

Read the New Testament in a Year

(Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer)

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September 23rd. Galatians 1:1-24.

Reflect: There is only one Gospel. To accept another "gospel" is to reject the message of Jesus and thus exclude yourself from the blessings of his salvation. Don't do it! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to always remain true and loyal to you. Amen."*

September 24th. - Galatians 2:1-21.

Reflect: Our relationship with God is not based on performance! It is based on **grace!** We are saved by faith in Jesus not by observing the law (trying to earn salvation). *Prayer: "Jesus, thank you for your love that saves me. Amen."*

September 25th. - Galatians 3:1-29.

Reflect: The Law was put in charge of us until Christ came. Its purpose was not to save us (which it can't do) but to show us our need of salvation (only Jesus' forgiveness can save us.) *Prayer: "Saviour Jesus, strengthen my faith in you. Amen."*

September 26th. - Galatians 4:1-31.

Reflect: Jesus redeemed us from the law (paid its penalty) so that we might become God's sons and daughters and by the Spirit be able to pray to God as our dear Father. *Prayer: "Father God, thank you for making me your child through Jesus. Amen."*

September 27th. - Galatians 5:1-26.

Reflect: The most important thing in Christian living is **faith** in Jesus which is expressed in **love** toward others: Shown by the fruit of the Spirit (verses 22-26). *Prayer: "Lord, strengthen my faith and increase my love. Amen."*

September 28th. - Galatians 6:1-18.

Reflect: We are called to mutual responsibility: We are to carry the burdens of others (verse 2). But this does **not** negate our responsibility for our own lives (verses 4-5). *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may I not grow weary of doing good in your name. Amen."*

September 29th. - Ephesians 1:1-23.

Reflect: When we are united to Christ in faith, we share in all he did for us. We receive **every** spiritual blessing in Christ. What better reason for thanksgiving?!? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, all thanks, and praise, and glory to you! Amen."*

September 30th. - Ephesians 2:1-22.

Reflect: Our faith in a nutshell: We have been saved **by** grace, **through** faith, **because of** Christ, and **in order that** we might do good works (honour God and love others.) *Prayer: "Merciful Lord, thank you for saving me by your forgiving love. Amen."*

September 1st. - 1 Corinthians 11:1-34.

Reflect: Paul urges us to reflect in our community life together (in our worship and fellowship times) the same unity of faith and love we celebrate together in the Lord's Supper. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to show your love towards others. Amen."*

September 2nd. - 1 Corinthians 12:1-31.

Reflect: The Spirit both brings us to faith (so we can say, "Jesus is Lord") and he enables us to live out that faith in Christ's Body (using our spiritual gifts in love). *Prayer: "Lord, help me to use my spiritual gifts for the benefit of others. Amen."*

September 3rd. - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

Reflect: Read verses 4-7 again and replace the word "love" with "Jesus". Jesus is patient and kind etc. If we want to be able to love like this, we need to be full of Jesus! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your presence and your love. Amen."*

September 4th. - 1 Corinthians 14:1-25.

Reflect: Verses 1 and 12 summarise Paul's guidelines for the use of all spiritual gifts, including speaking in tongues: It is to be done **in love** and **to build up** the Church. *Prayer: "Lord, thank you for the forgiveness and new life you bring. Amen."*

September 5th. - 1 Corinthians 14:26-40.

Reflect: Worship is to be done decently and in an orderly way. Is a woman speaking (= prophesying) still "indecent" today? Also compare Paul's thoughts in 11:5 & 11:13. *Prayer: "Lord, grant us wisdom as we re-think the role of women in the Church. Amen."*

September 6th. - 1 Corinthians 15:1-34.

Reflect: If Jesus didn't rise again at Easter then there's no point in us being Christians. But because Jesus **truly did** rise back to life, our faith is valid and we also will be raised! *Prayer: "Risen Lord Jesus, I praise you for the new life you give me. Amen."*

September 7th. - 1 Corinthians 15:35-58.

Reflect: God will raise us back to life with a physical body (we will still be human - still "us") but we will be changed. We will have glorified, eternal bodies.

Prayer: "Lord, thank you for your victory over death for me. Amen."

September 8th. - 1 Corinthians 16:1-24.

Reflect: Paul gives us sound advice on Christian (financial) giving. It should be weekly (regular) and in proportion to our income (according to how God has blessed us). *Prayer: "Lord, give me the grace to give faithfully and generously. Amen."*

September 9th. - 2 Corinthians 1:1-24.

Reflect: **God's** comfort and help to us in our struggles is a blessing **we** can pass on to others. It empowers us to care for others with compassion and understanding. *Prayer: "Heavenly Father, may I show to others the care you show me. Amen."*

September 10th. - 2 Corinthians 2:1-17.

Reflect: How should we deal with sin in Christian community? Paul gives us an example of loving honesty, a forgiving/compassionate heart, and a desire for healing. *Prayer: "Lord, I often fail! Help me to be loving towards others who fail too. Amen."*

September 11th. - 2 Corinthians 3:1-18.

Reflect: The Holy Spirit creates **life** (verse 6); **understanding** (verse 16); **freedom** (verse 17); and **sanctified lives** which are modelled on our Lord Jesus (verse 18). *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your Spirit and make me more like you. Amen."*

September 12th. - 2 Corinthians 4:1-18.

Reflect: When witnessing and ministering to others, we need to keep our focus on Jesus (verse 5), for it is **his** ministry! Thus we won't lose heart (verses 1 & 7-9 & 16). *Prayer: "Lord, help me to focus on you and to rely on you in all things. Amen."*

September 13th. - 2 Corinthians 5:1-21.

Reflect: We live by faith, not by sight. We can not prove that our faith is true, but we **do** have the Holy Spirit as God's guarantee (encouragement) that he keeps his promises! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may I live no longer for myself but for you. Amen."*

September 14th. - 2 Corinthians 6:1-18.

Reflect: Paul warns us not to receive God's grace in vain. Instead we should allow God's grace to shape our whole lives (just as grace determines our eternal destiny!) *Prayer: "Lord, help me to trust in your grace and to allow it to shape my life. Amen."*

September 15th. - 2 Corinthians 7:1-16.

Reflect: "Godly" (God inspired) sorrow regrets the sin and repents (changes). But "worldly" sorrow merely regrets the consequences of sin **without** wanting to change. *Prayer: "Saviour, keep me close to you through daily repentance and faith. Amen."*

September 16th. - 2 Corinthians 8:1-24.

Reflect: Paul commends and encourages these attitudes to Christian giving: Giving generously; thinking it a joy and privilege to give; and giving for Jesus' sake. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to give generously, with faith and joy. Amen."*

September 17th. - 2 Corinthians 9:1-15.

Reflect: Christian giving is to be from the heart, being motivated by joy and gratitude (motivated by the Gospel), rather than only giving when you are forced to give (motivated by the Law). *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, make me a cheerful giver. Amen."*

September 18th. - 2 Corinthians 10:1-18.

Reflect: Where do you anchor your self-esteem? In your popularity or achievements? It's God's approval (**in Christ**) that counts the most! (Verses 17-18.) *Prayer: "Lord, help me to accept myself because of your acceptance of me in Jesus. Amen."*

September 19th. - 2 Corinthians 11:1-15.

Reflect: Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (as if he were from God). False teachers do the same. We need to judge everything by the message of Jesus, as taught in the Bible. *Prayer: "Lord, guide me in the truth, your Word is truth! Amen."*

September 20th. - 2 Corinthians 11:16-33.

Reflect: Paul establishes his authority as an apostle not by pointing to (boasting) about miracles and wonders, but by his willingness to suffer for the Gospel [see 12:9-10]. *Prayer: "Lord, give me humility; patience in suffering; and trust in you. Amen."*

September 21st. - 2 Corinthians 12:1-21.

Reflect: Spiritual strength is found in dependence on God, not by the removal of human weaknesses. God is with us in our troubles - this is what will get us through! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to be confident that you will never let me down. Amen."*

September 22nd. - 2 Corinthians 13:1-13.

Reflect: When we have the **grace** of Christ, the **love** of God, and the **fellowship** (presence) of the Holy Spirit, what more do we need? Nothing! *Prayer: "Lord, thank you for your grace, love and presence in my life. Amen."*