

Steps to Christ

Bible Study Series



Joy for
Now and Eternity!

16 - 16

(1) WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN OTHERS OFFEND US?

Ephesians 4:32

Proverbs 19:11

Related Texts: Proverbs 12:16; 14:29; 15:1, 18; 16:32; 17:14; Colossians 3:12, 13

If we keep uppermost in our minds the unkind and unjust acts of others we shall find it impossible to love them as Christ has loved us; but if our thoughts dwell upon the wondrous love and pity of Christ for us, the same spirit will flow out to others. We should love and respect one another, notwithstanding the faults and imperfections that we cannot help seeing. Humility and self-distrust should be cultivated, and a patient tenderness with the faults of others. This will kill out all narrowing selfishness and make us large-hearted and generous.

(2) WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO PREVENT THE INFECTIOUS SPREAD OF DISCOURAGEMENT?

Proverbs 3:5

Related Texts: Psalm 37:5-7; 62:8; 115:9-11; 125:1; Isaiah 26:3, 4; Jeremiah 17:7, 8

The psalmist says, "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." Psalm 37:3. Each day has its burdens, its cares and perplexities; and when we meet how ready we are to talk of our difficulties and trials. So many borrowed troubles intrude, so many fears are indulged, such a weight of anxiety is expressed, that one might suppose we had no pitying, loving Saviour ready to hear all our requests and to be to us a present help in every time of need.

(3) BY WHAT PROMISE CAN WE KNOW THAT GOD WILL NOT DESERT US IN ANY SITUATION?

Hebrews 13:5

Related Texts: Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5; 1 Samuel 12:22; 1 Chronicles 28:20

Some are always fearing, and borrowing trouble. Every day they are surrounded with the tokens of God's love; every day they are enjoying the bounties of His providence; but they overlook these present blessings. Their minds are continually dwelling upon something disagreeable which they fear may come; or some difficulty may really exist which, though small, blinds their eyes to the many things that demand gratitude. The difficulties they encounter, instead of driving them to God, the only source of their help, separate them from Him because they awaken unrest and repining.

Do we well to be thus unbelieving? Why should we be ungrateful and distrustful? Jesus is our friend; all heaven is interested in our welfare. We should not allow the perplexities and worries of everyday life to fret the mind and cloud the brow. If we do we shall always have something to vex and annoy. We should not indulge a solicitude that only frets and wears us, but does not help us to bear trials.

(4) WHAT WILL THE LORD DO FOR US IF WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND TRUST HIM?

Proverbs 3:6

Related Texts: Proverbs 16:3, 9; Psalm 25:8, 9; 32:8; Isaiah 30:21; 48:17; Jeremiah 10:23

You may be perplexed in business; your prospects may grow darker and darker, and you may be threatened with loss; but do not become discouraged; cast your care upon God, and remain calm and cheerful. Pray for wisdom to manage your affairs with discretion, and thus prevent loss and disaster. Do all you can on your part to bring about favorable results. Jesus has promised His aid, but not apart from our effort. When, relying upon our Helper, you have done all you can, accept the result cheerfully.

(5) AS WE FACE TRIALS, WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT DOES THE LORD GIVE US?

John 16:33

Related Texts: John 14:27; Psalm 85:8-11; Romans 5:1, 2; Philippians 4:6, 7

It is not the will of God that His people should be weighed down with care. But our Lord does not deceive us. He does not say to us, “Do not fear; there are no dangers in your path.” He knows there are trials and dangers, and He deals with us plainly. He does not propose to take His people out of a world of sin and evil, but He points them to a never-failing refuge. His prayer for His disciples was, “I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil.” “In the world,” He says, “ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 17:15, 16:33.

(6) WHAT PROMISE CAN WE CLAIM CONCERNING OUR DAILY NEEDS?

Matthew 6:33

Related Texts: 1 Kings 3:11-13; 17:13; Malachi 3:10, 12; Luke 12:31; John 6:27; 2 Chronicles 31:10; Luke 5:6, 7

In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ taught His disciples precious lessons in regard to the necessity of trusting in God [Matthew chapter 5]. These lessons were designed to encourage the children of God through all ages, and they have come down to our time full of instruction and comfort. The Saviour pointed His followers to the birds of the air as they warbled their carols of praise, unencumbered with thoughts of care, for “they sow not, neither do they reap.” And yet the great Father provides for their needs. The Saviour asks, “Are ye not much better than they?” Matthew 6:26. The great Provider for man and beast opens His hand and supplies all His creatures. The birds of the air are not beneath His notice. He does not drop the food into their bills, but He makes provision for their needs. They must gather the grains He has scattered for them. They must prepare the material for their little nests. They must feed their young. They go forth singing to their labor,

for “your heavenly Father feedeth them.” And “are ye not much better than they?” Are not you, as intelligent, spiritual worshipers, of more value than the birds of the air? Will not the Author of our being, the Preserver of our life, the One who formed us in His own divine image, provide for our necessities if we but trust in Him?

(7) WHAT DOES CHRIST ASK US TO CONSIDER AS ASSURANCE OF HIS LOVING CARE?

Matthew 6:28-30

Related Texts: Matthew 6:25, 31; Luke 22:35

Christ pointed His disciples to the flowers of the field, growing in rich profusion and glowing in the simple beauty which the heavenly Father had given them, as an expression of His love to man. He said, “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow.” The beauty and simplicity of these natural flowers far outrival the splendor of Solomon. The most gorgeous attire produced by the skill of art cannot bear comparison with the natural grace and radiant beauty of the flowers of God’s creation. Jesus asks, “If God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?” If God, the divine Artist, gives to the simple flowers that perish in a day their delicate and varied colors, how much greater care will He have for those who are created in His own image? This lesson of Christ’s is a rebuke to the anxious thought, the perplexity and doubt, of the faithless heart. The Lord would have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful, and obedient.

(8) WHAT ARE 6 PRACTICAL ACTS OF SACRIFICIAL SERVICE THAT WE, IN LOVE, CAN DO FOR GOD TO HELP OTHERS AND, IN RETURN, RECEIVE HAPPINESS AND TRUE FULFILLMENT?

Isaiah 58:6, 7

Related Texts: Isaiah 58:8-11; James 1:27; Psalm 112:9; Ecclesiastes 11:1, 2; Proverbs 25:21; 28:27; Daniel 4:27; Matthew 25:35-40

Happiness that is sought from selfish motives, outside of the path of duty, is ill-balanced, fitful, and transitory; it passes away, and the soul is filled with loneliness and sorrow; but there is joy and satisfaction in the service of God; the Christian is not left to walk in uncertain paths; he is not left to vain regrets and disappointments. If we do not have the pleasures of this life we may still be joyful in looking to the life beyond.

(9) WHEN WE ARE ENJOYING COMMUNION WITH CHRIST AND SHARING THE GOSPEL, WHAT PROMISE OF COMFORT IS OURS?

Matthew 28:20

Related Texts: Psalm 46:7, 11; Isaiah 41:10; Mark 16:20; John 14:18; 2 Timothy 4:17

But even here Christians may have the joy of communion with Christ; they may have the light of His love, the perpetual comfort of His presence. Every step in life may bring us closer to Jesus, may give us a deeper experience of His love, and may bring us one step nearer to the blessed home of peace. Then let us not cast away our confidence, but have firm assurance, firmer than ever before. “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us,” and He will help us to the end. 1 Samuel 7:12.

(10) WHY SHOULD WE KEEP THE BLESSINGS GOD HAS GIVEN IN THE PAST ALWAYS FRESH IN OUR MINDS?

Deuteronomy 4:9

Related Texts: Deuteronomy 6:7; Hebrews 2:1; 11:19, 20; Proverbs 4:20-23; 3:1-3

Let us look to the monumental pillars, reminders of what the Lord has done to comfort us and to save us from the hand of the destroyer. Let us keep fresh in our memory all the tender mercies that God has shown us,—the tears He has wiped away, the pains He has soothed, the anxieties removed, the fears dispelled, the wants supplied, the blessings bestowed,—thus strengthening ourselves for all that is before us through the remainder of our pilgrimage.

(11) WHAT PROMISE CAN WE CLAIM AS WE BEAR THE TRIALS AND PERPLEXITIES OF THE COMING CONFLICT?

1 Corinthians 10:13

Related Texts: 1 Peter 1:6, 7; 5:8-10; Job 23:10; Ephesians 6:12, 13; Revelation 2:10; 3:10

We cannot but look forward to new perplexities in the coming conflict, but we may look on what is past as well as on what is to come, and say, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.” “As thy days, so shall thy strength be.” Deuteronomy 33:25. The trial will not exceed the strength that shall be given us to bear it. Then let us take up our work just where we find it, believing that whatever may come, strength proportionate to the trial will be given.

(12) THOUGH WE MAY WITNESS AND EXPERIENCE TRIALS HARD TO BEAR, WHAT CAN WE HAVE JOY AND COMFORT IN KNOWING?

Romans 8:28

Related Texts: Romans 8:35-39; 5:3-5; Deuteronomy 8:2, 3, 16; Psalm 46:1, 2; Zechariah 13:9; 2 Corinthians 4:15-18

(13) AS OVERCOMERS BY GOD’S GRACE, WHAT WONDERFUL WORDS CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING?

Matthew 25:34

Related Texts: Matthew 25: 21, 23; 5:3-12; Luke 12:32; 2 Timothy 4:8

And by and by the gates of heaven will be thrown open to admit God’s children, and from the lips of the King of glory the benediction will fall on their ears like richest music. Then the redeemed will be welcomed to the home that Jesus is preparing for them. There their companions will not be the vile of earth, liars, idolaters, the impure, and unbelieving; but they will associate with those who have over-

come Satan and through divine grace have formed perfect characters. Every sinful tendency, every imperfection, that afflicts them here has been removed by the blood of Christ, and the excellence and brightness of His glory, far exceeding the brightness of the sun, is imparted to them. And the moral beauty, the perfection of His character, shines through them, in worth far exceeding this outward splendor. They are without fault before the great white throne, sharing the dignity and the privileges of the angels.

(14) AS THE GREAT CONTROVERSY BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL DRAWS TO A CLOSE, WHAT IMPORTANT QUESTION SHOULD WE BE ASKING OURSELVES?

Matthew 16:26

Related Texts: Matthew 5:29; Luke 9:25; 12:20, 21; Job 27:8; Psalm 49:7, 8, 15

In view of the glorious inheritance that may be his, “what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” He may be poor, yet he possesses in himself a wealth and dignity that the world could never bestow. The soul redeemed and cleansed from sin, with all its noble powers dedicated to the service of God, is of surpassing worth; and there is joy in heaven in the presence of God and the holy angels over one soul redeemed, a joy that is expressed in songs of holy triumph.

I realize that if I trust in my own wisdom and understanding I am doomed for discouragement. I am thankful for His faithful promise to guide me into His kingdom.

Please Circle: Yes Undecided

I choose to always keep the blessings of my past for me in mind so I won't doubt His leading in my present and my future. I am thankful for His comfort and direction as I travel through the trials and perplexities of this life's journey.

Please Circle: Yes Undecided

