



260
Appointments
With God

New Testament in One Year
I & II Corinthians
(Daily Devotion)

QUIET TIME - QT 5 X 5

260 DAILY DEVOTION SCHEDULE (I & II CORINTHIANS: NOV. 2011)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10/30	10/31 Lk 23	11/1 Lk 24	11/2 1 Cor 1	11/3 1 Cor 2	11/4 1 Cor 3	11/5
11/6	11/7 1 Cor 4	11/8 1 Cor 5	11/9 1 Cor 6	11/10 1 Cor 7	11/11 1 Cor 8	11/12
11/13	11/14 1 Cor 9	11/15 1 Cor 10	11/16 1 Cor 11	11/17 1 Cor 12	11/18 1 Cor 13	11/19
11/20	11/21 1 Cor 14	11/22 1 Cor 15	11/23 1 Cor 16	11/24 2 Cor 1	11/25 2 Cor 2	11/26
11/27	11/28 2 Cor 3	11/29 2 Cor 4	11/30 2 Cor 5	12/1 2 Cor 6	12/2 2 Cor 7	12/3
12/4	12/5 2 Cor 8	12/6 2 Cor 9	12/7 2 Cor 10	12/8 2 Cor 11	12/9 2 Cor 12	12/10
12/11	12/12 2 Cor 13	12/13 Rom 1	12/14 Rom 2	12/15 Rom 3	12/16 Rom 4	12/17

For browsing or download:
<http://www.peoplesgospelchurch.org/devotional/>

WHAT IS QT 5 X 5?

QT – Quiet Time with God

5 Days of devotion each Week. Use the other two days for make-up or Scripture Meditation:

When you have QT, you spend:

- **5** minutes to quiet down, then read the passage slowly,
- **5** minutes to think over the passage asking the Holy Spirit to show me the relationship between the passage read and my present situation, as well as appropriate response.
- **5** minutes to pray and journaling.

Check this on How to have a devotional time?
www.discipleshiptools.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=36981

5 SHORT PRAYERS:

Throughout the day, you pray one or more of these 5 prayers:

- God, I belong to you.
- Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.
- Lord, save me.
- Father, I thank you.
- Lord, I love you.

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

If possible, read the whole chapter to see the full picture of what is happening here. Then focus on the following section.

1 CORINTHIANS 260 DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER 1

20Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

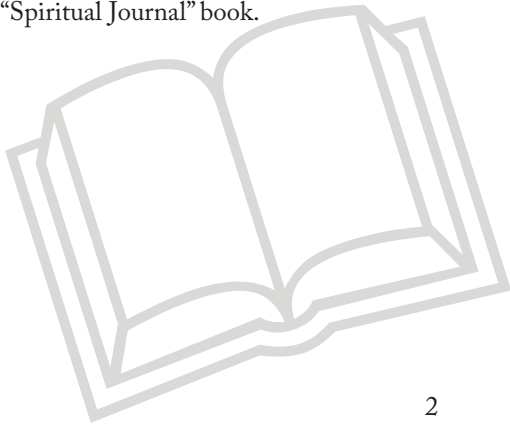
26Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29so that no one may boast before him. 30It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

MEDITATION

1. What pictures come to mind when thinking about powerful, successful people? How do these ideas sometimes conflict with following Christ? How have I confused the world's wisdom with God's wisdom?
2. Have I witnessed a situation where God used the weak, lowly, and despised to fulfil his plan of salvation?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 2

10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. 14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. 15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 16 for,

“Who has known the mind of the Lord

so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

MEDITATION

1. Are there some non-Christians around me who don't know God and refuse God's message? No matter how smart they are, it's difficult for them to understand the meaning of Christ's salvation. They may often think my decision to follow Christ is foolish.
2. How do I face these people, especially my family and relatives?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 3

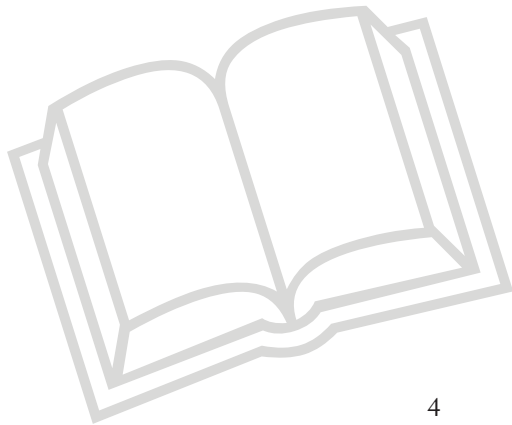
10By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

MEDITATION

1. The metaphor of the building indicates that, first, we're workers with God. And second, we're worked upon by God. We're both the builders of the church and simultaneously part of the church that is being built. We're constantly in a state of both being the church and becoming the church. When we pour our lives into the work and we become the actual materials for the church that God is building. Under the direction of the Master Builder, we are being transformed. An insignificant and even a rather ugly brick becomes a significant part of a beautiful structure, built to the glory of God.
2. Pray -- Ask God help me to be his faithful worker in building his church, also to cooperate with his formation work in me to become more and more like Christ.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 4

8Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings—and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you! 9For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. 10We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! 11To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. 12We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; 13when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.

MEDITATION

1. Paul mocks the Corinthian Christians' claim that they've achieved spiritual perfection by contrasting their condition with his suffering for the gospel. Spiritual pride is an indication that we are insecure or afraid of life's uncontrollable ambiguities. Trust in God's absolute reliability will aid in times of sorrow and serves as a guide when all is well.
2. What does "trust in God's absolute reliability" mean to me? Have I experienced God's faithfulness? What was it? Thank God for that experience again. Pray for the increase of my trust in God.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 5

6Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? 7Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

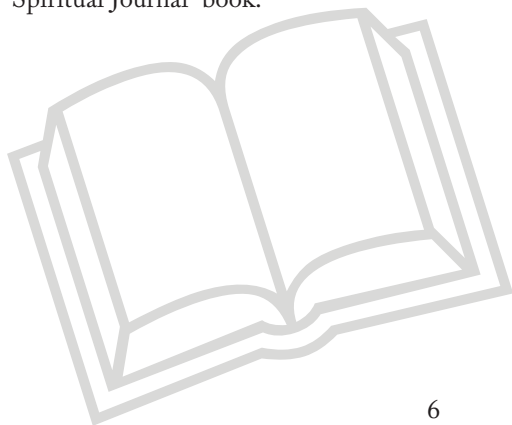
9I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

MEDITATION

1. The Word of God is relentless. It insists that we face up to our sin. Whether that sin is indolence, idolatry, or immorality, we must face it squarely and deal with it decisively. For if that diseased part of the body is not dealt with, not only is the individual member of the body at risk of dying, but it also puts the entire body at risk. Paul urged them to sever all relationships with those sinning people. His purpose is for the protection of the church lest they be led into the same sinful trap.
2. When I wanted to point out inappropriate behaviours of someone in the church or cell group, Lord God, please remind me to examine my own behaviour and thought life first. Then, give me a deep mourning for them and their sins.
3. What will happen to my attitude when I mourn for them and others? How would this affect the prevention of sin's "yeast effect"?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 6

9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

12 "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

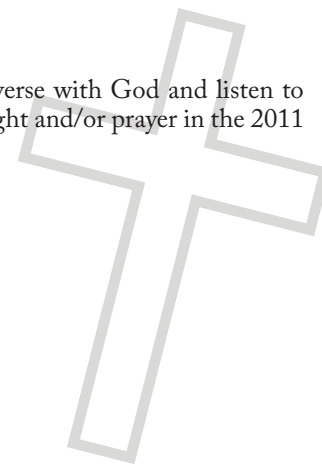
18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

MEDITATION

1. The newspaper, television and roadside billboard are all covered with sexual images. How do I see these things? Nothing wrong? Uneasy but couldn't help it? Disgusted and turned away?
2. Silently think of my own body. It's for God and belongs to God and united with God. Listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to me, pointing out any unclean, unjust behaviour or thought. Ask for forgiveness and God's help to "glorify God in my body".

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 7

17Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. 20Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to.

MEDITATION

1. We'd like to think that our married status, vocational status, economic status make us who we are. These are important but not essential raw materials which God uses to shape his life in us. So, Paul told them don't wish to be someplace else or with someone else. God, not your marital status or any other thing, defines your life (v17).
2. What are some of the things that I'd like to have changed in my life? Would verses 17 & 19 provide some direction and principle? Tell God about it and, if needed, contact your pastor for further help.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 8

1Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. 3But the man who loves God is known by God. 4So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. 5For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), 6yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 7But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. 9Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

MEDITATION

1. Is there something in my life that when I exercise my freedom, it becomes a stumbling block for others? Drinking? Clothing? Music? Lifestyle? Political viewpoints? Legalism?
2. Lord, is there someone stumbled because of my freedom? As I pause to listen, bring the person to mind...

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 9

23I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

24Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

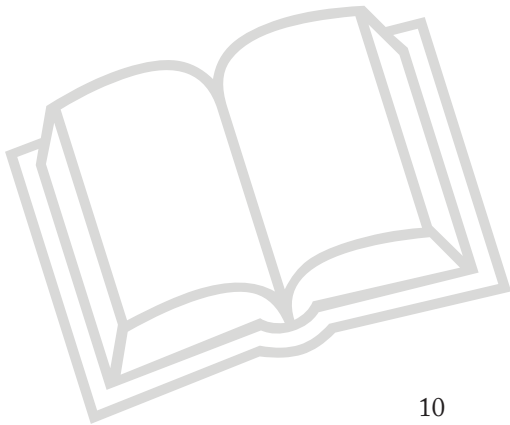
25Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

MEDITATION

1. Can I appreciate the urgency Paul shows for this race of the gospel? Right now, am I a runner or a spectator? Do I long for the crown (trophy) that God is going to reward me?
2. Talk to God about my role right now, ask Him to help me prepare for the race.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 10

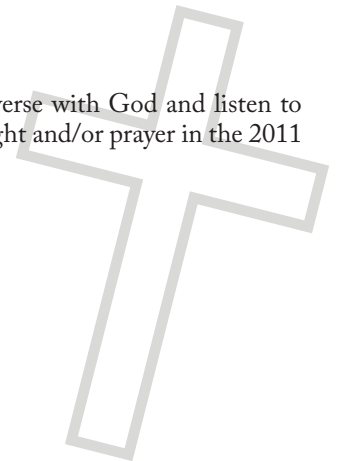
1For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3They all ate the same spiritual food 4and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. 6Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 7Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” 8We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. 9We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. 10And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. 11These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. 12So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! 13No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

MEDITATION

1. Temptation is the pressure to take our own way, to indulge ourselves, to spurn God, to plunge into doubt or despair, lust or anger, to give in to our own feelings and let them draw conclusions about our worth based on what other people say about us or what we say about ourselves. It’s an ever-present pressure. Sometimes it’s from others, and other times it’s from within. But Paul says not to worry for God will never let us down, never let us pushed past our limit. He will be there. Always. Not as a lecturer but as a Helper.
2. What temptations do I most consistently have to face? Does v13 encourage or frustrate me? Why?
3. Tell it to Jesus and ask His help in acknowledge His ever-presence with me and helping me to overcome this particular temptation.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 11

23For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

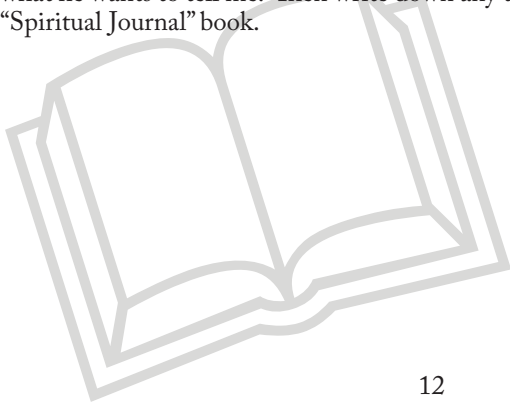
27Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. 29For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 32When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

MEDITATION

1. The communion service is a memorial. As the Israelites ate the Passover meal, each family relived the experience of its ancestors. Today through the bread and cup, we return to the foot of the cross. So, in the communion service, as we are united with Christ through faith, we share His death and His resurrection. “Do this in remembrance” invites us to experience the awesome moment when our salvation was won. It invites us to experience the holy God and to offer Him our thanks, our worship, and our praise.
2. If possible, kneel down to pray. Tell God all my gratitude and other emotions for all that Jesus has done on the cross for me. During next communion service, remember to take Communion “in remembrance” of Jesus and His Sacrificial Love.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 12

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

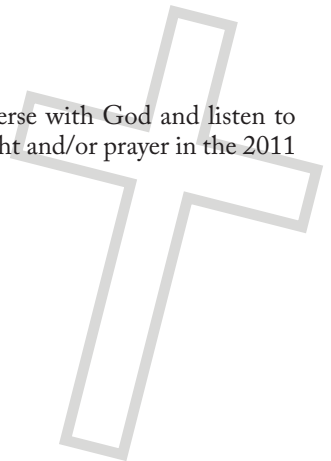
21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

MEDITATION

1. Paul used the image of the body to explain our relation to one another. We’re all parts of the body of Christ. Whoever you are or whatever your spiritual gifts are, you are “indispensable” (v22) to the others in your church, and in the church.
2. What is my reaction when some other Christian gets recognition and honour? Or when someone is suffering? Do I rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep (Rm 12:15)? Or am I jealous of those who rejoice and apathetic to the weeping?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 13

4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. 11When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. 12Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

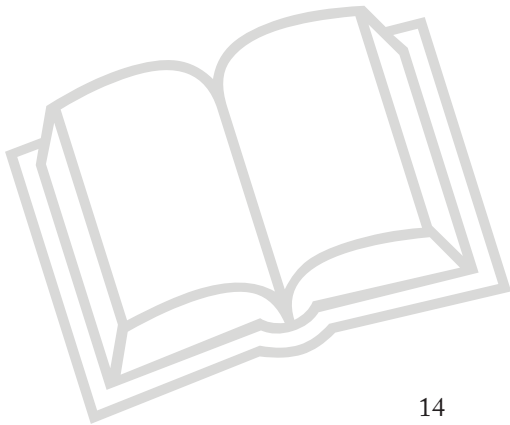
13And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

MEDITATION

1. True spirituality has nothing to do with one's gifts, training, or performing skills. The truly spiritual person is the individual whose attitude and actions express love.
2. Copy verses 4-7 on an index card, memorize it, or bring it out to review often. Examine my own attitude and actions often to see if there is any love expressed.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 14

6Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? 7Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the flute or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? 8Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? 9So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. 10Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. 11If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me. 12So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. 13For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. 14For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. 16If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand[e] say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? 17You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified.

MEDITATION

1. When Christians gather we minister to each other. In prayer, praise, teaching, and sharing, God can and does use what we say to build up His church. Therefore, spiritual gifts are not given for the benefit of the possessor. The purpose of all spiritual gifts is to build up the whole Body of Christ and those the Body serves.
2. What gifts do I have and what can I do to serve fellow-believers and help build up the church?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 15

50I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

55”Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?” 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

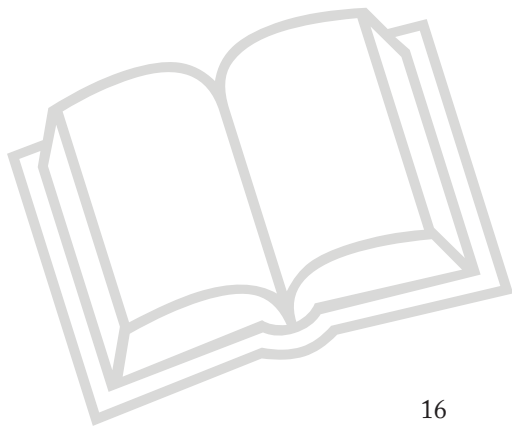
58Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

MEDITATION

1. If someone is writing a tribute for my memorial, what would be written in it? How would I like people to write the letter announcing my death?
2. Tell Jesus all my thoughts and emotions right now. Stay quiet to allow the Holy Spirit to minister to me now.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 16

13Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. 14Do everything in love.

15You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. I urge you, brothers, 16to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work, and labors at it. 17I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. 18For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

Final Greetings

19The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. 20All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.

22If anyone does not love the Lord—a curse be on him. Come, O Lord!

23The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

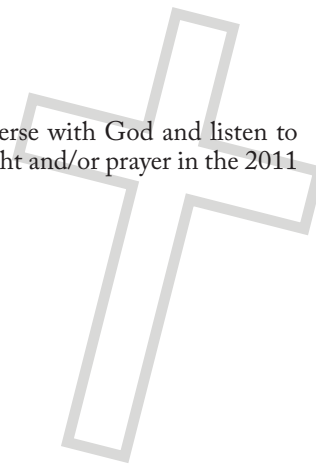
24My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

MEDITATION

1. The Corinthian Church has many problems. Paul, with much love and courage, pointed out principles and methods to deal with these problems and urged them to go back to Christ. I Corinthians taught us that Unity and Love in church is far more important than leadership and reputation.
2. In these final instructions to the Christians at Corinth, Paul first charges them to let all that they do “be done in love”(v14) and then to put themselves “at the service” of such people as the household of Stephanas.
3. Loving service to the saints seems to be the norm, not the exception. In what ways have I “served the saints” during the past year? In what ways can I serve them in the future? What could I serve in this week or this month? Lord, show me and I will obey.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 1

3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 6If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

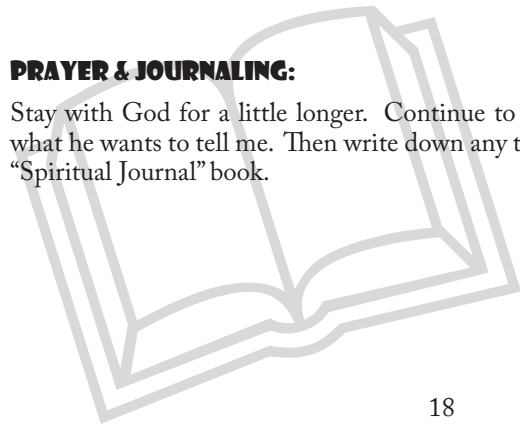
8We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. 9Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 10He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, 11as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

MEDITATION

1. Christians may suffer because of the faith that we have. But when we suffer and are persecuted because of Jesus, we can also be comforted because we know that God is at work, seeking reconciliation between God and men and that Christ is the one who comforts us. When we suffer for the gospel, we are put into a position of needing to be dependent on God.
2. When was the last time I felt like in a pressure cooker? What happened?
3. Whom do I know that is under pressure right now? How would Paul encourage me to pray for him/her this week? Spend a few minutes praying for this person. Give this person a call, in a few days, or write him/her an email asking how things are and telling him/her that you are praying for him/her.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



5If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you, to some extent—not to put it too severely. 6The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. 7Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. 9The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. 10If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

MEDITATION

1. The Corinthian church here has punished one of its members and Paul writes to them, encouraging them to forgive and comfort him. The point of Paul’s writing is not to focus on the punishment, but rather to encourage the congregation to care for the health of the whole community. It is important for the community to pursue forgiveness in order to prevent Satan from accomplishing his schemes against the Church.
2. Do I know any believer that may need to re-enter the church community right now? If so, ask God for wisdom and love to forgive, comfort and restore this person into God’s family.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 3

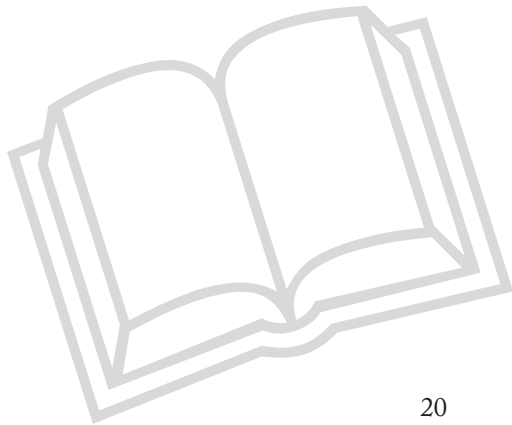
12Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. 13We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. 14But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

MEDITATION

1. When we rest in the splendour of God revealed by Christ, we find ourselves changed by it. Gradually, by degrees, we incline toward the divine glory and it begins to overtake us. This is by the power of the Spirit, which prepared us for such growth beginning at baptism. We are being transformed into his likeness, the way that God had intended for us to be when he created us.
2. Though there are still warts and blemishes all too visible, I am growing and changing. In the ever-increasing glory of the transformation taking place, "The Christian is the person who makes it easy for others to believe in God." Lord, help me to reflect more of your glory and to become easier for others to believe in you.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 4

7But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. 12So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

MEDITATION

1. Paul was contrasting the weak and ordinary character of the messenger with the overwhelming power of the message. Paul found himself under pressure, perplexed, persecuted, knocked to the ground. Everything in his experience reminded him that the dynamic power that had marked his ministry had no source in him. He credited Jesus, who saves all those who believe in Him, with the fact that despite his weaknesses he had not been crushed, nor drowned in despair, nor abandoned or destroyed.
2. Don't let a sense of personal weakness keep you from serving God. The fact that we are weak is the backdrop against which the incomparable power of God is revealed.
3. Sing (or read) quietly this hymn as a prayer to God:
I am weak but Thou art strong Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk let me walk close to Thee
Just a closer walk with Thee grant it Jesus is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee oh let it be dear Lord let it be.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 5

1Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, 3because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

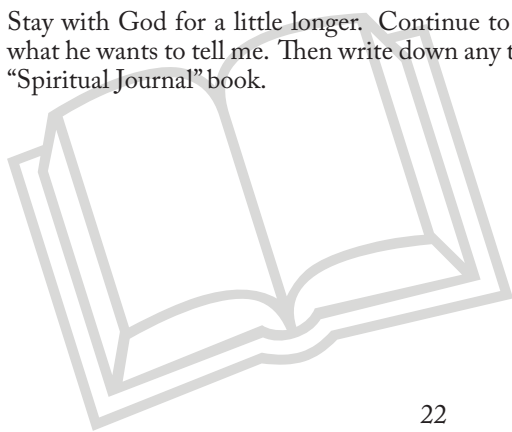
6Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7We live by faith, not by sight. 8We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

MEDITATION

1. Courage to endure the radical call of the Christian claim on our lives comes from the belief that the eventual reward will outweigh the temporary suffering we incur by challenging the world's values as Jesus and Paul did. When our valiant struggle for God's better way goes unappreciated and misunderstood, we have the hope of the Emmanuel God—God with us—utter delight at being in the divine presence. But we also have the happiness of experiencing our own growth into the splendour of divine wisdom, so that our groaning here for the redemption of our bodies is not without reward in its own right.
2. Which do I spend more time preparing and thinking, my earthly tent (body) or my heavenly dwelling? If I only spend several decades in my earthly tent, but millions of years in heaven, which one should I devote more thoughts and energy on?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 6

14Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

17"Therefore come out from them

and be separate, says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,

and I will receive you."

18"I will be a Father to you,

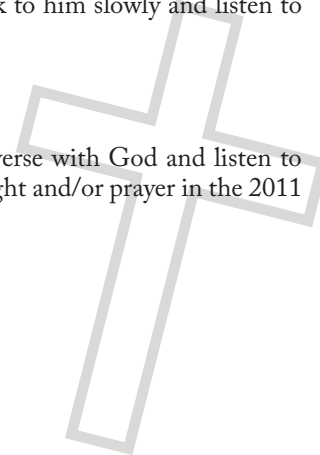
and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

MEDITATION

1. Christians are to be completely separated unto the Lord, with that separation as sharp as the dividing line between light and darkness, between Christ and Satan, and between the temple of God and a shrine where idols are worshiped. In short, we are to "purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit." (7:1) God is our Father, but when we sin, sin's contamination separates us from God. He is not able to be a Father to us in the same, intimate way He would if we were in close fellowship with Him. Similarly, when sin comes into a relationship between two people, it'll be felt like a grain of sand entering into the eye, the relationship will be affected. So, the issue isn't whether I could have intimate relationship with non-Christians, rather, if I want to maintain this close relationship with God the Father. Our loving father is calling us: "I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters." How do I respond?
2. Imagine I am taking a walk with the Lord in the garden. What would I say to him right now? The Lord is listening. Speak to him slowly and listen to his talking, too.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 7

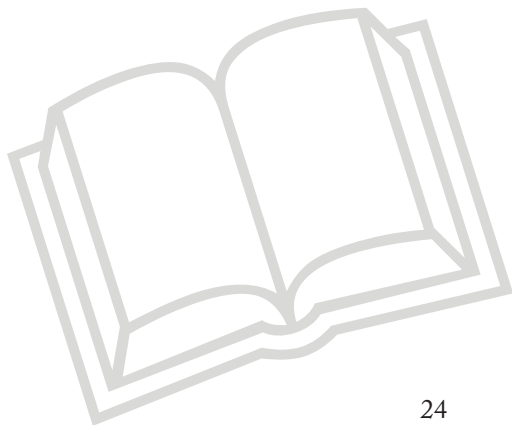
8Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— 9yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 11See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. 12So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. 13By all this we are encouraged.

MEDITATION

1. The world's sorrow is an "I'm sorry I got caught" kind of sorrow. The individual is sorry for himself, and the consequences he now has to pay. Godly sorrow is grief about the original act, and repentance – a commitment to turn from wrongdoing and to turn back toward God. We grieve, like Isaiah does in Isaiah 6, not only for ourselves, but also because we belong to a people who are sinful. With this comes spiritual insight and maturity.
2. Have I ever experienced this deep godly grief, for myself, or for others?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 8

1And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 5And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. 6So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

8I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 9For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

MEDITATION

1. Living in a materialistic society, we can easily become dominated by a spirit of acquisition – of getting and storing and then guarding what we've gotten and stored. The biblical practice of giving is an offering of a portion of the fruits of our labour to God. The offering is based upon the conviction that we would have gotten nothing from all our sweat and exertion if God hadn't first given us the ground to use, the muscles to work, a brain to think, and a community to live and be employed in. Everything comes to us as a gift from God. Sunshine and rain. Fruitfulness and fertility. Strength and health. They are all from God. Our offering is an acknowledgment of that. It's a way of honouring him and giving thanks to him.
2. Do I always give with a thankful heart?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 9

6Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” 10Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 12This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

MEDITATION

1. God gave His Son because he “so loved the world”. There is no higher motive for Christian giving than the example God set for us when he gave his only Son. Can we give like he did – freely and sacrificially, even delightfully? Yes, in fact, Corinthian church is one fine example. It was to that church that Paul wrote of the highest motive for giving. Our money is an extension of ourselves, he argued. If the money we give isn’t delightfully given, it’s because we aren’t delightful givers. The only way we’re going to give delightfully is to give out of LOVE. Any other motive leaves one joyless. In the long run, joyless giving does little good for Christ’s kingdom – and nothing for us (see 1 Cor 13:3)
2. Paul reminded the Corinthians and us of the blessings that make Christians giving such a joy. (1) Giving benefits us materially and spiritually. (vv8, 10) (2) Giving permits us to bless others.(vv11,12) (3) Giving stimulates others to pray for us.(vv13, 14)
3. Do I give compulsively or with careful planning? Am I a joyful giver, or a reluctant one? Have I received the blessings Paul talked about? In all the causes that I donate, is there a need for adjustment?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.

CHAPTER 10

1By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” when away! 2I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. 3For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

7You are looking only on the surface of things. If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as he. 8For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it.

MEDITATION

1. From Paul’s example here, what is supposed to be the “normal” way Christians exercise leadership over one another? On a scale from 1 – 10, how well do I demonstrate Christ’s gentleness and meekness in leading others?
2. What will I work on this week that demonstrates my interest in building people up?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 “Spiritual Journal” book.



CHAPTER 11

1 I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness. Yes, please put up with me! 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

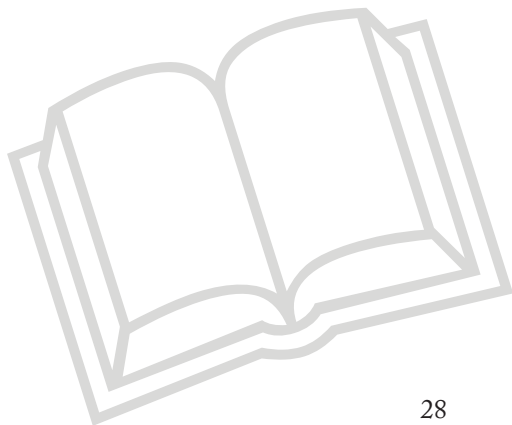
5 I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles." 6 I may indeed be untrained as a speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way. 7 Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? 8 I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you. 9 And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so. 10 As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine. 11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

MEDITATION

1. Both Jesus' and Paul's gentleness was misunderstood as weakness. How has that resulted in blessing (Mt 5:5)? Where, in my life, do I need to embrace their example right now?
2. God is still looking for "weak" people in whom to display His strength. Am I willing to "apply" for the job?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



CHAPTER 12

1 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. 3 And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. 4 I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. 5 Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.

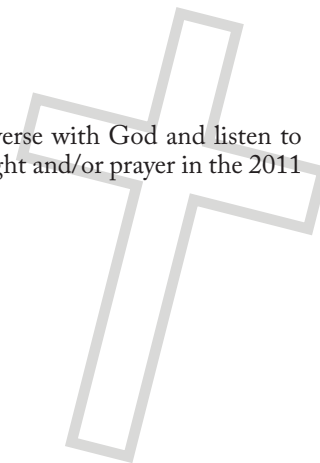
6 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 7 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 8 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 9 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

MEDITATION

1. When we tell people that God guarantees his children health and wealth in this life, or if they only have enough faith, they'll be healed, that's not true. Paul prayed with total confidence, only to learn that the answer was no. He learned in time that the weakness which devastated him was truly a gift from God. A gift that enabled him to experience God's grace, presence, and power, in ways he would never have experienced them otherwise. So, when tragedy strikes and disaster comes, God will give his own strange gifts as we grow in our dependence on him. As we seek His strength, we'll discover a depth to our relationship with the Lord that we would otherwise never have known. And a strength that makes weakness a triumph and a joy.
2. What is my weakness? Have I received God's gift? How does this gift help me experience God's power and grace?

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the 2011 "Spiritual Journal" book.



REFERENCE

1. Spiritual Formation Bible,
2. The 365 Day Devotional Commentary, Larry Richards, Victor Books, 1990
3. Conversations, the Message Bible with its Translator, NAVPress, 2007
4. NIV Serendipity Bible, Zondervan, 1988

This “260 with God” devotional series is a joint effort of pastoral staff as well as members of Peoples Gospel Church. It is mainly intended for the use of members of the church and is not for sale.



萬民福音堂 Peoples Gospel Church

Office at GCGCNY: 201 Tempo Ave., North York

Tel: 416-499-0111

Fax: 416-499-9879

Website: www.peoplesgospelchurch.org