save me" (7:1). In this way, your faith should hold nothing back from God either, especially not the problems that threaten you. And, David's faith surrendered in humility to God, for he called out, "O Lord my God" (1). Only the *Lord* "judges the peoples" (7:8) with power to "shield" David (10).

But, would David and will we also pass the Lord's judgment? Like Abraham before him, David was given an *integrity* and *righteousness* by faith, for he received and was *thankful* for these gifts provided by the Lord's *righteousness* (7:17).

Notes: Integrity⁶: Wholeness of Heart by Gospel Faith (Gen. 15:6; Is. 61:1).

The *righteousness* given to God's people, to Abraham (Gen. 15:6), to David (Ps. 7:8), and to you and me, is a righteousness of *faith*. That is, entrusting ourselves to God as our Lord positions us to receive all His *grace* for us. The first gift being an *integrity*, a wholeness that satisfies the Lord's justice as a righteousness fulfilling the *Law's requirements*. A righteousness which would one day be fully obtained for us by the redemption of Jesus Christ on His cross (Romans 3:23-25).

⁶ **Integrity:** (Hebrew: Tom). Integrity characterizes those who have been *counted as righteous* by faith. For, the Lord's gift of righteousness and redemption not only satisfy God's sense of justice but also give one's *heart* and *life* a sense of wholeness and completion. Living out the *righteousness* by faith according to the Lord's lawful commandments makes one *complete*, For, God's *good news* of the *Word* gives Mashiah the power to *bind up the brokenhearted* (Is. 61:1). This promise of a *perfected life of integrity* is fulfilled with Jesus Christ, who "by a single offering... has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14) so that one's inner life integrates with outward behavior. Integrity is the opposite of hypocrisy (Matt. 23:25-16).

□7. Grace in Affliction: Whole-hearted Worshippers

Read Psalm 9

How is the Lord Gracious to His Worshippers whom the wicked afflict?

And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you,
O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.
Be gracious to me, O Lord! See my affliction from those who hate
me, O you who lift me up from the gates of death....**Psalm 9:10, 13**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How will the Lord support us, even when we are outnumbered by our foes?

QA: In our afflictions, what comfort do we find at the Lord's throne?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How will the Lord protect me as His Worshipper? (Ps. 9:1-4)

1. Lord's Judging Presence turns back my enemies. When you worship the Lord with your "whole heart" (9:1), you can have the confidence that the Lord is fully *present* to support you! For, His *presence* will make your enemies *stumble* and *perish* before him (3). Though you may feel alone in your desire to *exult* in the Lord and glorify His *name* (2), the Lord knows your *just cause*, having the place of power to judge rightly! (4)

Q2. What will the Lord do for me from His Righteous Throne? (9:5-8)

2. Lord Judges from **Righteous Throne** to rebuke Wicked. In your desire to *exult in* and *praise* the name of the Lord (2), you may be confronted by widespread opposition. However, even if your enemies have *city-wide support*, the Lord will still *rebuke* and *ruin* those who act in *wickedness* (5). Your enemies pass away, but the Lord rules from His *throne forever* (7).

Q3. How does the Lord respond to my Trusting Heart? (9:1, 9-20).

3. Rewards my **Heart** of Faith w/ **Grace** but Humbles Wicked. Worshippers of the Lord *know* and so *trust* His *name* (9), and this devotion angers the people of this world to *afflict* them (12). But, even in this affliction, the Lord is *gracious* to His worshippers so that they may continue to *praise* Him and *rejoice in His salvation* (14). Thus, the Lord intends to *make himself known* in the earth so that He alone is exalted as *Lord* as the *nations* realize *they are but men!* (20)

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will the Lord Judge between Whole-hearted Worshippers & Wicked?

Grace in Affliction Glorifies the Lord. The Lord is committed to making the glory of His name *known* (9:16). So, when you commit yourself to *sign praise* to the *name of the Lord*, the Lord is pleased to *judge your cause as righteous and just* (4).

However, by declaring His praises to a Godless world, you become an enemy of those who seek to deny the Lord to lift up their own human glory. In their *wickedness* (5), they will *oppress* (9) and *afflict* (12-13) you because they oppose the Lord whom you represent and praise.

But, the Lord will be *gracious* to you in your *affliction* (13). From His *eternal throne*, He will render judgment for you and against your enemies (3-4) to uphold your *just cause*, proving your words of worship regarding His glory and name.

In the end, your *life of worship* aligns with His judgment against this Godless world to humble them with a holy *fear* as they realize that they are but *men* but the Lord alone is *God* (20)

Notes: Judgment⁷: Because the Lord is a God of truth, He judges the earth and its people *justly* to uphold the truth. And, the foremost truth is that His name alone is worthy of all glory and Lordship.

This truth flies in the face of human Godlessness, which has always sought to supplant the Lord's glory with humanity.

Thus, the Lord's *judgments* will *rebuke* this human wickedness at all levels of rebellion—individual wickedness (9:3), proudly exalting cities (9:6), and entire populations and nations (9:19).

But, the Lord God's judgments will always support His true *worshippers* who seek to praise His *name* (9:2) by faith (10).

⁷ **Judgment:** The act of *judging* (Hebrew: *shaphat*) is the Lord's prerogative to render an unalterable, final decision on the truth of a matter. The Lord's judgment applies the truth of His *Lawful Word*, with its promises and threats, to the actions of human or angelic beings, bearing upon them the weight of their choices. Those who seek Self-serving idolatry receive a foretold wrath. Those who abide in the Lord's *covenantal love* by faith in the Lord and Jesus, His Mashiach, receive their promised inheritance.

☐8. Strengthened Heart: Protected from Godlessness

Read Psalm 10

How does the Lord Strengthen the Hearts of His Poor People in the midst of Godlessness?

The Lord is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.
O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear. **Psalm 10:16-17.**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. How do Godless people provoke the Lord and trouble us as His people?

QA: How does the Lord's unending authority as King give His people victory over the Godless?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How do the Godless people of the world afflict the Lord's poor people? (Ps. 10:1-11):

1.Godless pursue God's poor people: In this world, the Godless people of this world will clash with all who belong to God. See, the Godless ignore the reality of God (10:4) to be *Self-important* and *Self-controlling*. In their pride, they want to usurp God's rightful place in their lives. But, God's people are *poor* in Spirit, relying not on themselves but on the Lord God. So, the proud will *pursue* aggressively *God's poor* people to dominate them (2).

Q2. Why do the Godless act wickedly and even afflict the people of God? (Ps. 10:13-15).

2. Godless forget God's judgment so afflict His people: Godless people of this world do not think that they will be *called to account* (10:13), that is, to face the Lord and take responsibility for their actions. So, they think they can act *wickedly* against God and His people. But, do not fear if you belong to God and realize that you may seem *helpless* before their threats. In your *helplessness*, *commit* yourself fully to the Lord who will *help* you! (14). Know that the Lord will indeed make the wicked *account* for their deeds to remove them from before you! (15).

Q3. How should I then live with the Lord God even if I feel unprotected and surrounded by wicked and Godless people? (Ps. 10:17-18).

3. Lord gives Justice to His afflicted. When you are surrounded by the Godless, remember that the Lord is *king forever and ever* (16). The Godless cannot outlast the Lord, nor will He forget their deeds against Himself and you. Instead, pour out to him your *desires* even when you are afflicted, and He will *strengthen your heart* (17). In the end, He will reward you with *justice* and remove your *oppressors* from before you! (18)

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How does the Lord Strengthen the Hearts of His Poor People in the midst of Godlessness?

Strengthened Heart: When you belong to God in this Godless world, you will likely find yourself *afflicted* (10:17). By your faith, you have abandoned being Self-important and living a life of power and influence (6). Instead, you present yourself as *poor* to the Lord that He might provide for you from His grace (2), you *commit yourself to Him as helpless* (14) that the Lord might help you; and, you endure *affliction* (17) by the Godless so that the Lord might hear your deep *desires*. In all this, the Lord God draws near to *strengthen your heart* (17).

But, even as the Godless have *forgotten* the Lord God (4), the Lord will undo the *strength* and *works* of their evildoing (15) until no trace of them remains before you.

In the end, your strong heart will see the Lord's *justice* fulfilled for all of us who have endured Godless oppression (18)!

Notes: God's Poor⁸, Helpless, and Afflicted (10:2, 14, 17): In this world, God's people of faith are called to live differently because they live Godly, not Godless lives. If the Godless are *rich* in Self-worth, God's people are called to be *poor* and *humbled* before their Lord. For, their treasure is not earthly or personally but spiritual and heavenly (Matt. 5:3, 6:19). If the Godless are Self-protective, the Godly are *helpless* to await the Lord's *help* and *salvation*. And, if the Godless *oppress and injure aggressively* by their power, as Self-serving, the Godly ones are *afflicted* in order to love others to be strengthened by the Lord in heart (17).

⁸ **Poor in the King:** Personal *poverty* relates to Godliness because *faith* and (*fleshly*) *Self-works* are opposites that cannot co-exist at the same time (Romans 8:1-11; Galatians 5:16-26). When you live by faith as *humbled* before the Lord as your God, you will abandon your Selfish ambition to be Self-enriching (Phil. 2:3-5). Instead, offering your Self to the Lord, you satisfy yourself with the riches, the reward, the recognition that the Lord alone gives you. If you are *poor* in Self-enrichment you become *rich* in the Kingdom (Matt. 5:3).

☐9. Refuge of Righteous: Tested by Shaken

Foundations

Read Psalm 11

How can I be tested and approved as Righteous when this World's Foundations are destroyed?

In the Lord I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain,
if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Psalm 11:1, 3

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How can the Lord give us refuge when the very foundations of life are shaken?

QA: How can prayer and worship give us peace and security in the Lord's Temple?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How can the *foundations* in your life be destroyed and what can you do when this happens? (Ps. 11:1-3)

1. Lord's Refuge in Chaos: By faith, see the Lord as the only *refuge* for your *soul* when the foundations of your life are destroyed. Your life may be built on certain foundational understandings, support, or relationships. But, these may be taken away to *test* the true anchor for your faith. Is your faith anchored in the Lord or something easily shaken?

Q2. How will the Lord provide true refuge for your soul in times of foundation-shaking testing? (Ps. 11:4-5).

2.Security of Prayer and Worship: By faith, your *soul* rests in the Lord's presence in a spiritual reality. When you come to present yourself before him in *worship*, you meet him in His *holy house and temple*, for the Lord is *enthroned* on the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3). When you draw near to the Lord and His comfort to bring Him yourself and your prayers, you draw near to His unshakeable *throne of grace* (Hebrews. 4:16).

Q3. What is the Lord's purpose to allow you to be tested by shaken foundations? (Ps. 11:6-7)

3.Righteous Result. The Lord's purpose in letting the foundations of your life be shaken is that He is *testing* you as one of His *righteous* ones (5). In your testing, the Lord wants your *faith* to be anchored in His Word, so that when you obey Him in your trials, you will produce the *righteous deeds* that He so loves (7). But, the Lord judges also to remove the *wicked* and their *fading deeds* from this world.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How can I be tested and approved as Righteous when this World's Foundations are destroyed?

Approved as Righteous: In the last days, we are told that the very *foundations* of life will be shaken as Godlessness corrupts the earth and its people (2 Timothy 3:1-9). The *laws* governing life will give way to an epidemic of *lawlessness* (Matt. 24:12).

You may already see the *foundations* of life *destroyed* as the world descends into lawless Godlessness (11:3). Decency and courtesy give way to *selfishness*. Generosity gives way to greed. Reliability and kindness gives way to abuse, self-indulgence, and pleasure-seeking. Even among the people of God, empty words will cover up convenient religious habit (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

Where can you turn if you are *righteous* in a morally crumbling world? Find your *refuge* in the Lord himself! (11:1). As you draw near in worship, your *soul* shelters in His *holy temple*. As you present your unsettled life before him, you shelter at the Lord's *throne in heaven* (11:4). At the throne, the Lord tests and approves you as *righteous* (5).

Notes: Testing⁹ Righteous (11:5). As the enthroned Lord, God *tests* the *righteous* (11:5). Of all the human qualities, the Lord God most values *righteousness* in His servants because “the Lord is righteous” himself, and “he loves righteous deeds” (11:7). That is, the Lord loves His own *righteousness* reflected in His *righteous ones* who bear His righteous resemblance as a family resemblance being members of his own household.

⁹ **Tested Faith:** The quality of your relationship with the Lord your God is shown in your *tested faith* (11:5), the ability for you to *keep* the Lord's lawful commandments by trusting the Lord even when the *foundations* of the world fail (3). When the Lord *tests* your faith, He is treating you as a *son* or *daughter* being *disciplined* to share in His *holy* righteousness (Heb. 12:10). Having passed the *test*, your faith will be proven as precious and as pure as refined gold (1 Peter 1:7).

□10. Safe in Word: Pure in a Lying Generation

Read Psalm 12

How can I be safeguarded in this faithless and lying generation?

The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

You, O Lord, will keep them; you will guard us from this generation forever. **Psalm 12:6-7**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How does widespread sinful speech make life difficult for God's people?

QA: How can the righteous rely on God's Word in a wicked society?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. What is the result of widespread sinful speech? (Ps. 12:1-4)

1. Wicked Speech undermines Godliness and Faithfulness: When an entire generation and society, *everyone*, sins with their speech by *lying*, *flattering*, and *boasting*, they cheapen words to that no one commits to the truth, much less the authority of God's Word. As a result, *godly ones* and *the faithful* disappear as well.

Q2. Why are God's people *poor* and *needy* in this wicked generation? (Psalm 12:5)

2. Unsafe and Needy: Waiting for the Lord's Salvation. Unlike the *wicked* who use their words to *lie, flatter, and boast* (2-3) to forcefully meet their needs, the Lord's *poor* are often disadvantaged in the world due to their righteous choices. So, the *wicked* often *prevail* (4) and *plunder* (5) the righteous poor. But, the *Lord himself* will *arise* to bring the *poor* to safety (5).

Q3. Why is this generation so wicked, and how can I be guarded from its defilement (Ps. 12:6-8)?

3. Walking by Faith in Pure Word of God. When the entire *generation* is *wicked* and *exalt vileness* (8), the righteous must cling to the Lord's *pure Words* alone, for the Lord is faithful to *keep* all His Words and fulfill His promises to His people. By relying on the Lord's Words alone for life and truth, the righteous walk by *faith* and not by *sight* (2 Cor.5:7).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How can I be safeguarded in this faithless and lying generation?

Safeguarded by Lord's Pure Words: It is one thing to refuse the *sinful way* (Ps. 1:1), but how can you keep the faith when "*vileness is exalted*" (12:7) in your entire generation?

In an evil and lying generation, fewer and fewer will lead *godly* lives as the *wicked* take over society (7-8). *Faithful* men and women will also *vanish*, as *everyone lies* (2), *flatters, and boasts* (3). Words lose meaning, and *self-interested* people keep their words and commit neither to God nor to each other.

But, there is a way for you to stay faithful to the Lord in the midst of widespread wickedness. Draw near to the Lord in faith with a *poor* and needy heart, longing for His *salvation* (5). And, trust the *pure* and *tested words* of the *Lord* rather than the surrounding *lies* (6). Then, the Lord will *guard* you from this wicked generation (7).

Notes: Walking by Faith¹⁰ in the Word of God: Worldly uncleanness has a way of defiling our devotion to the Lord. Even Isaiah the prophet was guilty of "unclean lips" from *dwelling* with "people of unclean lips" (Is. 6:5). So, to be *unstained* by the world (James 1:27), it is important that you walk by *faith* and not by *sight* (2 Cor. 5:7). To *fix your eyes* on this world is to set your *mind* on the things of *flesh*, leading to the deadening of your spiritual life (Rom. 8:6).

Instead, walk by *faith* in the pure *Word of God* which will give light to your eyes, *explaining* and helping you see the reality of what is going on in life (Ps. 19:8).

¹⁰ **Faith:** Faith *understands* the world through the *Word of God* (Heb. 11:3). By *faith*, accept and submit to the Word and the Lord God's authority to *define* for you the *good life* to pursue and the *evil* to reject. When you hear the Word of God, faith means that you trust the Lord to do what He says and you *entrust yourself* to the Lord to obey and be transformed with the Word's truth.

Prayer Requests:

Request/ Date:	Answer Prayer/ Thankfulness

Journaling: What is the Lord teaching me/ Doing in my life?

Weekly Sermon Notes:	Lord's Lessons and Works in my life:

Devotion: Self-Assessment.

❑1. Devoted Soul: Humbled under Lord not Self (Serpent)- Serving

16 And the **Lord God commanded** the man, saying, “**You may surely eat** of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** you **shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**” Genesis 2:16-17, also Gen. 3:1-6

❑Humbled Under Lord God (2:17)

- Led by *Lord God* (2:17)
- Under *Commanding Authority*
- *Freely obeys for good life;*
- Rejects sin and *evil* leading to *death*.

❑Self (Serpent)-Serving (3:1-6)

- Listening to *Worldly Serpent* who questions God (3:1)
- *Self is like God* as its own Lord (3:5)
- *Self-righteous Self decides fleshly good* (6)
- *Self-interested Self decides inconvenient evil to avoid.*

❑2. Devoted Mind: Faith in Lord not Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding

Trust in the Lord with all your **heart**, and do not **lean** on your **own understanding**. 6 In all your ways **acknowledge him**, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be **not wise** in your **own eyes; fear the Lord**, and **turn away from evil**. Prov. 3:5-7; also Gen. 3:6-7

❑Faith in Lord (2:17)

- Fear Lord as the only true God (Prov. 3:7)
- Trust in God as Lord of power, truth, and will (3:5);
- Be willing to follow His *ways* and honor him in your life (6) and turn from evil (7).

❑Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding

- Flatter Self as *wiser* than God (3:7).
- Trust in own understanding to know truth, purpose, power (5).
- Find earthly reasons to sin and follow your own way not the Lord’s commands (Gen. 3:6-7).

❑3. Devoted Heart: Loving God as Father not Worldly Flesh

15 Do not **love the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father** is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the **desires** of the **flesh** and the **desires** of the **eyes** and **pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the **world is passing**

away along with its desires, but whoever does **the will of God** abides **forever**. 1 John 2:15-17

☐ Loving God as Father (2:15)

- Loves the Father (15)
- Desires to do the Will of God (17)
- Seeks what *abides forever* (17).

☐ Worldly Flesh (16)

- Loves the World (2:15)
- Follows the desires of flesh, what it sees as *good*, and its *prideful life in the world* (16)
- Clings to a world that is *passing away* (17).

☐4. Devoted Strength: Giving Body as a Living Sacrifice not Conformed to World

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, **by the mercies of God**, to **present** your **bodies as a living sacrifice, holy** and **acceptable to God**, which is your **spiritual worship**. 2 Do **not be conformed** to this **world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the **will of God**, what is **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect**. Rm. 12:1-2

☐ Giving Self as a Living Sacrifice (12:1)

- Gives Body as a Living Sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1).
- Lives sacrificially to be holy, acceptable, and pleasing to God;
- *Transformed by renewing of mind by God's Word* (2)
- Discerns and proves God's Will as *good, acceptable, and perfect* (2)

☐ Conformed to World (2)

- Gives Flesh to be conformed to this world (2);
- Lives by fleshly works not needing God's mercy (1);
- Conforms to the World and its Godlessness;
- Unchanging, fixed, stubborn, fleshly mind.