CHRISTIAN WALK & DISCIPLESHIP

We're looking at scripture that we can use to encourage our husbands in their Christian walk. His "*walk*" is simply the pattern of his life. I'm sure we're all praying for a wide variety of husbands from unbelievers all the way to the spiritually mature. If you're praying for an unbelieving husband, I want you to remember:

> **1 Corinthians 7:14** - *For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.*

He isn't saved by your faith but he is uniquely positioned and set apart for a special working by the Holy Spirit, by virtue of being so close to someone who is a Christian. So keep praying. Miracles still happen. If you want more scriptures for praying for Unbelievers, you can check out *Scripture Book Vol 1*.

For the sake of organization, I've tried to categorize these scriptures based on the natural progression of spiritual maturity and I used Deuteronomy 10 as a general guide for this:

> **Deuteronomy 10:12** - *"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*

This categorization is only my feeble attempt to feed you this information in a more organized/bite-sized way. I'm not sure if it would get you an A in your theological discipleship class so let's just roll with it.

Let's look at this Deuteronomy scripture closer.

1 - SALVATION - First, it talks about fearing the Lord. I summarize this to be a realization for a need for a Savior and forgiveness. Perhaps this is the phase where one becomes a believer and the Holy Spirit begins to dwell inside them.

2 - LEARNING - Second in the text is the command to "*walk in his ways*." This is the learning of God's law and of spiritual disciplines like prayer and devotion, and finding community.

3- IMITATING - Then, the text says to "*love him*." This is where relationship is developed. Treat him like your new BFF; the more you hang out with one another, the more you will become like Him, similar to how a marriage works. Birds of a feather flock together, except God is the stronger personality and you're going to conform to Him, not vice versa. Through this development of relationship, the daily sanctification journey begins and we practice putting off the old-self and putting on the new man. We also begin to walk by the Spirit as we imitate the virtues and actions of Jesus.

4- SERVING - Lastly, Deuteronomy says to "*serve the Lord.*" This is where our fruit begins to bear in the form of loving our neighbor, committing ourselves to good works, and serving others around us.

The ultimate goal of all of this one thing: **love**. If any of these actions or commands are done without love, it is worthless and a waste of time, so love should be the heart posture and motivation behind every single directive that we're going to cover.

> **1 Corinthians 13:13** - *So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

I'm on page 168 of *Scripture Book Vol 3* and we'll skip around but cover most of these verses today. As I read through all these scriptures, I thought about what part of the Christian walk each verse may represent and it caused me to reflect on my own personal journey through this walk.

I lived "in the world" until the end of 2018. I battled depression, suicidal ideation, lust, self-hatred, and I was simply stuck in this unending quest of trying to figure out who I was and where I belonged. It was January 2019 when I had my Damascus Road moment. I had been invited to a women's retreat by my neighbor. The fact that it was Jesus-focused was actually a deterrent but I wanted a break from my toddlers more than I wanted to stay away from Jesus, so I went with the intention to just get away but that's where God met me.

After that weekend, I had no idea what I was doing. I was saved (and I really didn't even understand what

that meant but a lot of people made a big deal about it.) So now what? Immediately after the retreat, my neighbor hosted a Bible study and invited me. I had no idea how to look up scripture or read through the poetic imagery of the Word (I'm a pretty literal person so poetry and metaphors isn't an easy read for me).

After being saved in a moment, I was immediately put into community and began to learn the extreme basics of what being a Christian meant. For the rest of 2019, I started reading faith-based, non-fiction books that people recommended to me, like *Case for Christ* and *A Praying Life*. I became really hungry for the word and even began working through 8-week Bible study books on my own. I found myself eager to get up before the sun and sit at my desk for an hour or two and work through the workbooks. They were teaching me so much about how to read scripture, apply it to my life, what certain verses meant, and the importance of context and cultural understanding.

By the end of 2020, I had read a whole stack full of books! I was told often that my hunger for God was not "normal" for a new believer. Well, I didn't know what "normal" meant and I quite literally had an almost overnight stripping away of old friends once I came to Christ so at this point, my only friends were the people I met in Bible study.

In 2021, two and half years after my Jesus moment, I began my experiential journey. That's where the rubber met the road and where I was put in a situation that I had no choice but to rely on all the head knowledge that I had been drinking in and put it into practice. That was where I heard and saw God speak to me so clearly and so persistently that my faith took off like a rocket. It bubbled up in my heart and mind to the point that I couldn't help but tell everyone about what God was doing in my life. But not from a prideful, "look at me!" perspective. It was more like, "wow! Look at God! I had no idea this was even possible, did you?! Let's share our God-stories with each other!" It was awe and excitement. That's when I really began understanding and experiencing the power of the words of the Bible.

This season of intense sanctification was filled with hardship as well as overwhelming blessings, and through it, I became so much more confident in who God was. And here I am now, doing my best to fight insecurity to record all these videos in the hopes that He teaches you just how powerful His word is too and hoping that you can find the same depth of comfort in the words of the Bible that I have.

I had no intentions of sharing my personal journey but as I was trying to figure out how to begin this lesson, I saw myself in the stages of Deuteronomy 10:12. The lines of each stage are quite gray and it often it feels like 2 steps forward, 3 steps back, but if I zoom out—real far—I can see that I have generally taken this Deuteronomy 10:12 path. So let's get started.

SALVATION

I'm not going to spend much time on this one because this topic is really about walking the walk of Christianity rather than becoming saved. But if you're praying for your husband's salvation, you should check out the Unbelievers scripture list in *Scripture Book Vol. 1* or download the individual file from the website. But there is one verse on this topic that mentions the true posture necessary to be born again and it's a good foundation from which to begin our prayers.

> **Matthew 18:3** - *and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

This speaks on the humility necessary to really come to Jesus. For a lot of us, this comes when we hit rock bottom. The simple fact is, we don't try to change our lives until we get the rug swept out from underneath us. In these moments of humility, it's easier to understand what it means to become like children because it's place where we can see our own weakness. In Jewish society, children were of no importance. They weren't threatening or good at deceiving. They were weak. And here, Jesus tells us that we'll never enter the kingdom of heaven unless we become like children.

Praying for my husband in this area might look like thanking God for calling him and humbling his heart to a childlike posture. I might even include a line that asks the Lord to remind my husband that this is the disposition God desires for him if ever he begins to walk independently again.

Like I said, check out *Scripture Book Vol 1* to dig in more for praying for unbelievers and for their salvation.

LEARNING - Spiritual Development & Growing Up

After I had my moment of salvation, God didn't throw me to the wolves. He knows relationships take time and trust has to be earned. I had a good 2 1/2 years of learning and gained a little experiential knowledge along the way. I was learning who God *really* was and rewriting the wrong teachings I had assumed about Him.

I remember believing that God seemed to be sitting on the edge of His seat waiting to punish us and if I just said, "nah, I'm not on your team" or "I'm not playing the game," He would leave me alone. Looking back, that seems so weird but the image I had of God honestly came from the people who were supposed to reflect him to me. I grew up where church was a rule on Sunday and I would often get the chastised if I looked too tired or my wardrobe was not up to par. I remember one time my grandmother was teaching me to take communion and I was given strict instructions with a very stern face to not chew the wafer or make any kind of look of disgust after drinking the wine. We even practiced in the kitchen.

The God I knew in my childhood was very strict and judgmental, because that's what was modeled to me. So before the Lord and I took off on any kind of grand gospel-centered missions, I had quite a bit of relearning to do.

Luke 2:40 talks about the necessary spiritual development that even Jesus had to go through. It says he "*grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.*" I'm noticing more these days that people, especially kids, have an expectation that whenever they try something for the first time, they should be perfect at it. Maybe that's just my kids. They have a hard time understanding that more often than not, "talent" begins with a deep seated desire more than skill. That desire then causes the person to practice more and more because it brings them joy and over time all those reps culminate into a what we outsiders view as talent. As a creative person, I've experienced this many times. People don't see the hours of studying technique or the number of pieces of paper in the trash can. They don't see the number of reps it took to get to the final art piece. They see the final piece and think, "Wow, you're naturally good at that!"

In my personal story, I had a lot relearn and even more things to learn. But it wasn't like studying for a test where the information it enters the short-term memory part of your brain and then dumps it all when you no longer need the info. God wanted to build a foundation and it takes concrete a while a to fully dry and cure, so the learning phase was not something I could treat as a cram session.

As **Psalm 37:31** says, when the law of God is in our heart, our steps won't slip. It takes a lot of reps to write the law of God in our hearts, but there's great promise that comes with taking the time to develop in this area.

If your husband has some relearning to do, be patient with him. Pray for his patience and humility because it also takes much humility to realize you've been wrong.

Here's a practical example of what spiritual development could look like. Flip to **Acts 17:11**. Paul was teaching and there were a group of Jews listening. This verse says "*they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*" So they heard Paul words and went immediately to the scriptures to vet him.

When we hear a new pastor preach, what's the first thing we talk about after it's over? Whether or not we considered him a good orator or did we like his delivery. We already know from reading 2 Corinthians that Paul was judged for his physical appearance and his not-so-eloquent delivery. People assumed from of the power and weightiness of his letters, that Paul would be this crazy good public speaker.

But this group of Jews didn't even take notice of what their eyes saw. They went straight to the words of God to test this new guy's validity and I think that's pretty noble. They also didn't make quick work of it. The text says they tested his words against God's *daily*. I'm going to make an amateur assumption here that they didn't yet have God's law written in their heart because if they did, they might have been able to test Paul's word immediately from their head knowledge, rather than spending everyday in research. But I'm not certain of this.

I don't want my husband to blindly follow every teaching he hears related to God. I want him to develop a heart that desires to seek out the Truth. The fact that this group of Jewish men went directly to the scriptures is something I want my husband to imitate also. They didn't ask around and gather in group discussion or hearsay. They went straight to the source. I also want my husband to learn the true character of God from God himself, not from what the people around him believe.

Shortly after Paul's experience with these Jews, he reflects back on his experience with the people in **2 Thessalonians 1:3**. Paul praises God for their growing faith, but they weren't just growing within the average curve. He commends them because their faith was growing abundantly! And the fruit he could see from such abundant growth was their love for one another.

If your husband is increasing in the knowledge of God and you see growth in his character, even if it's very subtle, I encourage you to use this scripture to write a prayer of thankfulness to God for His work in your husbands life. When we're in the middle of the growing, it can be hard to see how far we've come. When someone else points it out to us, it can be a refreshing reminder that the work we've put in is visible on the outside too.

And if your husband seems stalled in his journey from Salvation to Learning, you can use this verse to write a prayer of faith that God IS at work in his life and you're so thankful for the abundant faith that will surely come.

This Learning phase is what Paul calls spiritual infancy; when the believer can only handle drinking spiritual milk and he's not quite ready for solid food yet. **1 Peter 2:2** speaks about this development from spiritual milk with a reminder that we must grow up out of that phase. We can't stay babies forever. We must walk with the Lord through sanctification because that's where the fruit begins to bud and His word goes from head knowledge to experiential heart knowledge.

This phase is also where we can gain the perspective that Psalm 119:71 gives us.

> **Psalm 119:71** - *It is good for me that I was afflicted,*
> *that I might learn your statutes.*

Prior to learning the heart of God, it can be hard to understand why we go through suffering. We might think "how could God let this happen?," but as we learn more about His character, we begin to develop spiritual eyes that see God's bigger purpose for allowing hardship. In this Learning phase, we might be able to look back at previous situations and be able to say, "Wow. That season was awful but I can see how going through it brought me here, where I can understand God's laws to a deeper level. It makes so much sense now."

I might write a prayer for this that thanks the Lord for using the hardships in my husband's path to bring him to this point where he is learning how gracious of a God He is.

Hebrews 6:1 is a call to load up into Paul's Maturity Train. We are not supposed to get stuck at the Elementary Doctrine Station. We are supposed to move ahead to the next stop on the Christian walk. Once our husband has begun the process of learning all about God, His character, His laws, and His heart—having built the foundation— there will come a time when God says, " It's time to put a structure on this piece of concrete," because what good is a slab of rock if it has nothing to support? What good is it to have learned all this foundational doctrine of God and not put it into practice in real life and allow it to change us? This verse is the call to keep charging full steam ahead and we can use it to pray for our

husbands to encourage them to walk further up and further into their relationship with God.

Walking this Learning phase can be scary. Beginning to share our faith with the people around us can create a lot of fear in our minds. "What if we get it wrong? What if we fail? What if they judge me? I don't understand how it all works together. I can't answer simple questions of faith or the how and why's of why God does the things He does." Head to **2 Thessalonians 2:15.** Paul says to *"stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us."* He's saying, "trust what you've learned and when you stumble, remember the building blocks that you were taught."

I remember really early on in my journey, about 6 months after having my come-to-Jesus moment. My kids were toddlers and they were in a 3 hour summer camp in the morning. There wasn't enough time between drop off and pick up for me to justify driving all the way back home, so I would pack up my tote and sit at nearby Starbucks for a couple hours while I did my morning journaling, drawing, and working on whatever Bible study book I was doing at the time.

One particular day, I found a table near a woman who seemed to have just come from shopping. She had a couple large Container Store bags with her and she was really put together in her makeup and beautiful earrings. As I settled in, she commented on my purse which struck up a conversation that ended up lasting the full duration of my summer camp break. Come to find out, she was homeless and those shopping bags were filled with her belongings.

With only 6 months of Bible learning under my belt, I was not equipped to give her any kind of theological pep talks or to even tell her how much God loved her because I was still figuring that out for myself. But the Bible Study I was reading at the time was *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer and I remember the Lord giving me the perfect opportunity to share with this woman what I had been learning. I wasn't called to witness to her, lead her to salvation, or correct any wrong thinking she had. What little learning I had, He used. And when I think about the phase of crossing the threshold from Learning to Imitating, I'm reminded that even when I'm scared, God has prepared the way. He meets us where we are. He doesn't put Goliath in front of us until we've learned how to use our tools to take down bears and lions. He doesn't throw us to the wolves. And because I know that with my head, I can make the decision to step forward even when I don't feel qualified to.

IMITATION

Imitating God is where a whole lot of work is done in the spiritual walk. There are a ton of verses available to encourage and comfort our husbands in this area of their life starting with **Ephesians 5:1** where we are called to be *"imitators of God"* and to *"walk in love"* as Christ did for us. God's behavior toward us becomes the measuring stick for our behavior towards one another.

Let's go back to Jesus's early life. **Luke 2:52** says that Jesus *"increased in wisdom"*. He was born the Son of God yet, He had to grow into that as Luke 2:40 mentioned, and now we're reading that not only did He need to increase in wisdom in the same way He increased in His physical stature, but He also increased in the favor of God. Jesus himself, Son of the living God, not only had to read, memorize, and be taught the scriptures, but He also needed to continue progressing in order to gain more and more wisdom from them. That's where we are focusing our prayers for our husbands now: his implementation of the things that he has learned: *turning head knowledge into wisdom through experiential knowledge*.

Using Jesus's Tools

Matthew 11:29 shows us that we're to imitate Jesus by taking off and putting down our yoke that's independent from Him, and strapping ourselves into Jesus's yoke. I read a book called *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* and the author approached this verse in an interesting way. A yoke is a tool or an instrument of labor. It was used to strap 2 oxen together so they could pull the weight of a very heavy load together. Verse 28 says *"come to me all who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest."* The author pointed out that the last thing a weary person needs is a tool for more work. A weary person needs a vacation! But that isn't what Jesus promises here. He promises to give us a different tool that's better equipped to handle the heavy load we're carrying.

Story time: My husband uses vice grips for everything. Rather than going to get the proper tool for the task at hand, he'll grab his vice grips and make them work for just about any man-job. But here's the problem: when he uses vice grips on bolts or other twisted on tight things, they slip and strip the edges of the piece he's trying to take off, like a bolt. This wasn't what vice grips were designed for so my husband will often struggle harder than necessary and he'll also mess up the bolt he was trying to loosen all because he didn't want to take the extra time to find the proper tool for the job.

This is where Jesus says, "I have the perfect tool for what you're going through," and he asks us to put our

vice grips down because we're struggling more than we need to and we're also making a mess of things. He doesn't promise to eliminate our task or situation but He does promise to bring the toolbox with the perfect tool for the job and this is what I want my husband to glean from this verse: that in times of hardship, he remembers that Jesus's yoke gives us the ability to walk through it with the least amount of energy and mess ups. I'm also praying for his humility, courage, and a teachable heart that he needs in order to pick up a different yoke.

For my husband, maybe it's his pride that keeps him from grabbing the proper tool for the job thinking he can make it work. Maybe it's his laziness; he doesn't want to stop what he's doing to go sift through wrenches or sockets to find what he needs. Maybe he's trying to prove something to himself, I have no idea, but what I do know is that you and I can do the same thing when it comes to real life situations. Laying down our preferred tool to pick up a new, unfamiliar tool of Jesus requires faith and that's where **2 Corinthians 5:7** comes in: *"for we walk by faith, not by sight."*

I'm praying that in everything, but especially in times of suffering, that my husband takes a pause. Like that verse from our discussion a couple weeks ago about money: **Proverbs 23:4** - that he would *"…be discerning enough to desist"* and take a moment to pause and examine if he's strapped into Jesus's yoke or if he's picked up his vice grips again.

Putting Forth Effort

Luke 13:24 tells us that we are all on a timeline, the ending of which nobody knows. We are to *"strive to enter through the narrow door."* A commentary I read said "the doorway is narrow so we cannot squeeze any unnecessary things through it. This verse also uses the word "*strive*" which means to agonize over. We are to put forth an effort and purpose to enter it because there are many obstacles trying to keep us from entering this door. The verse goes on to say, *"for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."* This could be that their timeline ran out before they made that decision, or they let the cares of the world distract them, or maybe they were not rooted in the Truth and the enemy carried them away. For whatever reason, our husband should hear this verse as an urgent call and motivation to continue to fight the good fight.

Here in the Imitation stage, we've acquired much head knowledge about our God and now we're putting it into practical application in our life, walking through the sanctification process where we're being formed

more and more into the image of Christ, and Paul gives us some pretty clear protocols to follow through with:

1 Timothy 4:7 calls out our tendencies to participate in nonsense child's play and instead we are to "*train*" ourselves "*for godliness*". This emphasizes that our devotion and commitment to walking like Jesus should be a strong dedication to and no less than that of an athlete training for the Olympics. Our focus should be that of the Jews in Acts 17:11 - holding everything to the plumb line of God. It's easy to get swept away by great orators or pastors who come up with catchy one-liners or even influential people who place the truth of God in the wrong context. Paul tells Timothy to do away with all that nonsense and focus on working out his faith with a single-minded commitment like that of an athlete working towards the gold medal.

I want my husband to also have this kind of prioritizing of his own personal growth with Jesus, that he would desire only the truth and be able to quickly discern flattering words and half-truths. This would be fantastic for our family! Think about how better equipped he would be to address disciplinary issues with our kids or walk them through hard subjects like heartbreak or relational tiffs, and how much better of a friend and confidant would he be as well?

A few lines later in **1 Timothy 4:15-16**, Paul tells Timothy to watch over his own actions very closely so he can set an example for all the people who are looking to him for guidance. Leaders are held to a higher standard and Paul was preemptively warning Timothy that as much as his words and actions can set a good example, they also have the potential to lead the people to astray.

For our husbands, he is head of the household. He has big shoes to fill as the leader of our little family flock so it's his responsibility to watch over his own steps closely so that those of us trusting him to lead won't be led astray. This is especially true for his children. You and I, as wives, have a responsibility to also be in the word and imitate Jesus through our own Christian walk. We're also to trust our husbands to lead us and in order for him to do that righteously, he's going to need prayer.

Being Sanctified

Paul is on a role with his advice so let's keep going. In **2 Timothy 2:21,** he lists some benefits for walking the narrow path. This verse is actually in our *Clean Your Heart* prayer. This cleansing that Paul speaks of

refers to a self-cleansing that is needed for service, so the verse is implying that in order to be an effective minister of the gospel, we need to proactively and routinely clean ourselves from what is dishonorable. Our husbands may need this reminder, especially if he tends to struggle with not thinking of others as much as he thinks of himself. This makes me think of the song by Josh Wilson called *Self Less.* It's a bop; you should give it a Google.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 starts out with *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification;"* This particular passage is Paul writing to the Thessalonians in regards to the sexual immorality of the Roman culture but verse 3 through 7 is a good charge for all of us to deny our fleshly urges and follow the Lord in holiness, doing away with any impurity in our conduct, exercising self-control in all areas, walking in holiness, and treating our fellow neighbors righteously.

Abiding

John 8 gives us a verse with an if/then statement:

> **John 8:31** - *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,*

The call here is to "*abide*". R.V.G. Tasker, a divinity professor at The University of London back in the first half of the 1900s, wrote this about what it means to "abide":

> *"Welcoming it, being at home with it, and living with it so continuously that it becomes part of the believer's life, a permanent influence and stimulus in every fresh advance in goodness and holiness."*

If we abide, then we will truly be His disciples. Many of us can say "I believe" on Sundays but then go back to the world on Mondays. In **Matthew 15:8**, Jesus is calling out those that honor Him with their lips but their hearts are far from him. For our husbands, we want to encourage them to abide and be a true disciple. In a previous video, I mentioned that I like to look up the original Greek or Hebrew words because it helps me to 1) understand the original meaning better, but 2), it gives me alternate ways to phrase my prayers without rewriting the verse verbatim.

Here's how I looked up "*abide*". The first step is to find the Strong's number associated with the word. You can do this many ways but if you hop on the Blue Letter Bible website, pull up the verse, then select the checkbox labeled "Strong's" on the menu, it will give a number next to every word. If you click that number, Blue Letter Bible will give you all kinds of information including definitions and other places where it's used. Personally, once I find the Strong's number, I pull out my *Complete Word Study Dictionaries* and look it up. I'll link this series of books in the description. I prefer the definitions they provide over the Strong's concordance definitions; they're a little more in depth most of the time. Now I have some alternate words to use in my prayer.

"Thank you Lord for teaching us to abide. I know my husband desires to walk close with You but having one foot in Heaven and one foot in the world can be challenging so I ask that You give him a deeper hunger to linger with You and dwell unhurried. When he spends time with You, quiet his mind of the tasks for the day that he may take full advantage of the peace that Your presence brings."

Walk the Walk

1 John 2:6 is another verse about abiding and says: *"whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."* This phase of the Christian walk requires us to not just speak Jesus from our mouths but to walk the walk. If learning about Jesus is not changing your outward actions, I invite you to travel deeper in your relationship with Him.

I appreciate this next verse.

> **Jeremiah 6:16** - *Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'*

The Lord gives them this metaphor about searching roads. I imagine being stranded on one of those flat deserted roads that spans from horizon to horizon. You strain your eyes to see past the highway mirage in search of any sign of help. You look left, then right. You may even yell. God is using this same imagery for his people to search for His righteous way which seems to have been lost through the generations. He tells them to "*ask*" for the "*ancient paths*", which was the Mosaic tradition because there is wisdom in the old ways of God's word. Then the Lord gives them an if/then statement. *If* they ask for the ancient path and walk in it, *then* they will find rest for their souls.

My prayer for my husband here might be something like this, "Wherever, whenever my husband might feel lost in his decision making, I pray he takes a moment to stand by the road and ask for Your ancient path. Root it in his heart that there is life and rest when he walks in your ways."

Denying Self

Back to Luke and the life of Jesus, let's look at **Luke 9:23**. We are called to deny ourselves and live as others-centered people, as opposed to "looking out for number one," "every man for himself," "CYA", or "charity begins at home".

In Roman culture, to carry your own cross was a one-way ticket. Nobody ever came back from that journey. It was also very much involuntary. But here in this verse, Jesus's tone is that of a voluntary action. In this world, the involuntary part are the circumstances that come up on us. We don't get to pick those—sometimes we help create them though. When we find ourselves involuntarily in the middle of a storm, Jesus is telling us to deny ourselves and pick up our cross. To follow His ancient paths. To yoke ourselves up with His perfect tool for the situation.

My prayer here might focus on asking the Lord to give my husband a heart that is committed to the Jesus way in all areas of his life, and that he become more generous with his resources and selfless in his thinking knowing that God is the ultimate provider of everything he has and He promises great blessings to those that seek the ancient path and walk through the narrow door.

The New Man

Romans 6:4 says this death to self results in being able to walk in a "*newness of life*".

Ephesians 4:20-23 is the reminder that this denial of the old self is a breaking up with the past and the new self is a totally unrelated new creation, free from all the chains that were keeping the old self down. This verse is a charge to radically change our conduct whether we feel like a new man or not. This is the part of the Christian walk where we obey and then the feelings come later. We now have the mind of Christ, but we need to remember that that sneaky old self really wants screen time but he's been fired. His badge has been deactivated. He no longer has any access or privileges to our new life. In the same sentiment as "dressing for the job you want", we need to behave like the new creation that we are. This takes a lot of denial to self and renewing of the mind and the only way we can do this is through Christ's power in us.

To pray these verses for my husband it might go a little something like this: Thank you, Lord, for calling my husband to be one of your followers. This freedom is a miracle but acting like we are free can be like learning to ride a bike for the first time. In the same way that you rescued the Israelites from bondage and had to teach them how to live free, you have rescued my husband. Wherever he may struggle to walk in the freedom of his new self, I ask that you speak to that place and bring it to his mind so he can remember that those old ways of thinking don't have access to his new life now. Give him the discernment and courage to identify and do away with the old self if it tries to resurrect.

Reaching Maturity

1 Corinthians 13:11 & **14:20** express the call to grow up into maturity and not stay stagnant or content with drinking spiritual milk. We are told to give up our childish ways and reasoning and become mature in our thinking. This feels like the biblical expression of "oh, grow up" or "stop acting like a baby". There comes a time when our maturity level needs to match our age. The way this is done is through the conviction of the Holy Spirit inside us reminding us that God has great plans for us and He has a calling and purpose and we can't continue to coddle ourselves in our old ways. We have to grow up in every way (**Ephesians 4:15**), put on the attitude of the new self, and walk in a manner worthy of the calling God has called us to. (**Ephesians 4:1**)

This development into spiritual maturity isn't an overnight change; it's a journey. It's playing the long game. **Hebrews 5:14** explains that spiritual solid food (as opposed to milk) is for the people who have sought God in their dealings for a long time, having had "*their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*" Choosing right from wrong in any given situation is an ability that takes routine and faithful practice to develop.

SERVING - with Love

I said in the beginning that Love was the ultimate goal. When love fills our heart, it will overflow onto others and the work God has assigned us will be fruitful. This often looks like serving, pouring into others, or simply being loving to a stranger in a hard and calloused world. This last phase of Serving takes all the head knowledge and all the wisdom we've been building through real life experiences with God, and pours it all out onto others.

> **2 John 6** - *And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.*

In every thing, in every decision, in every way. Love. And sure, some people may take advantage of that so we have this tendency to guard ourselves against being genuinely loving as a way of self-preservation but we're told to do everything as if we're doing it for Christ and not for man so we have to trust that when we are loving, it may leave us vulnerable but Jesus is more than able to comfort and we know that when we are obedient to Him, He rains down blessings on us. So I'd say it's worth the risk.

Romans 12:10 says we are to "*love one another with brotherly affection*" and "*outdo one another in showing honor*". Not just to love each other passively but to almost compete in it.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 goes on to give us more practical advice for engaging with others: *"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."*

Address the unruly with wisdom, encourage those who are insecure or timid, help those who need a hand, and to do all this with patience. A true mature Christian should be able to love and help difficult people. I pray my husband gains clarity of mind and wisdom through his daily interactions with the Lord so that he's able to speak patiently and justly to those who are out of line, encourage those who feel ill-equipped, and uphold those who simply need helping hand.

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:1 talks about desiring the spiritual gifts. Receiving dreams, visions, and prophetic words of knowledge about a situation or person that you don't know anything about would be amazing! Gentiles would call it magic or clairvoyance. Those kind of gifts we are told to earnestly desire but Paul makes sure to remind us where this ambition belongs in the grand scheme of things: below our love for one another. He says that if we have this amazing God-given gift of speaking in the tongues of angels but we don't have love, we are nothing more than a noisy, obnoxious person—Paul says we would sound like a clanging cymbal and I'm picturing a toddler with a stick and drum set. So love trumps our calling, our gifts, and everything else because God is love and if we are walking the Christian walk without it, our efforts are worthless and there will be no good fruit.

May our husbands have love as their foundation in everything they do and every decision that they make.

In Adversity

When love leads, God's power is unleashed to do a good work in those around us. **2 Timothy 2:24-25** is Paul spelling out how Timothy should act as a follower of Jesus. He shouldn't "*be quarrelsome but kind, patient, and enduring through evil*" with "*gentleness*". Those old-self knee-jerk reactions and adverse responses to triggers have no place in the life of a leader. It's important that we remember when we choose the Jesus way, even when it's uncomfortable, it gives God a toe in to that persons heart and it could lead to their salvation.

I was at the little league ball park one afternoon. My husband was coaching so I was sitting in the stands alone with a bunch of strangers. There was a dad/son duo in the row above me and to my right. I don't even remember what they were talking about but it was deep and it had something to do with actions and behaviors and the philosophy surrounding it. Normally, I steer clear of any philosophical conversations because my brain does not usually work like that (I say "usually" because I'm trying to give God room to change me if He wants to but in the past, I've never been able to keep up with that kind of dialogue.) Something they were talking about made me think of Exodus when Jethro is giving advice to Moses. I debated on whether I should keep it to myself. Nah, they seem nice enough. So I interjected with my little Bible fact. Well, we ended up spending the rest of the game talking about God and the church and what "Christians" do. Typically in conversations like this, I can get real impatient. I know in my head what's right but I have a hard time forming the words so my communication of what I want them to know isn't always great. That struggle fills me with tangible impatience in my body which then seeps out through the tone of my voice. But this day was totally different! I was cool, calm, and collected and the words came when they needed to and the tone of my voice was on point as well, even when we were talking about touchy subjects like stereotypical Christian fails. I could also tell in his responses that the God I serve wasn't the same God he pictured in his head, even being a pastor's son. I got the feeling that it was refreshing for him to speak to someone who had a totally different experience with God than him. I can only pray that our conversation maybe cracked the door for this man to get a glimpse of the real God like verse 25 suggests could happen.

This is the kind of situation I imagine 2 Timothy 2 may be referring to and I want to pray my husband is also able to communicate and engage with others like this in not only a supernatural or divine favor way,

as I feel was a lot of the case in my situation, but also in a learned practice way, having done this over and over and now his knee-jerk responses have been replaced with love and gentleness. I pray that for myself too!

Bearing Fruit

We looked at **2 Peter 1:8** last week but it's worth another mention. It lists a lot of qualities that Jesus has and we are to imitate them but this verse says our imitation of these qualities is not just a one and done thing, but we should be continually increasing them, becoming more and more like Christ everyday. And here's the if/then statement: If we are faithful to do that, then our effectiveness and fruitfulness will prosper—AND—if we practice these qualities, we will never fall. This whole verse talks about our development through the Christian walk and the security in life that it promises us.

If you already highlighted this verse for Temptation, you can skip it or you can add another flag on it for this topic and add some to your prayer. When you find a verse that is applicable for more than one topic, you can double flag it or you can simply pick which topic it applies most to and keep that flag on there. Personally, I feel that there are too many topics available to feel the need to double up on any, but if a particular verse is really speaking to me and I've already flagged it, I will not squelch the Spirit and I will simply add to my prayer or even add a sticky note to the page if I've run out of room in the margin.

Leadership

1 Peter 5:2-3 talks of "*shepherding the flock*" that is around us and using great discernment and self-control to lovingly and patiently lead others and to be their example. If love is not the foundation of our husband's heart, something else is and that something else will eventually seep out and potentially stain the sheep the Lord has put in our husband's care. This could be shepherding your family, the workplace, or even the group of friends he surrounds himself with.

One of the virtues I remind my son about is that he is a strong and confident boy with a good head on his shoulders. He needs to be courageous and bold to not allow peer pressure to cause him to do anything he knows is not right and he can actually use his strong and confident personality to lead other people to make better decisions. He's only 10 so It's a work in progress but we can do the same thing for our husbands who might not see the actions or disposition of others as "peer pressure", but they could be having the same effect on his heart and mind.

So to pray this verse for my husband, I might write something like: "Thank You for the leader You have created my husband to be. May he always be willing and eager to help others in their walk with You, taking time out of his day to listen and be an example for those who look up to him."

When our husbands are in a position of leadership, all eyes are on him. **Titus 2:7-8** is the warning from Paul to Titus to be on guard as to how he conducts himself around others. By having allowed his power of discernment to be regularly exercised, Titus is now able to show himself to be "*a model of good works*" through the integrity and dignity of his teachings. He is also able to use sound judgment in speech so that anyone who wants to refute him has no basis for their complaints. This reminds me of Daniel. We talked about **Daniel 6:4** a couple weeks ago when we talked about honesty and if you remember, he had zero skeletons in his closet! That's the kind of life Paul is encouraging not just our men, but all of us to have.

Through Christ's Power

All this might sound like a whole lot of work but let's remind our husbands that it's not through his own human ability that he is to remember to do all these things, but through the power of Christ in him. In **Colossians 1:29**, Paul says he labors and struggles with all the energy that Christ gives him. **Philippians 2:13** also tells us that it's not our own will power but God inside us that compels us walk out the tasks He gives us with the proper attitude. And if we are to do everything as if we are doing them for the Lord, let us not miss that Paul is not going about his work half-heartedly, hoping that grace will fill the gaps where he is too lazy to work himself. He is continually giving his full faith effort in all areas. May our husbands be so inclined and convicted to do the same.

Community

With all this love that our husbands have learned to express, he better have a place where iron can sharpen iron and love can be shared with his peers. **Colossians 3:16-17** says at this level of his walk, he should be in community with others, admonishing one another, and worshiping the Lord out of an abundance of gratitude for what He's done in his life.

You may have heard me talk about the Bible study I've been a part of for the last several years. It's a 3 year discipleship class and it's changed my life. After I graduated in April of 2025, my husband decided he needed to be part of it too! He is currently in 2nd year and graduates in the Spring of 2028. Being in a room with other peers who are sold out for Jesus will change the way you walk with Him. They have

taught me to wield His word as a weapon, to pray with full faith and declaration, and most of all, they have shown me what true love acts and looks like in the context of friendships. It's learning to love through disagreements and how to choose and pick your battles and which hills you will die on and which hills aren't even worth the climb. (That's a trick question; the only hill worth dying on is Calvary. All other hills are distractions or temptations from the enemy.) We'll get into praying for our husband's friendships in a later video and if you want more scriptures to pray for his Community and the importance of not isolating, you can check out *Scripture Book Vol 1*. Similarly, in *Scripture Book Vol 2*, there's a whole lot of scriptures about Relationships which talks about how we are called to treat one another.

I pray my husband finds a safe group of men, that he learns to be vulnerable and shares his concerns with them and that they are able to hear from the Holy Spirit to give him encouragement and comfort through God's word so when he returns home, his cup has been refilled and he is better equipped to lead our household righteously.

Humility

Finally, let's end with **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**: *"and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one."*

Paul is telling the people to live a life that is contrary to the entertainment and excitement chasing life of the culture. Our husbands have a lot of pressure on their shoulders to lead and be responsible for a whole family unit, so as much as we're going to pray this verse for our husbands, we need to take hold of it for ourselves too. If we're praying that he aspires to live a quiet life, then we also need to be in alignment with that. Maybe this looks like tightening the belt of what can go on the family calendar or how many activities to allow the kids to be part of. It might also look like saying no to social events, large purchases that are more of a "want" than a "need", or even trading in social media for a quiet night of conversation or a card game. If we're asking our husband to quiet his life in order to make more room for him to hear God, we can't be simultaneously filling his schedule or asking to purchase new furniture. This creates a conflict of interest if he wants to do things God's way, but he also has a busybody wife that makes living a quiet life all the more difficult. So wives, let's pray this for our own hearts first, and then for our husbands.

CONCLUSION

From salvation to elementary learning, experiential imitation, and finishing with walking in maturity and discipling others, we have found that the New Testament is rich with directives and practical advice for walking out a life the Jesus way. It's also helpful to pray for our husbands in the season they're currently in, encouraging them to stick with it and reminding them of grace whenever they fall short.

There are still many verses that we didn't get to touch on but I'll leave those as little treasures for you to find on your own. I hope this week's lesson gives you a better idea of how important our husband's Christian walk is and how we can support him through prayer to help him along the way, no matter what phase of his walk he is in.

I know a prayer Bible can seem daunting at first, but I pray you have found a steady pace for these last few weeks because we are half way through! Keep writing 2-3 prayers a day (use your Polite house 20 minute candle to help you stay focused!), and the Bible will practically build itself in the form of a Prayer Bible with 140-180 handwritten prayers when it's finished.

Subscribe to this channel to be notified about next week's video as soon as it's available and don't forget you can get your *Scripture Book Vol 3* copy at the link in the description below. Thanks for tuning in and I'll see you in the next video!

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CLEAN YOUR HEART

Use this on days that feel hard or create a daily rhythm of surrender and begin every prayer session with it.

This is not a moment to perform, produce, or prove anything. Quiet yourself before God and intentionally lay down pride, distraction, control, and any known sin. Confess what Holy Spirit brings to mind. Release your own agendas, assumptions, and expectations. Choose humility. Choose obedience. Ask God to empty you of self so He can fill you with His Spirit. Do not move forward until your heart is surrendered and your spirit is yielded.

Lord, thank your calling me to draw near to You in this way.[1] Your Word says the prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working[2] and You hear the prayer of the righteous.[3] I know my sins have made a separation between You and I.[4] If I cherish sin in my heart, You, Lord, will not listen.[5] Therefore, let me test and examine my ways.[6] Lord, weigh my spirit,[7] for even a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough.[8] Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting![9] Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.[10]

[Selah - pause, listen, repent, forgive, receive grace]

Thank you for cleansing me from what is dishonorable, that I am a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to You, and ready for every good work.[11]

[1] James 4:8; [2] James 5:16; [3] Proverbs 15:29; [4] Isaiah 59:2; [5] Psalm 66:18; [6] Lamentations 3:40; [7] Proverbs 16:2; [8] 1 Corinthians 5:6; [9] Psalm 139:23-24; [10] Psalm 51:10; [11] 2 Timothy 2:21

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