By DE & CQ

Treasure Topics 1-7:

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Gifts of God's Spirit

(5 short prophecy messages from Jesus to children, on the subject.)

1. (Jesus says:) Do you like finding out about interesting facts? Or learning a how to do something that is fun, and you just need someone to teach you how to do it? To all those who love Me and want to tell others about Me, through My Holy Spirit I can tell you all kinds of things, information that helps you—even things that those around you don't know. The Holy Spirit can give you the gift of knowledge, and be a teacher for you! You can have your own personal instructor in the ways of God, when you ask for the Spirit of God to teach you.

2. (Jesus speaking:) I have given each of My children different gifts so that they can work together, each one doing his part to make My Kingdom strong. Some have many gifts, some have fewer gifts. Some have showygifts while others have hidden gifts. Your rewards in this life and in the life to come will not be according to the number of gifts you have or what kind of gifts you have. Your rewards will be according to your faithfulness and what you do with the gifts I have given you.

3. (Jesus says:) The gifts and talents that someone has are not of themselves. They are gifts from My hand. So, do not glory in your gifts and talents but give Me the glory. Do your best with what you have been given, knowing that I will reward you accord for a job well done. I will reward you both in this life and in the life to come. In this life, I will give you your heart's desire and in the life to come, I will crown you with a crown of glory!

4. (Jesus says:) My arms are stretched out to you, and in My hands are gifts for you, My child. I have precious gifts for you, gifts of love, of mercy, and of healing. All of these gifts are in My hands, and I will freely give them to you if you will only reach out and receive them by faith. These gifts are not earned by your own goodness. You could never be good enough to recieve My gifts. I give them to you freely. All you have to do is reach out by faith and receive them.

5. (Jesus says:) Receive this gift that I would pour out to you! Reach out and receive! Desire it and want it! How do you receive it? Just as you would receive a gift from your parents. You ask, you believe and you receive. How do you act on it? –One step at a time in one deed of love followed by another. Don't

be afraid that My gifts have run out for you., Just open up and say, "Yes! I want it!" Open up and receive My gifts for you. These gifts will bring fruit in your life, and in the lives of those around you.

(5 Short true story, or object lesson or reflection, on the subject.)

1.We have all been given a special gift that we can use to help someone else. No matter whether it is big or small, we can use our gifts for God's glory. If you are not sure what gift or talent you have, ask Jesus to show you what it is. It may be something you consider a natural ability or talent, but when it's dedicated to the Lord, He can use it for His purpose. Even our natural abilities are a gift from God! He has given them to us so we can use them to encourage and inspire others.

2. In Matthew 25, Jesus told a story about three servants who were each given talents, or gifts. The servant who was given five talents and the servant who was given two talents increased them. But the third servant only buried the one talent he was given. Afterwards, the master of the servants got really upset at the third servant and even took his one talent away and gave it to the one who had five. Jesus is saying that if you do the best with what you have been given, God will give you more, and He'll say, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many more things (verses 21,23) To be faithful means to use the gifts and abilities that God has given you. So be faithful with whatever you have been given!

3. A boy and his dad read the Bible together every day. One day, they read Acts Chapter 2, about Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit came upon the early disciples. The boy was puzzled when he read the verse, "And they spoke with other tongues."

He asked his dad what it meant. The dad thought about it for a minute, then he said, "Tongues were given to to the disciples so that they could testify about the wonderful work God had done in sending His Son, Jesus. At that time, many people were gathered in Jerusalem and they all spoke different languages. Because the disciples were given the gift of tongues, everyone could hear about Jesus in their own language."

"Wow," said the boy. "The Lord sure has cool gifts!"

"Yes," smiled his dad. "The Bible says that tongues are one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12). We can use tongues to be strengthened in the Lord in our devotion time. Tongues are a good gift but not the most important one. Do you know what's the most important gift?"

"Yes! The boy answered, "It's love!"

4. Have you ever watched a symphony orchestra? There are so many people and so many different kinds of instruments. Each person is playing a different instrument, and each instrument makes a different sound. If everybody just played whatever they wanted, it would make an awful noise! But there is always one person in front, the conductor, and he directs the players so that they make beautiful music together.

We are like the players in that orchestra. We each have a different gift. We don't all have the same gift but we can use our gifts for the same purpose—to glorify God. No one is left without a gift. There is the gift of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, and many more! Just like the conductor directs the orchestra, the Holy Spirit directs our gifts so they create a beautiful harmony that glorifies God. All we need to do is find out what our gift is and learn to use it to glorify God and bless others. Then the Lord can use our gifts to make beautiful music for His Kingdom!

5. One day a rich man was staying in a hotel. He heard a little child playing the piano downstairs. She was making a terrible noise: "Plink...plonk...plink." ---It was driving him crazy! All of a sudden, he heard the most beautiful music coming from the same piano. When he bent over the staircase to see what had happened, he saw that a man had sat down beside the little girl. He was filling in the gaps in the music, and the result was the most beautiful music! He later found out that the man was her father and he was a famous composer.

God is our Father and He wants to "make music" with us in our relationship with Him. He wants to come and work alongside of us in all that we do. God can take our "plink...plonk...plink..." and make something beautiful out of them!

(5 Prayers & praises on the subject.)

1. Jesus, thank You for choosing me, even though I'm so unworthy. Thank You for the gifts You have given me. I don't know what they all are right now but I know that as I stay close to You, loving and praising You and being obedient to Your Word, You will show me step by step.

2. Wow Jesus, the gifts You give are so special! It's like opening presents! As I take time to unwrap them, and try them out, I know they are the best things I could ever wish for. Because they're from You, Jesus. You gave them to Me because You love me. Thank You, Jesus!

3. Thank You, Jesus! I love You! And I'm so thankful for how well You know me and what gifts are best for me to have. I'm just glad to let You lead. I won't worry about whether I'm good enough or if I make a mistake. Just bless me the way You think is best. And use me for Your glory.

4. Jesus, I feel like I'm looking into a treasure chest when I read about all the gifts of the Spirit that You have to give me. They're all so beautiful! Like precious diamonds and jewels. I don't know which one to choose. Actually, I'm glad I don't have to choose. I'll just let You choose for me. Because You know what gifts are best for me. I'm just happy to be Your little follower.

5. Jesus, when I look at some people who have showy gifts, like performing or singing, I feel so small and useless. I start to wonder if my gifts are any good at all. But then I remember Your great love and how much You love me. I know You know what's best for me. Even if I feel tucked away out of sight and hidden, I know You have a plan for my life. You have special gifts for me, too. I just have to trust You that You know what's best.

(5 Quotation from others, or hymn portion, or poem portion on the subject.)

1. "Spiritual Gifts"

Within each mortal being, deep down in their soul, A fertile garden of talents, divine seedlings wait to grow! *Inspiring gifts of the Spirit, patiently positioned to one day emerge. Nurtured by faith, cultivated with truth, and rooted in His sacred Word.*

The Light of Life, He warms the plant, illuminating the way. Each child's talents grow into blossoms, to dawn a future day.

Obedience leads to undiscovered abilities that spring forth manifest! A flowering witness of God's goodness, His miracles expressed!

Each of God's children are sacred, endowed with specific gifts! Fruits to inspire those around us. --To lead, to love, and lift!

"Know that you are special, My child, one of a kind! I sent you here with gifts to love and heal the blind!"

"So use wisely your endowment given, adore Me every day! And share your gifts with others along the way!"

By R. Lyle Johnson

2. A Prayer for the Gifts of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit goes where it will

Bringing wisdom, joy, faith, truth

and a passion beyond all understanding.

I see the Spirit, delicate as a feather

yet powerful as a hurricane.

The Spirit brings such love and

doesn't care who you are. It

can come to anyone, at any time.

Come, Holy Spirit.

I ask for holy wisdom,

passionate love, and Your

truth. I ask this with

total openness to whatever

You decide

to give or not give. I know

You and God know how best

I can serve and love You.

Amen.

By Cindy Tuttle

3. Spiritual Inventory

I'm taking inventory, of my spiritual progress going to be weighing my increase, my decrease.

Going to take stock, to see if I've grown going to be looking for the gifts I've blown.

I'm going to catalog, how much fruit I've got going to see if its usable or if it's starting to rot.

I'm taking inventory, doing some stock taking because one day to God . . . I'll be accounting!

By <u>Deborah Ann</u>

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**4.** "I, in tears, thus poured out my soul to God in prayer, "My Lord God, my all in all, life of my life, and spirit of my spirit, look in mercy upon me and so fill me with Thy Holy Spirit that my heart shall have no room for love of aught but Thee. I seek from Thee no other gift but Thyself, who art the Giver of life and all its blessings. From Thee I ask not for the world or its treasures, nor yet for heaven even make request, but Thee alone do I desire and long for, and where Thou art there is Heaven." –Sundar Singh

# 5. Everything (lyrics) by Chris Tomlin

Chorus 1

Ev'rything that's beautiful

Ev'rything that's wonderful

Ev'ry perfect gift comes from You

Verse 2

Your grace, Your heart, Your voice, Your touch Your Word, Your peace, Your hope, Your love The only things that satisfy come from You, They come from You. Ev'rything that's beautiful Ev'rything that's wonderful Ev'ry perfect gift comes from You. Bridge A thousand words could not explain A thousand worlds could not contain Ev'ry perfect gift comes from You Ending It comes from the Father of Lights. It comes from the Giver of Life. It comes from the heavens above. It's coming straight from Your heart To the people You love.

# (10 Bible verses or portions on the subject)

**1.** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant (1 Corinthians 12:1).

**2.** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:28 KJV).

**3.** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12: 4, 5 NKJV).

**4.** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues (1Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV)

**5**. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:11 NKJV)

**6.** Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy... Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all (1Timothy 4:14-16).

**7,8.** Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not unto men, but unto God: for no man understands him. But he that prophesies...edifies the church 1 Corinthians 14:1-4 KJV).

**9.** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:10,11b KJV).

**10**. Charity never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away 1 Corinthians 13:8 KJV).

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#### Faith

# (5 short prophecy messages from Jesus to children, on the subject.)

1. (Jesus says: ) I specialise in doing what is impossible. It's one of My favourite things to do! Do you need a miracle? Just ask Me. I have all the tools and gadgets and all sorts of angelic help to do anything you need, if you are trying to please Me and do what is best. If it's good for you, and helps bring others closer to Me, I'll do some far-out and amazing things for you. Nothing is impossible for Me—nor for you, when you are working together with Me.

2. Jesus speaking: When you feel overwhelmed by all everything you have to do or there's somehing that seems too hard for you, come to Me. Give Me your fears and worries. You can even tell me, "Jesus, I can't!" But then turn your mind over to Me. Remember all the power and strength that's in My Word. My Word will always accomplish what I send it to do. All you have to do is ask. It's like turning on a faucet. But with Me and My power, you get a waterfall of power and blessings overflowing on you! With Me, all things are possible for you!

3. Jesus speaking: Why do I ask you to walk by faith and not by sight? Because its your faith that pleases Me. Your faith gives Me a chance to work. You are nothing of yourself, but with My power working in you, you become a powerful dynamo, a motor that's pulsating with miracle-creating energy. I love to work through little nobodies because that way, My power shines through!

4.Jesus speaking: Call on Me when you need help so I can do great and mighty things for you! Remember, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you"? Those are My words, My promises to you. I never change. My power is the same yesterday, today and forever. Because I have gone to the Father, even greater power is now available for you. I promised that you would do greater things than I did when I was on earth. So what are you waiting for? Ask and you'll receive! Seek and you will find!

5. Jesus speaking: I hear your prayers, I see your tears, and I will answer you! My hand of blessing and power is already working things out for you! Just like Moses lifted up his rod, and the Red Sea split open and made a passageway for My children, My mighty power will work miracles for you!

# (5 Short true story, or object lesson or reflection, on the subject.)

1. A visitor was once visiting a rich lady in her house. The visitor stopped to admire a beautiful silver vase that a lady had. "What a beautiful vase!" she exclaimed.

"Yes, it's beautiful, sighed the lady, "But I have to keep it polished it all the time." "Well," said the visitor, "That's true of faith, too!"

2. An African-American church congregation held a meeting to pray for rain to overcome a long, dry spell. The preacher stood in his pulpit and looked sternly at his flock. Then he said, "Brothers and sisters, y'all know why we are here. Now what I want to know is—where are your umbrellas?" The faith that gets answers is the faith that expects!

3. In 1858, David Livingstone faced a dangerous situiation in Africa. He was traveling on the Zambesi River, near the territory of a hostile African tribe. The chief had openly declared his hostility towards Livingstone. One night, the chief and his men were said to be creeping towards Livingstone's camp. At any moment, spears might come hurtling through the darkness, or they might be attacked at dawn. Alone in his tent, Livingstone opened his Bible and read the promise on which he had often staked his life: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth...Go ye therefore and teach all nations.... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Livingstone then said, "This is the word of a Gentleman of the most strict and sacred honor, so that is the end of my fear. I will cross no further tonight as I had intended. I feel quiet and calm now, thank God!" The night passed peacefully without any incident. In the morning, Livingstone woke up refreshed and ready to continue his journey (www.wholesomewords.org).

4. A Chinese Christian named Mr. Chou was asked to donate to a fund for buying sacrifices to the local Chinese gods as an insurance against fire. The Chinese Christian said, "No. I trust in the living God and no idols can save us from fire." Not long after, a terrible fire broke out in the village. Over 120 houses burned down on the street where the Christian lived. When the flames were coming nearer to his house, his neighbors tried to persuade him to abandon his house. He refused and right in front of them, Mr. Chou started praying, "Jesus, show us that You are indeed the Lord of hosts who can command legions of angels to deliver us from this calamity." The flames kept coming nearer until there was only one house between Mr. Chou's house and the flames. Suddenly, the wind changed and the fire went out. Mr. Chou's house was saved!

5. God told Abraham that his descendants would be servants in Egypt for 400 years (Gen 15:13). That was long before Abraham even had a son! But sure enough, everything that God foretold came to pass. Abraham had a son, Isaac, and Isaac had a famous grandson named Joseph. Joseph ruled in Egypt and after he died, a new pharaoh arose who made slaves of the children of Israel and mistreated them. Then along came Moses and Aaron who led the Exodus out of Egypt. And sure enough, God delivered the children of Israel after the promised amount of years were fulfilled, "On the very day" (Exodus 12:40-41) <u>answersingenesis.org</u>. God was keeping track of the time down to the very day, and He miraculously delivered His children in the perfect time. God can and always will protect and deliver His children in trying times both in the past, the present and the future. We can count on it!

#### (5 Prayers & praises on the subject.)

1. Jesus, I love the fact that You are always there for me. Thank You that You always hear and answer my prayers. No matter how difficult or how impossible things may seem, You understand and You answer. Before I've hardly formed my needs into words, Your miracle working power is already at work. Thank You, Jesus!

2. You said, "Ask and you will receive that your joy may be full." Jesus, it's so cool to think that You actually want me to be not just a little bit happy but You want to fill my joy and happiness to the full. Thank You for caring so much about me that You answer my prayers. I love You, Jesus.

3. I'm so thankful that I'm not all alone in this fight, Jesus. Thank You that there is a huge cloud of witnesses around me that cheer me on. I like to think about them sometimes. People like Joshua and Gideon, even Moses who were scared when facing some task that seemed impossible. You came through for them, Jesus, and I know You'll do the same for me.

4. Lord, You have never failed to keep any of Your promises! You've always kept Your children throughout the ages. I thank You that You are never going to fail us either. Praise Your Name!

5. I love You, Jesus. I'm so thankful that You love me, too. I have all the promises in the Bible to convince me of that. Nothing is too hard for You and You always answer my prayers in the way You know is best.

# (5 Quotation from others, or hymn portion, or poem portion on the subject)

- Got Any Rivers? (hymn chorus) by Oscar C. Eliason Got any rivers you think are uncrossable? Got any mountains, you can't tunnel through? God specialises in things thought impossible And He can do what no other power can do
- Prayer makes the darkened clouds withdraw by William Cowper Prayer makes the darkened clouds withdraw Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw; Gives exercise to faith and love; Brings every blessing from above.

Prayer makes the Christian's armor bright, And Satan trembles when he sees The weakest saint upon his knees.

# 3. God's Might

by Heather Flood On the ground sits a bird That's too afraid to fly. Beautiful wings could make it soar, But fear of failure is its cry.

God said to the bird,

"Trust, have faith in Me, I will carry you in your flight. The miracle is just waiting, you see."

The bird said, "I can't. I'm weak. I'll fall and feel pain. It happened before when I tried. I'm afraid it'll happen again."

Soft and reassuring, God said, "I created you, I'll protect you. Your sad cry I've heard. Have faith in Me. Just trust My Word.

With wobbly legs and unsure wings, The bird looked at the sky. He drew a deep breath, took a chance. And then began to fly!

God smiled at the bird In its upward flight. "Little bird, I'll always be with you, I'll protect you with all My might.

The little bird once scared, Had soared to new heights. He chose to have faith in God's might.

3. "I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God: first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done."

--Hudson Taylor

4. Send a drop of faith with a single prayer.
And God will show the way, 'cause faith is always there.
--Julie Hebert

5. Every day you need to get a good dose of the Word and mediate on Scripture. If you discipline yourself and remain consistent, your faith will grow and mature. Remember that God, the Word, and your faith is the recipe for success. --Stephanie Williams,

# (10 Bible verses or portions on the subject)

- 1. For with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:37 KJV
- 2. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. Luke 1: 45 KJV
- 3. But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26 KJV

- 4. He said to them, "For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move and nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20 KJV
- 5. "Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Mark 11:24 KJV
- 6. Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, [and] there is nothing too hard for thee: ~ Jeremiah 32:17 KJV
- Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. ~ Isaiah 41:10 KJV
- 8. Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27 KJV
- 9. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? ~ Romans 8:31-32 KJV
- 10. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Isaiah 41:10 KJV

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#### **Heaven-powered thoughts**

# (5 short prophecy messages from Jesus to children, on the subject.)

1. (Jesus says: ) Have you ever had someone say to you, "That's just what I was thinking too!" If it's a good thought, there is a good chance that I or an angelic helper put that thought in both of your minds, because together you can put something great into effect. If you have the mind of God, and His thoughts running through your head, then something good is going to come from it. Just stop to check and see if I want to tell you anything more about the situation. The first initial thought might be just a beginning, and there might be more secrets I want to let you in on that will make the plan complete. Check in with Me and get My thoughts on it, and you'll ensure progress.

2. Stop for a moment. Come outside and look up at the sky. See how big it is? It seems to go on forever and ever. So immense and unending! Well, that's just the way I am. My thoughts, ideas and plans are s 'way above yours. Trying to understand all My thoughts and My ways is like trying to capture the ocean in a bucket. It's impossible. That's why scientists give up and say, "There is no God!" I just laugh when they say that. Because they just don't know how to find Me. But you know. All you have to do is get quiet, empty yourself of your own thoughts and ideas, and just wait. Expect Me to fill your mind and heart and I will. My great big heart is full of love for you. So, try it sometime. I'm always near to you.

3. When you think of someone, don't just stop and ask yourself, "I wonder how they are doing?" Take it a step further! Pray for that person! After all, I'm the One Who brought them to your mind. I love them and I need you to pray for them. So many wonderful things are accomplished when you pray. And so many things go undone or lacking when you don't pray. So the next time you think of someone, remember it's Me bringing them to your mind. Be a channel of My love to others by praying for them.

4. How do you know the difference between My thoughts and the enemy's thoughts? Here's how: Good thoughts, loving thoughts, kind thoughts, those are from Me. I will always tell you something loving and good. Sometimes the enemy of your soul will try to interfere and block your reception with bad thoughts that make you feel sad, unhappy or even afraid. You just have to shake them off and tell him, "Shoo!" Just because birds fly over over your head, you don't have to let 'em build a nest in your hair!

5. "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are My ways above your ways and My thoughts above your thoughts." They may be high, but they are not past finding out if you will stop, look and listen! My spirit is always broadcasting, like sound waves or wifi, I'm always there. All you have to do is put up your little antenna, believe and receive! It's not so hard! Just try it!

# (5 Short true stories, object lessons or reflections on the subject.)

# 1.God Calls Abraham To Look At The Stars

This story is found in Genesis 15. Abraham had been following God for a long time and In Genesis 12, God had promised to give Abraham a son and make him a mighty nation. By chapter 15, Abraham was already very old, but he still didn't have a son. Abraham became depressed and discouraged. God had given him many promises, but none had come true. "What was happening?" Abraham wondered.

However, God, knew that Abraham's focus was not on God Himself but on havinga son. So He called Abraham to come and look at the stars and see the immensity of His creation. By doing this, God helped Abraham refocus, change his way of thinking, and look at God and put His trust in God alone. God wanted Abraham to believe that He would do everything that He had promised. After Abraham put his focus on God and his trust in Him, God gave Abraham the son he was longing for. Let's also believe in what the Lord tells us and keep our thoughts and our focus turned towards Him!

# 2.Mary Sings a Beautiful Song

After she was visited by the Holy Spirit and became pregnant with baby Jesus, Mary was so excited. She understood that God was going to change the course of human history by bringing His Son into the world as a baby. And He was going to use her to be baby Jesus' mother! Mary was so moved that she sang a beautiful song on the spot:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden...His mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree. He has filled the empty with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

Mary was just a simple teen, but she got a beautiful song of praise to the Lord because she was humble and yielded. We, too, can get beautiful messages from the Lord if we are willing to do what He tells us.

# 3. Trevor and the Blankets

Once there was a boy named Trevor who thought he couldn't do much to make a difference. One night, Trevor saw a story on the news about homeless people sleeping in the cold downtown. The story of the homeless people touched his heart and he wondered what he could do to help.

Trevor might have thought, "I'm just a kid," but instead he began to think about what he could do. Then he remembered there were some extra blankets in the garage. So he asked his father if he could take them to the homeless people. Trevor's dad drove Trevor downtown to hand out the extra blankets to the people on the streets.

When it came time to go to sleep that night, the homeless people were pretty happy for the nice warm blankets. Trevor was happy, too. He felt really good about giving out the blankets.

The next day, Trevor went to the grocery store and other places in his neighborhood. He put up signs asking for people to donate spare blankets or food. The result was surprising. Trevor found so many people willing to help that soon their garage was filled with food and blankets. Then Trevor and his dad had to look for a bigger place for all the donations. Finally, they had to get a warehouse! --There are things kids can do to make a big difference if they will follow what God shows them to do.

# 4. Give Her an Egg

Once there was a poor girl who lived on a farm. She went to school every day and did her best to study hard. She had a very nice teacher, Miss Mary, who she liked very much. One day she was thinking about what she could give Miss Mary as a present. Her family was poor and they hardly ever bought presents for each other, let alone someone else. As the girl was thinking about this, she heard a voice say, "Give her an egg."

"An egg?" thought the girl, "that's not a present. I can't give her an egg!"

Finally, she decided to do it. So she went to the henhouse and chose a big beautiful brown egg. She wrapped it carefully and brought it to school the next day and gave it to her teacher.

"Why, thank you!" said Miss Mary. "How did you know an egg was just what I needed? I ran out of money and I won't get my salary until next week."

The girl gave Miss Mary a big smile and skipped off. Inside, she was thinking, "I sure am glad I obeyed!"

# 5. Prayer for Missionaries in Danger

One day a friend of some missionaries was sweeping the floor of her house in Canada where she lived. Suddenly, she had an irresistible urge to pray for her missionary friends. So she put down her broom and began to pray earnestly. After awhile, God's peace came into her heart and she knew that her friends were safe. Later, when all the friends met up together in Canada, the missionaries told her about a frightening experience they had had. When they were in Africa, a giant cobra had entered their tent in the night; however, the snake suddenly disappeared and was never seen again. When the friends compared the date and time of their experiences, they realized that the peril of the missionaries and the burden to pray for them corresponded to the minute! Whenever somebody suddenly comes to your mind, remember this story because it might be God reminding you to pray for them.

# (5 Prayers & praises on the subject.)

1. Sometimes when I feel so weak and so muddled and don't have the words to express my thoughts, I just sit in silent wonder, resting in the quiet assurance that You know and understand. Thank You, Jesus, that You are always so near, so close. Thank You that You understand it all! You know every part of me, and the best thing is that You love me just the way I am. I love You, Jesus.

2. You are My anchor, Lord, when things get rough and stormy. When I don't understand what's going on and my thoughts and fears pile up like waves on an angry sea. Thank You that You are in control, the Master of the wind and waves. You commanded them to calm down and they did. Thank You that You can calm my thoughts and give me peace. You are the Captain of my soul. I trust in You and I love You.

3. Jesus, my thoughts are whirling around in my head and won't rest. Please soothe my heart with Your love. You promised to give me peace beyond understanding, beyond anything the world could give. Thank You for Your peace. Thank You that You care enough to help me. Your love is big enough to fill the universe but You stoop down to help even little old me. Thank You, Jesus!

4. Thank You that You understand my heart and my thoughts. Thank You that I never have to worry whether You understand or not. Even when I fumble over my words and can't find the right ones, I thank You that I can just trust that You know and make sense out of my jumbled up words and thoughts. Thank You that I don't even always have to talk to You in words. You already understandin everything I'm trying to say before the words are even formed in my head. Thank You, Jesus!

5. I praise You, Jesus for taking all my worries and anxious thoughts. If I'm ever tempted to feel burdened about things, I can just wrap it all up in a bundle and give it to You. Thank You that Your shoulders are broad enough to carry any load. You are better than any super-heroes combined. Thank You for coming to my rescue everytime! I love You so much, Jesus!

# (5 Quotation from others, or hymn portion, or poem portion on the subject—names of who wrote it, or "author unknown" if don't know.)

1.

Keep a poem in your pocket

And a picture in your head And you'll never feel lonely At night when you're in bed. This little poem will sing to you And the little picture bring to you A dozen dreams to dance to you At night when you're in bed.

--Beatrice Schenk de Regniers

 At night, before you sleep my dears You must reach deep inside And pull your troubles out your ears Wherein they like to hide

A trouble is a kind of thing It's very often true That bothers you more than the soul Who passed it on to you. --Barbara Vance

#### 3.

Character Building Thoughts for Children *By Leah Davies, M.Ed.* 

I believe that I am someone who can do important things.

I think for myself and make smart choices that are good for me.

When I write down what I think and feel, I learn about myself.

I plan ahead and think about what I want to do when I grow up

Before I do something, I ask myself, "Is it safe?"

I think before I act; how I act affects how others treat me

4. Sometimes I do not even pray in words,

I take my heart in my two hands

And hold it up before the Lord, I'm so glad He understands. Sometimes I do not even pray in words, My spirit bows before His feet, And with His hand upon my heat, We hold communion, silent, sweet. Sometimes I do not pray in words, For I am tried and long for rest, My heart finds all it wants and needs Just resting on the Savior's breast. (Author Unknown)

5. Blessings are everywhere. We just need positive thoughts to notice them. Have a good day!

#### (10 Bible verses or portions on the subject)

**1. Romans 12:2 (NKJV)** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2. Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)\_Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

**3. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

**4. Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)** 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

5. Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV) Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

6. Proverbs 28:26 (NKJV)\_He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

7. Matthew 21:22 (NKJV)\_And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

**8. 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)** Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Chris

9. Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV)\_Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

10. Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)\_Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

# By DE & CQ

Topic 12: Keys of the kingdom

# (5 short prophecy messages from Jesus to children, on the subject.)

1. (Jesus speaking: ) One day I'm going to take over this world, and no one and nothing is going to be able to stop Me then. I'll be the King of the Kingdom and reign over all. Do you want to rule with Me as well? If you believe My Word, and claim the promises in the Bible, then you are already helping Me to start ruling things on Earth, because prayer changes things and makes My will be done. If you need extra power for a situation, just call on the keys of the Kingdom to unlock My treasures of supply, protection, miracles, whatever you need. I will send you what is best because you are My special prince or princess.

2. *Jesus speaking:* My children, you now have access to greater power because I am making it available to you. It is given to you, My faithful of the Last Days, to possess these powerful new codes. These were not necessary in the past but they are needed now , because the evil forces are stronger than ever. Through calling on the keys, your power is amplified many times over. You have the power to release those in bondage, set the captives free, and overcome all evil. Start today to access the power of the keys. Use them prayerfully, wisely and claim victories!

3. This is how to use the keys and access their power. Say, "I call on the power of the keys." The power does not come until you call on the keys. Avail yourself of the power of the keys when you start praying. That's what opens a whole door of power and priorities for you. You can't harness the power of the keys if you don't call on them. The keys wait to be used, and their power is activated when you call on them.

4. Besides your salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the keys of the Kingdom are the most important gifts you will ever receive. With the keys of the Kingdom, all Heaven, and all Earth is at your command! You possess all that is within these worlds and more. At your request, I will unleash all that you need in the blink of an eye!

5. The keys are alive! They represent My spirit and all the power of Heaven, which can never be conquered. When you call on the keys, you are calling on a living, powerful, spiritual phenomenon. The keys of the Kingdom have been granted power by God, and they release great power in return. When you call on the keys, they will unleash God's power on your behalf.

# (5 Short true story, or object lesson or reflections on the subject.)

# 1. The Gospel story about the Keys of the Kingdom

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

17

"But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

\*\*

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter [*petros* or pebble],\*\* and on this rock [*petra* or boulder],\*\* I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." –Matthew 16:13-20

\*\*By making a difference between Peter "the pebble," and what Peter said about Jesus being the Son of God, Jesus was saying that faith in Him as the Son of God ("the boulder"), is the foundation of His church, and that He is giving the keys of the Kingdom to those who believe in Him.

#### 2. A Personal Lesson

One time I was desperate for two prayer requests to get answered. One was an invoice that was almost two weeks overdue, and the other was a gift that friends had promised to send. Every day, I would pray for these two things to come through, but nothing happened. The days dragged by and I was so disappointed that my prayers were not answered. That's when I remembered to "call on the keys." That evening, I prayed, "Lord, you promised to supply all my needs according to Your riches in glory. I claim the power of the keys to unleash these funds!"

The next day, I opened my email and almost fell off my chair! There were two messages in my inbox: one saying that the invoice had been paid, and the other saying that the gift from my friends had been deposited. What an immediate answer to prayer! Aalthough God's promises in the Bible are still powerful, as God's Endtime children, we are facing bigger battles than ever before. That's why we need more power than ever in these Last Days! Calling on the keys, gets us the fullest and greatest manifestation of God's power every time.

#### 3. The Itaipu Dam

The Itaipu Dam, on the Paraná River between Brazil and Paraguay, is the world's largest hydroelectric power plant. It has been called one of the seven wonders of the modern world. It generates enough power yearly to supply 93% of the electrical power needed by Paraguay's 5.5 million people and 20% of that consumed by Brazil's 184 million. That's a lot of power! The river had flowed there for thousands of years before the dam was built. The potential for all that power had been there all that timeuntil someone harnessed it. The spiritual power that God has is like that river: There is tremendous power there, but it doesn't do us any good until we acknowledge it, recognize its potential, and learn to use it. If we've gone all of our lives without that spiritual power, we may think things will work out fine if we continue as we are. However, we would be like those people on the Itaipu River before they got electricity from the dam. They missed out on a lot of power that could have made their lives easier. So let's use God's power in the keys, which is greater than any hydroelectric dam!

# 4 The Janitor's Keys

Jesus said that because we believe in Him, we have the keys of the Kingdom (Matthew 16:19). Keys represent power and authority. I know a janitor who likes to walk around with his keys, jingling them in his pocket as he goes. He knows he has the authority to unlock every door in the building whenever he wants. A door is a barrier, an obstacle, but if you have the key, that door is no longer a barrier. You just unlock it and walk through! That's the way it is in spirit. Now that we have the keys of the Kingdom, we have God's authority and power. The power of the keys will bind whatever we tell them to bind and they will loose whatever we tell them to loose, whether its in Heaven or on earth. The power of the keys will loosen whatever we want and need.

# 5. Locked inside!

Too many Christians are living powerless lives. They don't know what it is to have God's power to do miracles. They are like the man who was trying to unlock his car with a coat hanger because he had left the keys inside. His wife and children were inside the car, cheering him on while he worked. However,

nobody in the car thought to use the keys to unlock the car! Some people can be pretty dumb. Unfortunately, some of us are like that when it comes to spiritual things. God has given us the keys, and His power and authority are only a reach away. Meanwhile, we keep looking around at people or circumstances, waiting for them to do it for us. –Instead, we need to look to Jesus and use the keys of the Kingdom that He's given us.

# (5 Prayers & praises on the subject.)

1. Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your son, Jesus. Thank You that I can know You and have Your presence in my life. I pray that You will make Your power known in my life. Help me to cultivate Your presence in my life through calling on the keys. I choose to partner with You so that Your Kingdom will come on earth as it already is in Heaven. Remove the distractions in my life that keep me from Your presence. I repent of any pride or personal idols that keep me from giving You first place in my life such as (Name your personal idols one-by-one, such as hand phone, computer, food, sports, etc.) Take away my lukewarmness and set me on fire for You. All this I pray in Jesus' Name.

2. Lord, I praise and thank You. Thank You for the power of the keys and that the keys can overcome all the difficulties in my life. I choose not to be overwhelmed by my circumstances. Instead I choose to praise You and call on Your Name and claim victories. You are my victorious, all-powerful God. I will praise Your Name and proclaim Your salvation every day. I will declare Your glory among the nations, Your marvelous deeds among all the people. I will sing praises to You, O Lord! You hear and You are mighty to save.

3. Dear Jesus, teach me how to ascend to Your throne room in worship so that I can come back down to earth empowered to work in the harvest field here. Help me to wield the weapon of the keys as I fight for victory in every area. Make it my first reaction to thank You in every situation. I believe that the keys have the power to mold and to shape any prayer into reality. I call on that key power now to make a breakthrough for (name specific people or situations). I praise You and thank You for the victory that Your powerful keys are bringing! You said whatever we bind on earth will be bound in Heaven through the power of the keys. So I know that You are working mightily even as I am praying. I offer You my praise and thanks right now. Blessed be Your Name forever, Lord! In Jesus' name, amen.

4. Dear Lord, I want to worship You only. Take me deeper in my prayer life and intimacy with You, Jesus. Help me to walk in Your light and holiness. Give me joy in Your presence and help me to bring that joy to others. Thank You that the keys make the impossible possible. Thank You that by Your power I can be loving, wise and be what others need so that I can show them Your love. I wield the power of the keys now on behalf of (name people or situations that need prayer). In Jesus' name, amen.

5.Thank You, dear Jesus, that I can claim the power of the keys. Thank You for the keys of empowerment that bring down blessings, anointing, power, faith. I claim the keys of empowerment now! I ask You to work through the keys that I may see the changes I need for myself and the situation that I'm praying for. Thank You, Jesus! I praise and honor You!

(5 Quotation from others, or hymn portion, or poem portion on the subject—names of who wrote it, or "author unknown")

# 1. "You Hold the Keys to the Kingdom" -- hymn

You hold the keys to the Kingdom of God. Use them now, friend, and when you begin. Start with the key that will unlock your heart; Open up and let Jesus come in.

#### Chorus:

The Master key's next, my dear neighbor. And it's one you should use every day. Prayer is the key to the great Pearly Gates And you're unlocking them when you pray.

Yes, you hold the keys to the Kingdom of God. Use them now, friend, and when you begin. Start with the key that will unlock your heart; Open up and let Jesus come in.

#### Chorus:

The Master key's next, my dear neighbor. And it's one you should use every day. Prayer is the key to the great Pearly Gates And you're unlocking them when you pray

Yes, you're unlocking them when you pray. --Jennie Lou Carson, 1952

# 2. Keys to the Kingdom - Poem by Bob Gotti

The keys to Heaven's Kingdom, open up eternal things to come, They're keys that you do receive, when in Christ you do believe. A Truth revealed to us from the God of Heaven about His Son, That His Son is indeed The Christ, and in the Son we have life.

With the Keys we will enter in, His Eternal Kingdom with no sin. He will build His Church with us, as in Christ men place their trust, All Authority is given to the Son, to build the Church and Kingdom. His Authority gives men power, to live for Him each day and hour..

Access we receive from Christ, is used by God through every life, With access comes responsibility, helping other men come to see, Whatever you bind on this earth, will become for you eternal worth, And whatever you do not bind, upon this earth, shall be left behind.

https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/keys-to-the-kingdom/

3. The Power of God – poem by Bill Hoeneveld The power of God is so immense, It is beyond us to make sense, We mere mortals cannot see, As religion and science often disagree.

The abundant life on planet Earth, Shows the power of God's worth, Plants and animals and minerals too, He provided for life to accrue.

When our time here comes to an end, Our soul and spirit will transcend. God's awesome power will be clear, Creating the wonders of our celestial sphere.

#### 4. Don't Limit God! -- by Ken Pilcher, Jr.

When you choose to dwell on Your problems, your situation, Your sickness or your doubts and fears, You're forgetting that God's power is infinite!

His power is beyond our understanding And beyond what we can even imagine. All His power has been given to His Son, His Right Hand,

the Lord Jesus

Each day you choose what you'll believe By what you think and say. You either believe the promises of God Or you limit Him with your unbelief. So fill your mind with all that Jesus can do! *His Power is Infinite!* 

#### 5. Oh, To Know the Power -- by Deborah Ann Belka

Oh, to know the power, that Jesus' death brings is to have the saving faith to trust Him for all things.

For in His resurrection, we're eternally transformed and by the power of His Spirit we are forever conformed.

Oh, to know the power, that Jesus' life brought is to know your sins on the cross He bought.

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That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death (Philippians 3:10).

(20 Bible verses or portions on the subject—relating to God's power, the King, and His Kingdom)

1. 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all.

2. Exodus 15:18

The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

3. <u>Psalm 47:6-7</u>

Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God *is* the King of all the earth.

4. <u>Psalm 95:3</u>

For the LORD *is* a great God, and a great King above all gods.

5. <u>1 Timothy 1:17</u>

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

6. <u>Psalm 47:8</u>

God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

7. Psalm 145:11-13

They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion *endureth* throughout all generations.

8. Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

9. <u>Luke 11:20</u>

But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

10. Mark 1:14-15

Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

11. <u>Luke 16:16</u>

The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

12. 1 Corinthians 15:24

Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

13. <u>Revelation 11:15</u>

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

14. <u>John 1:49</u>

Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

15. Matthew 21:5

Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass

16. Matthew 16:19

And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

17. John 18:36-37

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

18. Revelation 17:14

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

19. Revelation 19: 13, 16

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

20. Ephesians 1:20-21

Which God wrought in Christ, when He raised him from the dead, and set him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Praise and the Joy of the Lord

(5 short prophecy messages from Jesus to children, on the subject.)

1. (Jesus says:) When you lift your hands up high in praise, I notice and I don't leave you emptyhanded. When you lower your hands, there is always something special in them. You can't see, but it's a gift from Me. I never leave you empty-handed when you praise Me. I always give you something back; whatever you most need. Why do I like it when you reach up to praise Me? Because I have so much I wish to fill your heart and life with, and I can only do it when you reach out to Me in loving praise. Don't miss your gift for the day! Thank Me for Who I am and what I have done for you. In return, I'll bless you in a special way.

2. When the battles are rough and the frustrations are real, come to Me. Sing to Me a song of praise. Sing sweet songs of thankfulness and praise. Sing the clouds away. For as you do, My light will break through and I will make a way for you.

3. If you lift up your voice in praise to Me, I will give you grace and strength. I will make the mountains melt away. So praise Me, thank Me by faith and as you do, you will see miracles. Only lift up your voice in praise and thanksgiving for that is calls Me swiftly to your side to help you.

4. You ask, how can I please You, Jesus? I say, "Sing to Me with the voice of praise! Sing to Me with the voice of joy! Sing your praises to Me!" I love to hear your words of praise and thanksgiving. I love to hear your happy words of praise and joy. Please give them to Me because I long to hear them.

5. I love to hear you singing and praising and making melody in your heart. As you draw near to Me in praise, I will draw ever so near to You. As I do, I will bless you with peace and happiness, joy in your labours, and glory in your tasks. Praise is the secret potion that brings you all these things. Let praise be your focus and your life will be filled with happiness and joy.

(5 Short true story, or object lesson or reflection, on the subject.)

1. 2 Chronicles Chapter 20 tells about a huge army of three kingdoms that had united to attack Jehoshaphat, the king of Israel. Jehoshaphat was very worried because his soldiers were no match for this mighty army. So Jehoshaphat prayed desperately: "Oh God, we have no power against this great army. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You!"

Then one of the priests prophesied, "Fear not, nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go out to face them, and the Lord will be with you."

When Jehoshaphat heard these words, he began to praise God. The next morning, the king appointed singers to march in front of the troops, singing as they led them into battle. No sooner had the singers begun to sing and praise, then the Lord set ambushments against all of Jehoshaphat's enemies and destroyed them.

The power of praise is miraculous! Whenever we're faced with problems that seem too big for us to handle, we can trust the Lord, believe His promises, and praise Him. Then we'll see victories. Praise is the voice of faith! Keep praising, and you'll see miracles, too!

2. A famous composer, Joseph Haydn was once asked why his music was so cheerful. He replied, "When I think about God, my heart is so full of joy that the notes dance and leap, as it were, from my pen. Since God has given me a cheerful heart, I desire nothing more than to serve Him with a cheerful spirit."

3. David wrote Psalm 18 when God delivered him from all his enemies and from Saul. It is a praiseful declaration made in a moment of great triumph. David had lived for 20 years as a fugitive from Saul. -- Ever since he was taken from the sheepfold and anointed to be the future king of Israel. In spite of all his trials and difficulties, David remained steadfast to the Lord; and in His time, God delivered David and fulfilled the promise of his anointing. In the first three verses, David lists eight different names honoring God. See if you can find them all.

I will love You, O LORD, my **strength**. The LORD is my **rock** and my **fortress** and my **deliverer**; My God, **my strength**, in whom I will trust; My **shield** and the **horn** of my salvation, my **stronghold**. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. I will love You, O LORD:

This Psalm is a *flood* of praise and emotion. The word for 'love' that David uses is full of emotion: "I love You from my heart strings." He can't say enough about the great things God has done for him. --No wonder David praised God with all his heart!

4. Virginia Brandt Berg was a great woman of God who won many souls and had an important healing ministry. Before that happened, though Virginia went through a long period of sickness. God used that sickness to work in Virginia's heart because she was an atheist. She had a car accident that left her paralysed for five years. The doctors tried everything to cure Virginia but they finally gave up, saying it was hopeless. Her husband, Hjalmer, never stopped praying for her. Still, nothing happened! In fact, it seemed that she was soon going to die.

One day, Virginia thought about some verses in Romans: "Abraham gave glory to God, knowing that He was able to perform that which He had promised" (Romans 4:20-21). She decided to do likewise. She began to whisper, "Glory to God! Glory to God!" over and over. She began thanking God for restoring her health by faith. Suddenly, she noticed both her arms were lifted praising the Lord! She started laughing and crying at the same time, weeping with joy! Then Virginia got out of bed and began to walk for the first time in five years!—A human impossibility! She had been instantly raised by the hand of God on that memorable night in 1918! -- All because Virginia set her mind to praising and thanking God by faith!

5. One night, God's apostles, Paul and Silas, were in prison. They shackled and chained to the wall of their cell so they couldn't even lie down and sleep. But Paul and Silas kept right on praising God. They sang and praised all night long and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly around midnight, there was a great earthquake! It was such a huge earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. All the doors of the cells fell open and everyone's chains were unfastened. God sent that earthquake to rescue Paul and Silas. It was such a big miracle that the jailer and all his family came to know Jesus that very night. Acts 16:25-26

We have a choice every day. We can either live absorbed in worry and stress, or we can look up to Jesus, the One Who holds us in his hands. God longs for us to know the power of His presence in our lives. He desires to bless us more than we could imagine. Praise paves the way for God's power and for miracles to happen.

(5 Prayers & praises on the subject.)

1. Dear Jesus, I praise You with all my heart. I praise You for your faithfulness, and your great power and love. I confess my need for You right now. My life doesn't go so well when I just spin around on my own. Thank You for Your presence. Thank You for Your care for me. Please draw me close to You, and to work Your purposes through me. Please help me to always praise You.

2. I praise You, Jesus! You are My King, my Lord, my Creator! I sing with all my heart and raise my hands in praise to You. You have given me life, love, joy and peace. You freely give me all things. I praise You, I honour You and thank You!

3. I praise You, Jesus, and give You glory. I praise You for the beauty of Your creation. All that I see, from the smallest atom to the universe, You have created it all. You are so great and mighty and vast, yet You to stoop to love me and bring me into Your Kingdom. For this, I give You praise and honour from the depths of my soul.

4. You are the joy of my heart, the rejoicing of my soul, and the light of my life. Thank You for reaching into my soul and opening the windows of Heaven on my life. You came into my heart and now I have joy everlasting. Thank You, Jesus! You are the light of my soul and the joy of my heart.

5. I love to take praise time and give You my love even though my words are weak and small. Even though I'm not very good at it, I feel so happy when I praise You. I know it makes You happy and it pleases you.

(5 Quotation from others, or hymn portion, or poem portion on the subject—names of who wrote it, or "author unknown" if don't know.)

1. Christ takes no more delight to dwell in a sad heart than we do to live in a dark house.

 Thou who hast given so much to me, Give one thing more--a grateful heart; Not thankful when it pleases me.
 As if Thy blessings had spare days, But a heart, whose pulse may be Thy praise! George Herbert

 Flowers rejoice when night is done, Lift their heads to greet the sun;
 Sweetest looks and odours raise, In a silent hymn of praise

So my heart would turn away From the darkness to the day; Lying open in God's sight Like a flower in the light. *Henry van Dyke*

4. Praise Him when the sun is shining,When the winds of trouble blow,When you see no silver liningOn the clouds that hang so low.

Praise Him when your load is heavy And the day no comfort brings, Then your burden God will carry, Bear you as on eagles' wings.

God delights to have us praise Him, And believe His holy Word; And He knows them that trust Him, For they always praise the Lord. Ida A. Gulrey

5. The Christian should be a Hallelujah from head to foot. *St Augustine*

(10 Bible verses or portions on the subject)

1. Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to His excellent greatness!" Psa. 150:2

2. My tongue shall speak of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long." Psa. 35:28

3. Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Psalm 103:1

4. Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise and with Thy honour all the day. Psalm 71:8

- 5. O give thanks unto the Lord. Psalm 105:1
- 6. Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Philippians 4:4

7. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

- 8. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God --Isaiah 61:10
- 9. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. Psalm 119:14

10. The joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10b

Prayer

(5 short prophecy messages from Jesus to children, on the subject.)

1. (Jesus says :) When you stop to talk to Me, I listen closely. Do you know what I notice the most about a prayer? When your heart is filled with love for Me and others, and you are praying for others. When you know you can't do something on your own and you humbly ask Me for help, that makes Me want to rush to help. It makes Me happy when you pray for others--or even if it's something you want Me to do for you--if you ask humbly and in faith. That's what pleases Me and I always take action in one way or another.

2. When you feel no one's listening and no one seems to care, just come to Me. Pour out your heart and tell Me how you feel about things. Then stop and ask Me what I think. Just say, "Please show me, Jesus. If I'm not seeing things the right way, please show me how I should see them." I'm your best Friend and I'm just waiting to help you. I love to spend time with you, talking to you and holding you close. I love to take care of you and help you. Just come to Me and I will give you the answers you need.

3. Remember how I wept for people? I wept for Lazarus. I was moved with compassion for people when they were hungry or sick on. I wept and my tears spurred me how to pray desperately for those I loved. Through my prayers, I was able to partake of Heaven's power. My Father worked through Me and miracles happened. Lazarus came back to life, people were healed, and thousands were fed. My faith was the victory that overcame the world, and now My faith lives on in you. So pray, beloved! Every prayer is answered when you believe!

4. My dear one, don't you know your prayers reach the halls of Heaven? I always hear the cries of My children, and I answer in the way that's best. You have not chosen Me but I have chosen you so that you may bring forth fruit and that whatever you ask of the Father in My Name, He will give it to you. Please have patience and wait for the windows of Heaven to be opened to you. I see your tears, I hear your prayers, and I will answer you. Keep on believing 'cause the answer is on its way.

5. Taking time with Me is a test, I know. It's difficult to stop everything. Remember, I had exactly the same trials and tests you are having. It was just as hard for Me. But remember what I did. I made a point of getting away to pray, even getting up early. I will bless whatever time you set aside for Me. It doesn't have to be long. I will honour any effort you make to spend time with Me. I will bless you with strength and comfort for honouring Me. Just a few minutes with Me on a regular basis will renew your faith and soothe your worries, and heal all wounds.

(5 Short true stories object lessons or reflections on the subject.)

1. In Acts 12, Peter was in prison and the church had gathered to pray for him. An angel miraculously set Peter free from prison. So he went to the house where everyone had gathered to pray for him. Peter knocked on the gate, and a servant named Rhoda went to answer the door. When she saw Peter, she was so overjoyed that she ran back without opening the gate. She exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

"You're out of your mind," they told Rhoda. But she insisted it was Peter, so they said, "It must be his angel." Peter kept knocking, and when they finally opened the door and saw him, everyone was astonished.

This is a funny story about intercessory prayer. Rhoda and everyone else was praying so hard for Peter but when he showed up at the gate, they could hardly believe their prayers had been answered. So they left poor Peter outside, still knocking! Let's not be like those incredulous early Christians!

2. In Genesis 18, Abraham had a long conversational prayer with God about Sodom and Gomorrah because he knew God was going to destroy the cities (<u>Genesis 18:23-32</u>). Abraham wanted God to spare the people of Sodom and Gomorrah because Abraham's nephew, Lot and his family lived in Sodom. First Abraham asked if God would spare the cities if there were 100 righteous people, then 50, then 25. Finally Abraham asked God to spare the city if there were only ten righteous people. It seems that there weren't even ten righteous people, because God did destroy both cities. He only spared Lot

and his two daughters. He would have spared Mrs. Lot, too, but she disobeyed God and looked back. Abraham had so much compassion for people that he was even bargaining with God to try to save them. Like Abraham, we are can intercede in prayer for others, too.

3. Once there was a little girl who was so weak and crippled, she had to stay in bed all the time. She was discouraged because she didn't have anything to do. One day, her pastor visited her and encouraged her that she could pray for others from her sickbed. Not long after, a religious awakening took place in the village and nightly, people were getting saved. When the little crippled girl heard about the revival, she asked for the names of the saved. A few weeks later, the little girl died. When they looked under her pillow, they found a long list of names. Fifty-six of the names had a little cross be them. The little girl had marked off the names of all the people who had gotten saved that she had been praying for.

4. Prayer is like pulling out the antenna on a TV to get better reception. Your spirit is your prayer antenna. When you're praying, your spirit starts seeking the Lord. In a sense, your spirit comes out and reaches out for the Lord. The minute you start thinking about the Lord and get spiritually sensitive, your antenna goes up. As it does, it starts getting impressions and impulses and that is the Spirit. God has made it that way. When you're quiet or alone, it seems like your spiritual antenna can go up a little higher and get better reception. –David Brandt Berg

5. Two friends stood in a large railway station and watched an express train go thundering by. "What a powerful engine!" exclaimed one man.

"Yes," said the other man. "On the rails it is powerful. But off the rails, it is the weakest thing in the world."

"That's just like Christians!" marvelled the first man. "Our power is in communion with the Lord. But when we leave the path of prayer, we become the weakest people in the world."

(5 Prayers & praises on the subject.)

1. Thank You, Jesus, for all the ways You show Your love for me. You know I have my daily battles and life doesn't always run smoothly. But that's because You're trying to teach me to be a fighter and to go to You for answers and help. Thank You that I can always reach out and touch You through prayer. Thank You that You always hear my prayers. As soon as I start to pray, I know that You come swiftly to my side to help me. All I have to do is ask. Thank You, Jesus!

2. Thank You for being such a good friend, Jesus. You're always there when I need You. I can spill out my thoughts and tell You everything. You listen and You never get angry or criticize and condemn me. I want to be more like You, Jesus. I know, the more I spend time with You, the more You rub off on me. –Just like best friends! I love You, Jesus! Thanks for being my best friend.

3. Thank You, Jesus, that when I hear Your still, small voice in my heart, You're not speaking harsh words or rebuking me. You're speaking words of love and joy and forgiveness and hope. You gently show me the places where I need to change and do better but You never condemn me. You're always so patient with me, Jesus. You give me so many words of love and encouragement whenever I reach out for You.

4. Thank You, Jesus, for the gift of prayer. Thank You that You hear my prayers and that they reach right up to Your throne in Heaven. Help me to have a heart for others so that I can understand what they need and how to pray for them. Thank You that You give me this important responsibility of praying for others. Thank You that I can be a channel, just like a telephone operator, to connect those in need with Your blessings and answers. Help me to be a faithful operator!

5. Jesus, You told us to put on the armour of God and fight a good warfare. Thank You for the weapon of prayer so I can fight off all the fiery darts of the Devil. Thank You that the weapon of prayer is like a light sabre when it is lit up with Your power. Help me to be a warrior for You and fight in prayer for the things and the people that need it.

(5 Quotation from others, hymn or poem portions on the subject—names of who wrote it, or "author unknown" if don't know.)

 Wrestling prayer can wonders do, Bring relief in deepest straits; Prayer can force a passage through Iron bars and brazen gates. --John Newton

2. "When you pray for others, God listens and blesses them. So when you are safe and happy, remember that someone is praying for you." -- Author Unknown

3. "People say intercession is, "putting yourself in someone else's place." That is not true! Intercession is putting yourself in **God'**s place; it is having His mind and His perspective." — Oswald Chambers

4. For the Christian, intercession is truly universal work. No place is closed to intercessory prayer: no continent, no nation, no city, no organization, no office. No power on earth can keep out intercessory prayer." Richard Halverson

5. True intercession means bringing the person, or the circumstances, that seem to be crashing in on you before God, until you are changed by His attitude toward that person or circumstance.—Oswald Chambers

(10 Bible verses or portions on the subject)

1. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. --Ephesians 6:18

2. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. --James 5:16

3. Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men. -- I Timothy2:1

4. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. -- Matthew 5:44

5. And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. --Job 42:10

6. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. --Galatians 6:2

7. You also helping by prayer for us, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many. 2 Corinthians 1:11

8. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Colossians 4:3-4

9. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. Acts 1:14

10. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given me; for they are Thine. John 17:9

Vigilant and not lethargic

(5 short prophecy messages from Jesus to children, on the subject.)

1. (Jesus says:) If you were walking on icy ground on a winter day, you wouldn't run, right? You'd take extra care so you could make it safely to where you needed to go, without having an accident. Even though most of the time you aren't walking on ice, still, there are ways to slip and fall each day. —Like accidentally saying something you didn't mean to say, or forgetting to pray because you were too busy. Be careful each day and use your time wisely. Guard your thoughts and the words you say. Be prayerful, so you can have a safe and happy day.

2. So many things can go wrong if you're not careful! But it works the other way, too. If you keep your guard up and stay close to Me, so many good things can come your way. It's up to you, though. I give you that choice. I don't force you. But if you're wise, you'll make the right choice. You'll choose to be prayerful and on guard. Your spirit helpers are trying to help you, and they cheer for you every time you make a good choice. Each time you make a good choice, that's progress. And each step of progress gets you closer to your Heavenly goal: Being like Me!

3. Please learn to be prayerful and cautious. Remember, the devil goes about as a roaring lion. He is out to hurt you and wipe you out in any way he can. It's a spiritual warfare and that warfare does not stop. It goes on day in and day out. You've got to be on your toes! So get this lesson down! You've got to be very prayerful and very cautious. Being prayerful is not enough. You've got to be prayerful <u>and</u> careful! Always be seeking Me and staying close to Me. I'm telling you these things for your good and because I love you.

4. Maybe you think you're in a messed up situation. You messed up, others messed and now everything is messed up! But you know what? I don't see it that way because I have a plan. There is a reason I allowed all of this to happen. It's because it's another step in your growth. Every day, I'm teaching you and helping you learn more, and depend on Me more so that you can grow up into a real strong disciple. So don't worry because I am right there with you. You can talk to Me anytime, and if you listen, I'll talk back to you. I'll give you the faith you need for this time.

5. As long as you continue to follow Me and stay close to Me and My Word, everything else will fall into place. You won't have to worry about whether you're growing or whether or not you're on track. Just put Me first, spending time with Me, following My voice and reading My Word, I will bless you in everything else. I will bless your spiritual growth and help you mature.

(5 Short true story, object lessons or reflections on the subject.)

1. Nehemiah the Builder

Nehemiah worked in King Artaxerxes' palace in Babylon. One day, the king noticed that Nehemiah looked sad and he asked him about it. Nehemiah told the king that he was sad because Jerusalem had been destroyed.

"Please let me go home and rebuild the wall," Nehemiah asked. The king gave Nehemiah permission to go.

Sanballot, the governor of Samaria, heard what Nehemiah was going to do and got hopping mad. If Jerusalem was prosperous again, he would lose control of the trade route. So he got angry and threatened Nehemiah.

Nehemiah also got a lot of negativity from the Jews who weren't working on the wall. They kept saying that Sanballat would attack Nehemiah. The workers were discouraged, too. They were tired and Sanballat's threats and the gloomy predictions of the other Jews scared them. Nehemiah told the people to lift up their voices in prayer and focus on the Lord. He told them to keep a weapon in one hand and a tool in the other. That way, they stayed vigilant.

The people worked hard, and the wall was finished in only 52 days. Everyone celebrated and worshipped God. Nehemiah was so thankful God had used him.

2. The On-Guard Little Owl

There was once a little owl who loved to play with his friends. Something told him, though, that he should also spend time with the older owls so he could learn wisdom from them.

"That's boring!" his friends said. "Come and play with us!" But the young owl was determined. He knew that someday he would need the wisdom of the older owls. One night, he went to meet the older owls as they were on night watch. Everybody else was having fun at home.

After his night watch training lesson, the young owl was on his way home. Suddenly, he sensed something was wrong. He put the vigilance lessons he'd learned to use, and soon he spotted a cat prowling near his family's tree.

He quickly hooted out a loud alarm call, and all the owls flew right over. Together, they chased the cat away.

"Good work," said the oldest owl. "You put your lessons on vigilance to good use and kept your family safe." The little owl glowed with happiness. Taking time to learn his lessons had paid off.

3. The Girls Who Missed Out

Jesus once told a story about ten young girls who were invited to a wedding. The wedding party was going to be held at night although no one knew exactly what time the bridegroom would come. All the girls brought lamps but five girls forgot to bring oil for their lamps. They asked the other girls if they could borrow some but they told them, "Sorry, we only have enough oil for our lamps. Go find someone who sells oil."

The five girls hurried to find an oil seller. Just then, the bridegroom arrived. The girls who had oil in their lamps went inside with the wedding party. When the other girls came, the door was locked and they couldn't get in.

Jesus told this story about the Kingdom of Heaven because He wants His followers to know that He is coming back so we need to stay on guard. We need to be watchful and ready for His return so that we don't end up getting locked out of the wedding party like the five foolish girls. Jesus also told this story so that His followers know there are serious consequences for being spiritually lazy.

4. Paul's Narrow Escape

The apostle Paul was a fiery preacher, which often made the religious Jews angry. One time, Paul gave his testimony in Jerusalem. Everything went fine until he said that God had called him to preach to the Gentiles. That's when things exploded. It got so bad, the Roman commander was afraid Paul might get killed. So he took Paul into protective custody. Meanwhile, 40 Jews took a vow that they would not eat until they had killed Paul.

They then hatched a plot. They persuaded the high priest to ask the Romans to return Paul to the Jewish council so they could ask him more questions. On the way to the council, the men planned to attack and kill Paul.

Fortunately, a teenager, Paul's nephew, heard about the plot. Right away, he went to the garrison and told his uncle Paul. Paul then told the Roman commander. The commander ordered an armed guard to escort Paul to another city that night.

We don't know the name of this boy, but he was alert and in-tune. He didn't just brush off what he heard. No, he sprang into action. Because he was alert, Paul was saved.

5. The Hole in the Dike

In Holland, the ground is lower than the sea. People have built big strong dikes to keep the sea out. Everything depends on the dikes staying strong. Without them, houses, fields and even people would get washed away.

One day Hans and his brother went on an errand. As they walked, Hans noticed a small hole in the dike. It was a tiny hole but water was bubbling through.

"A hole!" Hans cried. Hans knew what that meant. Soon the water would make a huge gap in the dike. Hans stuck his forefinger in the hole. Then he told his brother, "Run and get help!"

Hans' finger got numb with cold, then his hand, and then his arm. It was dark and he was exhausted. Hans started to get afraid. But then he set his teeth and prayed, "Jesus, help us!"

Just then, Hans heard a shout. It was the villagers! They set to work with their shovels and repaired the dike. Afterwards, everyone cheered for Hans. Hans saved his country because he was alert and courageously did something about the danger.

(5 Prayers & praises on the subject.)

1. Thank You, Jesus, that You have called me and chosen me to serve You. Please help me to look steadfastly to You and listen to Your whispers so that I can know the way You want me to go. Help me to stay close to You so that You can use me to be a blessing to others. Help me to heed Your whispers so that I can grow and progress spiritually.

2. Thank You for Your love. Thank You that You are molding me and making me into what You want me to be. I know this takes time. It also takes dedication and staying close to You. Please help me to always stay close to You, to be aware of You and Your Spirit. You promised that I would hear a voice behind me saying which way to turn and where to walk. Please help me to hear Your voice like that. Help me to keep my guard up and keep making progress in the spirit.

3. Ouch, Jesus! I just made a big mistake! It really hurts! But I know You still love me and I'm thankful for that! Help me to see this as a lesson. Thank You for the times You teach me lessons. Thank You that You're so patiently teaching me and using these things to change me and help me be what You want me to be. Even though it hurts, I'm thankful. I've got You, Jesus, and You're always with me. I know You still love me.

4. Jesus, You're so wonderful! You're like my Big Brother! I know if I stay close to You and depend on You, I can make it. I want to live in You like the branch and the vine. It's a fight to stay on-guard and stay on the right road, Jesus, and not let the enemy get even a toehold in my life. Please fight for me when I am weak! I know if I cry out to You, You will help me and give me victory

5. Thank You that You are always with me, Jesus. Thank You that You trust me to make good decisions. That makes me really desperate because I know on my own, I can't get it right. But You told me to 'watch and pray' and that's what I want to do. I want to stay close to You, learn the lessons You have for me and learn from Your Spirit. Help me to be sensitive to Your Spirit so I can learn and grow.

(5 Quotation from others, or hymn portion, or poem portion on the subject—names of who wrote it, or "author unknown" if don't know.)

1. The strongest principle of growth is that of human choice. –George Eliot

2. Happy is he who makes daily progress and does not consider what he did yesterday but what advance he can make today. –St. Jerome

3. Courage means to keep making forward progress while you still feel afraid. Joyce Meyer

4. Growth in the Christian life depends on obedience in times of crisis. James Dobson

5. On-Guard Poem by Denis Martindale

It's no good sitting on the fence, Complaining life's too hard! For surely it would make more sense If you remained on guard!? Like meerkats do, the whole day long, Regardless of the cost, Defiant 'gainst the giant throng, Refusing to be bossed!

You may not be a meerkat, friend... With dugouts underground, But there are tactics you can tend, Spiritual defences all around... The weapon of prayer, And vigilance, too... That's bound to work! So think like meerkats do!

(10 Bible verses or portions on the subject)

1. Be sober,

be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. <u>1 Peter 5:8</u>

2.Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of lifeFor from it flow the springs of life Proverbs 4:23

3. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. Luke 21:36

4. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12

5. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. Acts 20:31

6. Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man Luke 2:52

7. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth 2 Timothy 2:15

8. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18

9. And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15

10. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. Revelations 21:17