



# Passion

**DEVOTIONAL**  
**JANUARY**

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This page is designed to help keep you accountable to your personal commitments each month and it will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out so that it will motivate you to spending time with God each and every day.

If you need help keeping accountable, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share this page with them and what you are learning so that they can hold you accountable as well.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my daily devotions last month?  
How many times did I spend in the Passion Devotional last month?

Church Attendance:

How many times did I attend Reconnect last month?  
Did I attend AROMA last month?  
How many times did I attend Re-think last month?  
How many times did I attend Sunday AM service last month?

Scripture Memory:

How many key verses did I memorize last month from the Passion Devotional?

Outreach:

Did I share Christ with anyone this past month?  
Did I invite any friends to church or activities this past month?

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## Jan. 1

### John 1:1-13- Who is Jesus Christ

In this introductory section in the Gospel of John we get a glimpse of who Jesus Christ is. The first thing we see is the fact that Christ is eternal, "In the beginning was the Word." Christ was always around, He was not created, but He has been with God forever, which is impossible to comprehend. Jesus Christ is also God, "The Word was with God and the Word was God." We must realize that Jesus Christ is not just some man, but He is God; He is God in the flesh, so when He was walking around on the earth, everyone was able to see God and walk and talk with God. How amazing would that have been? Christ also created the world, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." Christ along with God and the Holy Spirit created the universe, everything that was made was made through Him and not just through Him but also to give Him glory (Colossians 1:16-17). Christ is also the giver of new life, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." If we want new life, we must realize that it comes through Christ. Christ is also the light of this dark world. Christ came into this world and now we know what righteousness is because of Him, because He lived it perfectly. The last thing we want to discuss tonight is the fact that Christ allows us to be the children of God, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." If we truly believe in Christ' death, burial, and resurrection and how He is the only way to eternity, then we will be children of God. Praise the Lord for who Jesus Christ is and what He gives to us. Take time and respond to this question, "In light of who Christ is, how do I need to live my life?"

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
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Memorize Philippians 1:21

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## Jan. 2

John 1:14-34- Jesus Christ, full of Grace and Truth

In the beginning of this section John writes, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." Then later John writes in verse 17, "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." The law is written to point out our sin, so we can see where we fall short. But praise the Lord Christ came and brought grace and truth. With grace we have forgiveness of sins and we have the power to overcome sin. With truth we realize what sin is. There is a thin line between legalism and liberalism. Let me define those really quick. Legalism is saying this, "Jesus Christ plus something else (like not going to the movies or not playing sports on Sundays) equals salvation." It is great that we set up standards and we need to, but if the standard we set up is not from Scripture then we cannot force it on others. Liberalism is saying, "I can do whatever I want and God will forgive me." God's forgiveness is great, but there is also truth that we need to live by, which is the truth of God's Word. We must realize that we are saved by grace through faith and nothing else, so there is nothing we can do that can give us new life, but we must also realize that there is truth that Christ brings and that is His Word, the Bible, that we need to strive to live by. So what kind of person are you, do you add something to your salvation or do you live in sin thinking that God will forgive you? Let's strive to live like Christ, full of grace and truth.

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Jan. 3

John 1:35-51- Are you Awestruck by Jesus Christ

I love how John the Baptist sees Jesus Christ. He truly realizes who Christ is and what He is going to do. Listen to what John says regarding Jesus Christ, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God. Behold the Lamb of God." John realized that Jesus was the Lamb of God who was going to take away the sin of the world by His blood. John realized the greatness of Jesus Christ and the lowliness of himself. It is not just John the Baptist that realized this, take a look at what the first disciples said. When Andrew saw Christ and ran to find his brother Peter and said, "We have found the Messiah" and then he brought Peter to Jesus. Praise the Lord for Andrew and being awestruck by Christ, because he brought Peter, who helped start the church. Then when Philip saw Jesus Christ he ran and found Nathanael and said, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Then when Nathanael saw Christ and His great power he said, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the king of Israel!" The question we need to ask ourselves is this, "Are we awestruck when we think of Jesus Christ?" We better be; we better realize how great and awesome Christ is, that fact that He is our King and Lord and the Savior of our souls. Take time and praise Jesus Christ for the great salvation that He brought to us.

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Jan. 4

John 2:1-12- The Beginning of Christ's Signs

In today's passage we see Christ's first miracle. But before the miracle, it seems that Christ is a little a rude to His mother. Jesus' mother came to Him and said, "They have no wine." Christ's response was, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." See the hour that Jesus was talking about was His death, burial, resurrection, and exaltation; that was Christ's main concern. When Jesus asked, "What does your concern have to do with Me?", He was not being rude, but abrupt. The thrust of Jesus' comment was that He had entered into the purpose for His mission (destroying sin and Satan) on earth, so that He put second all activities to the fulfillment of that mission. Mary needed to recognize Him not so much as a son that she raised but as the promised Messiah and the Son of God. See Christ wasn't concerned about earthly things, He was only concerned about completing the mission God wanted Him to complete; He was concerned about living out God's will. We must realize that Christ still took the time do great miracles on earth and He did these miracles to show His glory and so that His disciples would believe in Him. We as believers must not be concerned about the things of this earth, but we must be concerned about living out the Word of God, just like Christ. Let's not get sidetracked with worldly things, but let's put all our focus on pleasing God with our lives. Let us also praise God for how glorious He truly is.

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Jan. 5

John 2:13-25- Jesus sees our hearts

The first thing we read about in this passage is Christ's righteous anger. People were selling in God's house to make a profit. We are to come together as body of believers to worship God together and to study one another in order to stir each other on to love and good deeds. When the holiness of God and His worship was at stake, Christ took immediate action. Christ realized that His Father's house was for prayer and not for merchandise. When we get together to worship, let's not make it about worldly things or business, but let's make it about God and His holiness. At the end of the chapter John writes, "Many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man." Jesus knows man's heart and if they truly believe in Him. See the men in this passage only believed in His great signs and it was intellectual, it didn't result in a changed lifestyle. Christ can see our hearts as well. Do we have genuine salvation or a false salvation? Are their fruits in our lives? If we truly abide in Christ we will bear good fruit. Take time and examine your life, are their fruits in your life that line up with the Word of God?

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Jan. 6

John 3:1-21- You must be Born Again

This is a great passage of Scripture. In this passage, Christ lays out the plan of salvation. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews came to Jesus and wanted to know who Jesus was and Jesus presents the Gospel to him. Christ told him, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Now obviously Christ is not talking about literally being born again, but spiritually. Before we think about being born again, the Lord gives us the means of being born again. Christ said in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." The only way to be born again or have new life is belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When a person truly believes or puts their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, he or she will be born again or they will have a new life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Anyone in Christ Jesus is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new." You will be a brand new creation and that is what it takes to enter the kingdom of God. We receive the new life only through Jesus Christ, but we better evident that new life by the way we live. If we are not a new creation then we must examine ourselves to see if we truly accepted Christ as Savior. Now the question we need to ask is why doesn't everyone believe in Christ? The answer is also found in this passage, men love darkness rather than light. So take time and examine your life right now, have you been born again; do you have new life, or do you love darkness rather than light?

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Memorize John 3:20-21

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Jan. 7

John 3:22-36- We must decrease

In this passage we see one of the greatest displays of humility apart from Jesus Christ. John the Baptist had the correct mindset even when people came to him with an argument that could have led him to be bitter or proud. John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified – behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!" They were a little envious of Christ and saw Him as their competitor. See John had the right mindset, he realized who he was and he realized who Christ was. John answered them and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. He must increase, but I must decrease." John realized that he was the one who was to testify of Christ and he was given that responsibility from above. He realized that Christ needed to be exalted and not himself. John went on to say, "He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all." God is above everything and everyone else and no one can compete with Him. We must realize this and instead of putting ourselves on a pedestal, we must put God on a pedestal. May we wake up every morning and quote John 3:30 to ourselves, "He must increase, but I must decrease." May we preach that to ourselves all day every day, realizing that our lives need to be about Christ and not us.

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Jan. 8

John 4:1-26- Our Hope is in Christ

In this passage we see that Christ has a chance encounter with a Samaritan woman. Hopefully you caught the fact that I said chance encounter, we must realize that nothing is by chance, but God is completely sovereign and He orchestrates all the events that take place in our lives. So this encounter with the Samaritan woman was God ordained. Christ asks for a drink and she starts off by saying that Jews and Samaritans have no dealings with each other. Christ's response was to point to Himself. Then later on in the conversation Christ points to the hope that is found in Him alone. Christ says, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." We must realize that all hope is only found in Christ. We may think that we can find hope in things on this earth, but that is not true. We may also put our hope in things on this world, but if we do that we are in for disappointment. Right now I want you to write out why there is great hope in Christ and write the name of the person you are going to share the hope of Christ with.

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Jan. 9

John 4:27-42- What food do you eat?

What food do you eat? That may be a weird question, you might be thinking, well I eat all kinds of food. I guess a better question relating to this passage is this, "What do you desire?" After Christ told the Samaritan woman about the hope that is in Him alone, she went and told others about it. Which is the correct result, when we hear of what Christ has done and learn something new from Scripture, why would we ever want to hide it, no we need to run tell everyone else about it as well. After she told others about Jesus, they all wanted to see Christ for themselves. While all the people were showing up to see and hear Jesus speak, his disciples thought that Christ should eat. I love Christ's response, He said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." See Christ had one desire and that was to do the will of God and He did that perfectly, even going to the cross and being forsaken by God. See that was Christ's food and that is why I asked you the question, what food do you eat? What do you desire to do? Do you desire to hang out with friends, your boyfriend or girlfriend, do you desire to play sports, video games, watch TV, or do you desire to know God more and do His will and live out His Word? May we all desire to live out God's will in order to please Him. We must also realize that God's will is the Word of God. So take time right now and right out some of God's will that you are struggling to obedient to and confess that as sin.

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Jan. 10

John 4:43-54- Do you have faith in God

When Christ came to the earth He did not want to be recognized as a miracle worker, but the Savior and Lord of the world. When Christ came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast. Jesus went to Cana of Galilee where He had turned the water into wine and a nobleman came to Him asking Him to heal his son. Christ's response was this, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." Christ was right on, if they didn't see Christ do great things then were not going to believe in Him and this proved they had false faith. Back in John 2 it said that many believe in Christ, but He did not commit Himself to any of them because He knew their hearts. They only believed His signs and His words. The passage right before this we see the complete opposite. The Samaritans believed in Christ because of Christ's own words. They didn't see Christ's great signs but they heard His words and believed in Him. Do we have true faith in the Word of God? Do we believe that God's Word is the inerrant Word of God and has everything pertaining to life and godliness? God's Word tells us of Christ and what He has done for us and continues to do for us; God's Word also tells us how to live in order to please God, now the question is do we believe it? If we truly believe God's Word our lives will show it and we will live out His Words.

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## Jan. 11

John 5:1-23- Live According to God's Word

In this passage we see a man who has been lame for 38 years and resting by the pool of Bethesda. An angel would go down at a certain time into the pool and stir up the water and the first person in the pool would be healed. The man couldn't get into the pool before anyone else, but when Christ saw him, He knew that he had been in this condition a very long time which proves that Christ is all-knowing as God is. Christ told the man to rise up and walk and the man took up his mat and walked and then we are told that this was the Sabbath. But we see that Jesus is God because He is all-knowing and He heals people. Christ also tells the man to sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon him. The basic thrust of Jesus' comments here indicates that sin has its inevitable consequence. Because Christ healed on the Sabbath and the man walked with his mat they accused Christ of breaking the laws of the Sabbath. The Old Testament had forbidden work on the Sabbath but did not mention what work. The assumption in Scripture seems to be that the work was a person's customary employment, but the Pharisees had developed many other activities that were forbidden on the Sabbath which included carrying anything from one place to another. They were blaming Christ for causing this man to sin. The Pharisees were making up rules in order to make themselves look better. They were completely self-righteous, thinking that they can cause themselves to be more righteous. See Christ wasn't enough for them, but they thought they needed works to make them righteous as well. We must realize that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone, and Christ gives us His Word to tell us how to live the Christian life. Let's just stick to the Word of God and not add rules to try to make ourselves more righteous.

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Memorize Romans 3:21

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Jan. 12

John 5:24-30- What is True Salvation

Christ says in John 5:24, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." Christ says later on in John 5:28-29, "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." Our salvation is by hearing the Word and believing that God sent His only son to die on the cross for our sins and rose again. When we believe that, we will confess our sins and manifest repentance, by submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and living out His Word. We must realize that Jesus is not teaching salvation by works. In this passage the good is believing in Him so as to receive a new nature that produces good works, while the evil that is done is to reject Christ and hate the light, which has the result of evil deeds. In essence, works merely evidence one's nature as saved or unsaved, but human works never determine one's salvation. So have you put your faith in Jesus Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection for your sins and has that resulted in good works? Because in the end you will either have eternal life or eternal condemnation.

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Jan. 13

John 5:31-47- Is God's Word Abiding in You?

Christ is the Messiah that the Old Testament talked about. Not only that but His works proved that He was the Messiah as well. There were people that only believed in Jesus because of His great works, but Christ did not commit Himself to them because He knew their belief was superficial. Then there were people, like the Samaritans who heard Christ's words and believed in Him. Then there were people who knew the Old Testament Scriptures but still not believe that Christ was the Messiah. But listen to what Christ says in John 5:38-40, "But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life." See that third group of people thought they knew God's Word, but since they didn't believe in Christ it was very evident that they didn't. Those who truly believe in Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Word will abide in them and they will strive to live it out. Jesus says in John 5:42, "But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you." If you don't believe in Jesus Christ, it will also be very evident that God will be the source of your love and His love would flow through you by confession of sin and others will be the object of your love. Take time and examine your life, do you believe what the Word says about Jesus Christ, do you believe in Jesus Christ and evidencing that the Bible is abiding in you and the love of God is flowing through you?

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Jan. 14

John 6:1-21- How do you respond to trials?

Ford tests Chevy trucks to see how bad they are, but Ford tests Ford trucks to see how good they are. That is the same with our testing or trials that we go through. God allows us to go through trials and Satan is seeing how bad we are but God is seeing how faithful we are. He is seeking to strengthen our faith. In this passage Christ feeds 5,000 people, actually that was just the men so that number was probably much larger. When Jesus saw the great crowd, He looked at Philip and asked, "Where shall we buy bread that these may eat? The very next verse says, that Christ said that to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Christ posed this dilemma as a way of testing the disciples to strengthen their faith. Philip's faith along with the rest of the twelve was found lacking because Philip responded hopelessly. Andrew at least tried to find a solution and he found a boy with five loaves of bread and two fish. But Andrew's faith collapsed as well as he considered the enormous problem by asking, "But what are these for so many people?" No one responded by affirming the power of Jesus to provide. How do we respond to trials, do we respond like James and Peter wrote about? We need to consider it complete joy when we fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of our faith produces endurance. And when endurance has its perfect work in us we will be spiritually mature and lacking nothing, because endurance produces character and character produces hope. Peter tells us that we need to greatly rejoice even though we will suffer for a little while by various trials, because those trials will prove our faith and result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Respond in joy to your trials because the Lord is strengthening your faith.

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Jan. 15

John 6:22-40- The Bread of Life

After Christ fed the five thousand many people traveled all over to find Jesus. When they found Jesus this is what He said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." The people were just searching for Jesus because of their superficial desire for food and miracles and they missed the true spiritual significance of Jesus' person and mission. They were not moved by full hearts, but by full bellies. Christ knew of their physical need for food, but He was more concerned for their Spiritual needs, that is why He points to Himself as the bread of life and if they have Him they will never hunger or thirst again spiritually. After Christ told them about pursuing the bread of life, they thought they needed to do some kind of works in order to earn eternal life. Christ told them that salvation is not by works, but only through Me. They also asked for a sign and again Jesus pointed to Himself. What do we want in life? Do we want physical nourishment, are we interested in having worldly fun, earthly relationships, or sleep over a relationship with God? We must realize that Christ is the Bread of Life and we need Him and nothing else. But is Christ enough for you or do you need something else in this world? Realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God. God is all we need and let's live like it.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
- Make your requests known to God.

What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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How can I apply my life to what I just read?

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What is my game plan to live it out?

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Jan. 16

John 6:41-71- Are you with Christ?

In this passage we see that Jesus talks about the fact that He is the Bread of Life again and anyone who eats of that bread will live forever. Christ says, "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. He who eats this bread will live forever." Christ is not saying that people literally need to eat His flesh and drink His blood. Jesus' point was an analogy that has spiritual, rather than literal, significance: just as eating and drinking are necessary for physical life, so also is belief in His sacrificial death on the cross necessary for eternal life. The eating of His flesh and drinking of His blood metaphorically symbolize the need for accepting Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. For some people however, a crucified Messiah was unthinkable. Once again, some people in their willful and judicial blindness, could not see the real spiritual significance and truth behind Jesus' statements. After Christ's teaching many people turned away from Him, not that Jesus was not unaware, He knew that was going to happen. Christ turned to His disciples and asked, "Do you also want to go away?" Peter answered by saying, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." The question you need to ask yourself is, do you want stay with Christ or turn away? If you want to stay with Christ you will believe in Him and live out His word because they are the words of eternal life. It is amazing how many people turn away from God when they are presented with something in Scripture that they don't like, how do you respond? Lord willing all of our responses are in complete humility and confession of sin.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
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What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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What is my game plan to live it out?

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Jan. 17

John 7:1-24- What are you all about?

In this passage we see where the hearts of Christ's brothers are. Christ's brothers told Him to go into Judea, that His disciples also may see the works that He was doing. His brothers went on to say, "For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things show Yourself to the world." His brothers had no clue what Jesus was all about. They thought Jesus was about making Himself known so that He could eventually be an earthly king. But Christ was not about making Himself known at all, but the truth of God known. Listen to what Christ says to His disciples, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself, seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him." See Christ was not about making Himself known at all, but He was about making the will of God known, which is the truth of His Word. So that question that I am going to ask again, "What are you all about?" Many times we make life all about making ourselves known, because we are all about our glory rather than God's glory. Christ's main concern on earth was glorifying His Father in heaven by doing His will and that is how we need to be as well. Take time and think about the ways you can make life all about yourself, and confess the sin of selfishness and pride in your life and seek to manifest repentance in your life.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
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What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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What is my game plan to live it out?

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Jan. 18

John 7:25-39- God's timing is perfect

We must realize that everything that happens is in God's perfect timing. Everything that happened with the nation of Israel was planned by God. Christ starting His earthly ministry was started in perfect timing. His death was going to be in perfect timing. In this passage Christ again says a very true statement that He is God. Some of the Jews thought that was completely false and anyone who claimed to be God deserved death. But what those Jews didn't realize, was that Christ was the coming Messiah. Since they didn't believe Christ and what the prophets said regarding Christ they sought to take Him and kill Him. John 7:30 says, "Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come." Those people couldn't lay a hand on Jesus because God was in control. Everything was in God's control and in His timing. Here is another thing, no one was going to take Christ's life, but Christ was going to lay down His life willingly. Also part of Christ's perfect timing is the giving of the Holy Spirit. When Christ ascends into heaven, then He was going to send the Holy Spirit to indwell believers in order to live in such a way that pleases God. So we must realize that everything that happens in our lives, regarding our trials, is a perfect gift from God and happens in His perfect timing. So instead of complaining about that, we need to rejoice in those trials and in the fact that God is working on us so that we can be conformed in the image of His Son. So how do you view your trials or what is going on in life? Do you realize that God's timing is perfect and that is exactly what you need at that particular moment? Rejoice in God's work in your life.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
- Make your requests known to God.

What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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What is my game plan to live it out?

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Memorize Romans 8:28

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Jan. 19

John 7:40-53- Don't stand on your own opinion

After Christ did many miracles and taught in many places, people wanted to know who He was. Some people said that He is the Prophet or the Christ. But others said how can he be the Christ, will the Christ come from Galilee? Then they quoted some of the Scriptures saying that the Christ will come from the seed of David from the town of Bethlehem. Those people who didn't believe in Christ wanted to take Him and kill Him. The Pharisees went to the officers and asked why they have not taken Christ, and they responded by saying, "No one ever spoke like this Man." Because of Christ's teachings of the Word of God, the officers realized that there was something different about Jesus. But the Pharisees who stood on their opinion of who the Messiah was going to be said that they were also deceived like all the rest of the people. They had the hardest problem believing that Christ came from Galilee but listen to what Matthew writes in Matthew 2:22-23, "And being warned by God in a dream, he (Joseph) turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene." The Pharisees truly did not know the Scriptures. Also people from Nazarene were looked down upon, but that fits Christ perfectly, He was a man of humility. We must not be proud and stand on our own opinions because that is exactly what the Pharisees did regarding Jesus. In every situation we must stand on the Word of God. When we stand on the Word of God that will bring unity in every situation and we will be doing what pleases God.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
- Make your requests known to God.

What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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Jan. 20

John 8:1-20- Walk in humble forgiveness

In the beginning of this passage we see a situation that happens many times in today's age as well. A woman is caught in adultery and we are not condoning adultery or minimizing it at all. God hates all sin, but we must realize what happens. The Pharisees were hypocritically judging this woman and they brought her to Jesus in order to test Him. They were not concerned for this girl's spiritual life whatsoever; they thought they were way better than her and their hidden agenda was to trap Jesus in order to kill Him. The Pharisees brought up the Law of Moses and said, "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do you say?" Moses' law does say that, but I love how Christ responds He says, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." Everyone because of Christ's conviction ended up leaving and no one threw a stone. They all received a good dose of humility in this passage, but even Christ who was perfectly righteous says, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." Christ was and is forgiving. Christ forgives us and remembers our sins no more and He separates us from our sin as far as the east is from the west. We must forgive as Christ forgives. We must not look down on other people thinking that their sin is way worse than ours, but we must realize that we are all sinners and walk in forgiveness. Since the perfect and holy Christ walks in forgiveness, we forgiven, sinful Christians better walk in forgiveness as well. We are all sinners saved by grace. Take time and praise God for His forgiveness and walk in humility realizing how much you have been forgiven.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
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What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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Jan. 21

John 8:21-36- Do you believe in Christ?

In this passage Christ says some pretty bold and scary but also very true statements. Listen to what He says to some of the Jews, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sins. Where I go you cannot come." Christ goes onto say, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." Since they did not believe that Christ was God, they were going to die in their sins and the same is true of us. So the question we need to ask is, do we believe in Christ, that He is the Son of God and that He died, was buried, and rose again for our sins? There is also great evidence that we truly believe in Christ. Christ says, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Those of us who say we believe in Christ, do we abide in His Word and does His Word abide in us? Are we living out the Scriptures? If we live in sin, guess what, we are sin's slave, but if we abide in the Word of God we will be free from sin but a slave to God and His Word. We must realize that we are slaves and our master is whomever we obey. Do we live a life of sin or a life of obedience to God? Please take time right and examine your life. Do you believe in Christ and are you obedient to Him? The Pharisees were blinded and we don't want to end up like that, so strive to live a life that is pleasing to God.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
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What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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Memorize John 8:31

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Jan. 22

John 8:37-59- Do you hear the Words of God?

Christ continually hammers on the Pharisees. The Pharisees were telling Jesus that they were the children of Abraham, but Christ told them the truth. If you were the children of Abraham then you will be doing what Abraham did. Abraham believed in God and His promise and looked to the day of Jesus Christ. The Pharisees sought to kill Jesus, that is the exact of opposite of Abraham. If they were truly the sons of Abraham they would have believed that Christ was the Son of God, but they didn't. Christ went on and told them who their real father was. Christ said, "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." Christ told them that their real identity is in the devil because they want to kill Jesus rather than believe in Him. If they were also the children of Abraham they would understand the Word of God. Christ says, "He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God." They didn't understand God because they were not of God. The question we need to ask ourselves is this; do we understand the Word of God? If we don't understand the Word of God then we must examine ourselves and see if the Holy Spirit truly indwells in us, because if He does dwell in us, we will understand Scripture and strive to be living it out.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
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What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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Jan. 23

John 9:1-12- God's Glory Will be Revealed

This is a great passage that talks about God's main purpose in life and that is to receive glory. We as believers must realize that life is not about us, but it is all about God's glory. God doesn't save us in order to spend time with us for eternity, but He saves us in order that we might live for His glory; so that people see our good works and glorify Him. There was a man who was born blind and his disciples ask, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" We can see from that question that there can be physical consequences such as illness or blindness because of sin. Christ responded by saying, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." His blindness wasn't caused by his sin, but he was born blind in order to show God's glory. Whenever something terrible happens like a big earthquake or a tsunami people make the comments that the Lord must not care for people to let them go through that terrible disaster. But God is just revealing how glorious He truly is. Do we realize that God is about His glory and are we reflecting all glory to Him? When we do things and people recognize it, we better respond by giving God the glory and not ourselves, because in and of ourselves nothing good dwells. No matter what God will be glorified and we must realize that, so let's make it our goal now to live for God's glory.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
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Jan. 24

John 9:13-34- Fear God and not Man

There are a lot of great things to learn from this passage. The Pharisees did not believe that the blind man was actually healed, but they believed that he was a different individual, so they brought his parents in. Listen to what his parents say, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak of himself." They did not want to talk of how great Jesus is. John tells us why they said this, "His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue." His parents feared man rather than God. His parents would rather please men than speak of the greatness of Jesus Christ. We can be the same way. We would rather look cool in front of others than talk about how Christ is at work in our lives. The blind man realized who Jesus was and what Jesus did for him and he was ready and willing to share what Jesus did. Do we realize how much Christ has done for us? If we truly did then we would be like this blind man and be quick to share Christ with others. The blind man also teaches us how God will hear us, he says, "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Let's fear God and worship Him; let's be obedient to God's will and He will hear our prayers."

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
- Make your requests known to God.

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Memorize John 9:31

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Jan. 25

John 9:35-41- Spiritual sight or Spiritual blindness

Pharisees asked Christ if they were blind and Christ's response must have surprised them. Jesus' point was that if the Pharisees would confess that they were spiritually blind (thereby admitting their need for Christ, the true Light) they would have no sin, because it would be forgiven. Unfortunately, the Pharisees were like those of whom Solomon said, "Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him?" Many by stubbornly refusing to admit their blindness doomed themselves to darkness forever. Since the Pharisees were unwilling to acknowledge their blindness, but claimed to see, they remained unforgiven for all their sin. Jesus' pronouncement that their sin remains carries with it a sense of finality. If we like the blind beggar, acknowledge our spiritual blindness and turn to the Light, will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life. But if we, like the Pharisees, persist in loving the darkness rather than the Light will continue to wander aimlessly without any spiritual vision. If we are characterized by the first group we are destined to spend eternity in the glorious light of heaven; the latter will be condemned to the horrifying darkness of eternal hell.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
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What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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Jan. 26

John 10:1-6- Jesus the True Shepherd

There is a big difference between the True Shepherd and a false shepherd. The True Shepherd enters through the door while whoever climbs up some other way is a thief and a robber. The True Shepherd will protect his flock. The True Shepherd calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. The True Shepherd gives his sheep an identity. Not only does the True Shepherd call them by name and lead, but he goes out before the sheep. The true shepherd will go out and make sure everything is safe and if there is something out there that might harm the sheep, he is going to be the first one that meets up with it. The True Shepherd gives His sheep confidence. We also see something about the sheep of the True Shepherd. The sheep follow him wherever he goes, because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; instead they will flee from strangers because they do not know their voices. Christ is our True Shepherd; He calls us by name and gives us an identity as a child of God. He leads us through the Word of God. Christ goes before us and protects and we can put our confidence in Him. Just as David put His confidence in God when he fought Goliath, we need to put our confidence in God as well. As sheep of Jesus Christ, we will follow Christ no matter what because we will know His voice. We will know what God's Word says and we follow that no matter what is going on. We will not follow strangers or listen to what other people are saying against God's Word because we will remain faithful to the Word of God. Do you know the True Shepherd and do you follow him and know His voice?

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
- Make your requests known to God.

What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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Jan. 27

John 10:7-21- Jesus the Good Shepherd

Jesus is not only the True Shepherd, but He is also the Good Shepherd. There is a great difference between a shepherd and a thief. A thief only comes in to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. But the shepherd makes sure that the sheep have life and that they have it abundantly. There is a big difference between a good shepherd and a hireling. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. But the hireling or the hired hand who does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because he is only there for money and does not care about the sheep. The Good Shepherd on the other hand is not there just for the money, but He cares for the sheep and loves them. Praise the Lord for Christ and how He cares for us. That needs to be the same mindset as a pastor. Pastor's should not be just about money, but they need to be about the people and loving them and protecting them no matter what happens. Here is what I want you to think about right now, how do you view serving others or how do you view those at church. Do you want to get to know them and do you care so much for them that you would do anything to protect them or are you going to run away when there is a little bit of adversity? Let's imitate Christ when it comes to our church and let's protect and come alongside others to help strengthen their walk with Christ.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
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What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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Jan. 28

John 10:22-42- Are you a true sheep?

In this passage we get great verses regarding eternal security. Christ says regarding His sheep, "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand." True sheep will never be able to be snatched out of Christ's or God's hands. But Christ says right before that, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." True sheep hear the voice of God and they are obedient to it. But unbelievers will not hear God's voice, they will not understand Scripture and they will not be obedient to it. The Jews in this passage asked Christ, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Christ told them over and over again prior to this that He was the Christ, not only did He tell them but He also showed them through His miracles. Christ also says in John 10:30, "I and My Father are one." He did exactly and told them exactly what they wanted to hear, but look at their reaction in verse 31, "Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him." They did not understand or believe in what Christ was saying because they were not true sheep, only true sheep hear God's voice and does what He says. So the question we need to ask ourselves is this, are we true sheep? Do we understand Scripture and are we obedient to it? As true believers we will be able to understand the Bible and we will be living it out. If you don't understand Scripture or are not living it out then take time to examine your salvation. Galatians says, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
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What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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Memorize John 10:27

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Jan. 29

John 11:1-16- Follow Jesus Wherever and Whenever

In this passage we again see that everything is for God's glory. We must realize that everything that happens is not about us, but it is about God's glory alone. Regarding Lazarus' sickness and death Christ says, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and the disciples were going to see God's power on display and see Him raise Lazarus from the dead. But in order to raise Lazarus from the dead, Christ had to go to Judea. The problem with Judea was the fact that the Jews sought to kill Jesus there. But Christ wanted to go there in order for them to see the Light. There is a great example we need to follow in this passage and that is Thomas's example, listen to what he says, "Let us also go, that we might die with Him." Thomas is known in history as "Doubting Thomas", but there was much more to him as his words here reflect love, devotion, and courage, in spite of his pessimism. His negativity led him to believe they would die if they went to Jerusalem. On the other hand, his love for Jesus was so strong that he was willing to die with Christ. Thomas was an example of courage and strength to the rest of the wavering disciples. Following his bold leap, despite their doubts, they all went to Bethany with Jesus. Are we going to follow Thomas's example and follow Jesus anywhere even if it means our death? If we are true Christians, then we will be committed to Christ; let's live that commitment out.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
- Make your requests known to God.

What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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Jan. 30

John 11:17-37- Hate your sin and run to Jesus

In this passage we see that Lazarus died and Christ goes to visit Mary and Martha. Near the end of the passage we see that Christ groaned in the spirit and was troubled. This phrase actually has the meaning of anger, outrage, or indignation. Jesus appears to have been angry not only over the painful reality of sin and death, of which Lazarus was a beloved example, but perhaps also with the mourners, who were acting like the pagans who have no hope. The Lord was actually troubled because of the sin of the world and the lack of hope in Christ. We also see that Jesus wept. Jesus' tears were generated both by His love for Lazarus, and by His grief over the deadly and incessant effects of sin in a fallen world. See Christ hated sin so much and we need to as well. But Christ was not hopeless, because He was going to manifest His claim as the resurrection and the life. See we need to hate our sin and run to Jesus Christ in confession of our sin, because He is the One who can forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We must put our hope in Jesus Christ and the forgiveness we receive in Him. So instead of us walking around in the guilt of sin, let's run to Christ and confess sin. Instead of us walking around like we are perfect, let's humble ourselves and examine our lives and confess sin. All our hope is in Jesus Christ.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
- Make your requests known to God.

What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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How can I apply my life to what I just read?

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What is my game plan to live it out?

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Jan. 31

John 11:38-57- Does God hear your prayers?

Before we get to the main point I want to talk about, notice how some of the Pharisees responded about what Jesus did with Lazarus. They said, "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." They were concerned about their name and not the glory of God and His plan. That is the exact opposite of Christ, He wanted to build God's kingdom alone. In fact Christ says to Martha, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" See Christ was all about people seeing the glory of God and not His miracles. Another point that I like about this passage is what Christ said before He raised Lazarus from the dead, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always here Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said, that they may believe that You sent Me." See Christ was confident that God heard His prayers. He realized that God cared for Him and desired to listen to His prayers and had the power to answer His prayers. The question we need to ask ourselves is this, how can we be confident that God will hear our prayers? We can be confident that God will hear our prayers if we live in confession of sin. If we have sin in our lives, then the Lord does not hear us, but if our sin is confessed, then the Lord will hear our prayers. We also must pray regarding the will of God. Take time and read Philippians 1:9-11 and Colossians 1:9-12 and see how Paul prayed for others. So let's live in confession of sin and pray in the will of God and be men and women of prayer.

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Prayer time:

- Praise God for who is and what He has done in your life
- Pray for God's heavenly kingdom to come and that He will use you as a tool to draw people to Him. Pray that you will submit yourself to God's will.
- Confess your sins to God and pray for repentance.
- Make your requests known to God.

What is the writer saying in this passage and what does it mean?

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How can I apply my life to what I just read?

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What is my game plan to live it out?

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