



December 2020

Dear Partner,

Christmas is my favorite time of the year—and today I am reminded of that wonderful phrase from Galatians 4:4, “*But **when the fulness of time was come**, God sent forth His Son...*” Timing is important to God. While we will all one day pass into eternity and be outside of time, the timing of events on this planet matters to God.

God sent Jesus at a specific time chosen by Him. He will send Jesus back a second time “*when the fulness of time*” comes again. Think about that, Partner. Time is very important to God. I love that we celebrate Christ’s coming at the end of each year. I love finishing out each year remembering the beginning of redemption.

Christmas isn’t just a celebration, but it’s a reminder of how *everything* changed the day Jesus came. Bethlehem began time anew when Jesus was born, and I believe it will forever be a marker for mankind, even down through eternity. We will always remember the day God took on flesh, was born of a virgin, lived and walked among mankind, and gave His human life to redeem creation from the hand of the enemy. God loves us, Partner, and Christmas is the proof!

God wanted us to be close. He wanted to redeem us as sons and daughters and to give us an inheritance (Galatians 4:7). We are heirs of God through Jesus Christ because we are God’s created and chosen family. Nothing is more precious to God than us!

Today, I was reading Luke chapter two and a tiny phrase caught my eye. I’ve read this passage many times before, of course, but this time, I don’t know...it just hit me differently. This recounts when the angel was speaking to the shepherds about Christ: “*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, **which shall be to all people**. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord*” (Luke 2:9-11).

Partner, when that angel said that Jesus “*shall be to all people*,” he meant it! To all people. Think about that. Today, we have so much division. We have so much unrest, so much strife, and I don’t know about you, but I love being reminded that God sent Jesus for ALL of mankind. No matter where we come from, no matter our culture or color, and no matter our differences or similarities with one another, God sent Jesus for us ALL. We were all in the same boat before Jesus came—without a redeemer—and now we are all in the same boat again! In this time, we are living under the grace of God that began when Jesus was born and died on the cross for mankind. Today is the day of salvation! Tomorrow will be too! Every day until Jesus comes is a day we can turn to God and pull on the saving grace of the Lord Jesus. Christmas is a reminder of that!

All this year, my theme has been “Great Expectation Gets Great Results,” and at Christmas, we are reminded that God had you and me on His mind when we were down and without hope—He wasn’t

about to leave us in our own sin or darkness! He sent the Light of the world to light up our world. Love came in. Hope came in. Faith came in!

Every single day, we can lean on the grace of God. Hebrews 4:16 says that we can go boldly to the throne of grace and obtain what we need in prayer—there are NO obstacles for ANY of us who have received salvation through Jesus Christ. Jesus came for ALL people and salvation is available to ALL who call upon His holy name. Now, if that's not great expectation getting great results, I don't know what is! Think about that for a minute.

It's so simple. We are living in a time in history where even the most debased, detestable, and disgraceful person can turn to God and be freed from that state and be totally changed. With one sincere prayer, with one open heart, and with one request, "Jesus, come into my life," they can completely turn their lives around. Do you realize the magnitude of that? Nobody is hopeless. ALL can join the family of God. In Jesus Christ, the Creator God was opening up eternity to give all of us an opportunity to spend eternity with Him. Glory!

It might be a special time in the year right now because we are celebrating Christmas, but Partner, this open and flowing period of grace through Jesus Christ is a special time in the timeline of our God. Time matters. And this ministry's goal is to do what Jesus said to do in this time. In Mark 16:15, He gave us all a great commission: "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.*" Partner, I'm so blessed you are with us in this work! Every day, we are reaching out and seeing people turn to the Lord. Jesus is coming back soon. I really believe that, and like you, I want to see ALL people have the opportunity to take that ride with us to Heaven!

As the Planets Move Around the Sun, So We Revolve Around the Almighty: *God Sent Jesus to ALL People—Jesus Is Our Savior, a Brother, and a Friend*

In Jesus Christ, God revealed Himself to man and man revealed himself to God. You see, we have a relationship with God that is continually expanding at the rate that we give it attention. The more we draw near to God, the more we gain knowledge of Him. His great love and His great wisdom become our guide in this life, day-by-day, but they also charge the atmosphere.

As the planets move around the sun, so we revolve around the Almighty. Here is a point I want to share with you today: **We are tied to our spiritual orbits by our knowledge of God—and when we make Him the center of our lives, His atmosphere becomes our atmosphere.** Glory to God!

Have you ever spent time in prayer and come out renewed, refreshed, and full of more love and hope? When you spend time in God's atmosphere, it becomes your own. And when you choose to walk with Him every day like that, you are like the earth revolving around the sun—you become teeming with life, growth, and expansion. The warmth of your spirit becomes noticeable to others because it's radiating with God's presence. The ability for all of us to live this way began when the fullness of time had come. It began with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

The birth in Bethlehem gave a new significance to birth itself—it showed motherhood in a brand-new light and gave fatherhood a greater sanctity. In Bethlehem, we saw the value of mankind to God—and we saw that it was so valuable that God Himself would intervene to save mankind from themselves.

That day, God answered the question recorded in Psalm 8:4, "*What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him?*" He answered it when He did a new thing by sending Himself as Jesus Christ. What is man? To God, mankind is everything! Why does He visit mankind? He walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day because He wanted to be with us. He came as Jesus and dwelt with us, even dying for us, because He loved us too much to lose us.

God loves you, Partner. He loves each person on this planet. Again, Christmas is proof of that. When the angel said Christ would be for ALL people, it was a message from God to His creation that Jesus would not only be an organic member of the human race but also a savior to ALL who would call upon His holy name. Jesus became a brother to all of humanity that day, too...He became a friend.

Jesus is the only way to eternal life, the invitation to Heaven, and it's through Him that we can fellowship with Him right here on earth. In John 8:12, Jesus told us that He is the Light of the world Who gives us the ability to see through the darkness. He *is* the atmosphere we crave in our souls. In Him we find peace, joy, and a higher love. All good things come from God and, because of Jesus, we have access to them. We can live in His good atmosphere no matter what the devil and all his cohorts are doing around us.

Christianity Is More About “Today” than “Tomorrow”

Take Advantage of Your “Now” and Live in God’s Atmosphere

The next point I want to make today is this: **Christianity relates not only to the future of mankind but also to the present.** Heaven will be our home one day, but if God meant for you to only focus on Heaven, He wouldn’t have put you here on the earth. He gave you life that you may live it. He gave you the measure of faith that you may use it. Every day, you have earthly duties, and God teaches you how to do them from your spirit of faith.

The more Word you put into your heart, the more you’ll have understanding of God’s good ways—and the more Word you put into your heart, the more those principles of the Word will come to your mind in those moments during your everyday life when you need them most. *You* create the atmosphere you want to live in. As a follower of God, your aim should be to live in *His* atmosphere because it’s the best one for you and everybody you come into contact with. His atmosphere is one that is marked by the fruit of His Spirit. This means your state of being is at its highest expression when you are living and flowing in the spirit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Galatians 5:22-23). The more you live in God’s atmosphere, the easier you rise above earthly challenges. I like to say I fly above Christian turbulence! How do I do it? By making my internal atmosphere line up with God’s—it’s a spiritual way of living that affects my day, every day!

Moment by moment, God’s ways help us make daily adjustments to our lives that point us toward His best. He created us to live for *today* rather than tomorrow so that our tomorrows are better by default. Remember that Jesus told us in Matthew 6:34 that tomorrow has enough trouble of its own, and so we should focus on *today*. Today is the day of salvation. Today is the day of peace. Today is the day to do things right, treat people right, and to live in His atmosphere. Maybe today is also the day to do what you meant to do yesterday! Like I said, time matters to God—remember that. *Today* is the day!

Partner, you can look forward to having a clear, hopeful, and joyful spirit today, knowing that joy has empowered God’s people throughout all history. What Jesus began has continued all the way through the generations to you and me. I love joy in my everyday living. It’s part of what God sent to us when He sent Jesus. The angel proclaimed, saying, “*Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people*” (Luke 2:10). So, don’t forsake today’s joy by worrying about tomorrow’s trouble. It’s not worth it. *Today* is the day to smile and live. *Today* is the day to have great expectation that you will get great results. “*Now faith is...*” as Hebrew 11:1 says...not tomorrow! Take advantage of your “now” and remember that Christianity is always more about *today* than it is about tomorrow.

Jesus Shook the World, and He’s Still Shaking It Today

We Are the Carriers of His Gospel, and We Are Joyful and Strong!

The final point I want to make in this letter is this: **There is no news equal to the Good News of Christmas.** That news broke every barrier and opened the door to victory for ALL people. In Christ, not only was God reaching out to ALL of mankind, but He was offering ALL access to His Spirit. In the angel’s proclamation that Jesus would be for ALL people, we learned that: 1) the Gospel is not originated by man, but it is brought to him, 2) in revealing the Gospel, we have been given the highest joy, and we are identified by that joy, and 3) because of that joy, we have the strength of God Himself. Glory!

Joy is my favorite part of God’s Spirit! Joy isn’t just happiness; it’s so much deeper. Nehemiah 8:10 tells us that the *joy* of the Lord is our *strength*. Think about that, Partner—joy is connected to strength. Some people think that they are strong when they are hard-nosed or callous, but that’s a lie. Our greatest strength comes from accessing the joy of the Lord, which we gain through our personal relationship with Jesus. From God’s Spirit to our spirit, joy manifests and becomes our strength. It’s not a joy that we create by our human willpower, but joy is what rises up as we communicate with the Lord in spirit and in truth. When we recognize what He has done and when we praise Him, we access that spiritual power that gives us strength—and no matter what is happening around us, we can pull on the power of that strength. Joy is insulating. Joy is freeing. Joy loosens the grip of fear and lets us relax in the power of God that’s flowing in and through us. Joy is a consequence of getting close to and living in God’s Spirit. Never forget that. We are STRONG, Partner. We are JOYFUL!

Many years ago, in that small village called Bethlehem, Jesus was born. His birth was the greatest event on the smallest of scales. Angels sang in the night skies. Wise men and shepherds followed supernatural guidance just to get to that small manger where Jesus was laying. Even as an infant, Jesus

was already beginning to shake the world. His life, death, burial, and resurrection shook the world, and He is still shaking the world today. How? Through you and me and through all the messages we share with people who need Jesus. We are carrying on the shaking of this world with love, joy, and all the other good things that come from God in Heaven.

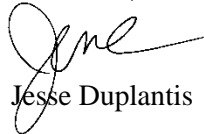
We are the carriers of the Gospel to this world, and we make an impact every single time we point others to Christ. It's Jesus Who saves and changes lives, but we've got to keep sharing Him if we want people to know Him. That's why we preach so much, Partner! That's why we keep saying, "Reaching People and Changing Lives, One Soul at a Time"—it was Jesus' command that we continue His work of bringing people to God, and we are blessed to have been reaching out for over forty years.

The time is short, Partner, and we must be about the Father's business—you, me, and all of us who know that Jesus is Lord. That's why your partnership is so vitally important. Your financial partnership to this ministry changes people because it sends the messages of God's Word throughout the world—it turns bad people into good people, sick people into healed people, and financially broke people into prosperous people. It turns sad people into joyful people and gives those without hope a future worth living for. The list goes on and on when it comes to the drastic changes Jesus can make in the lives of people. Thank you for helping us to reach out to so many.

That's why I pray and say, "God, for every dollar given, give me a soul into the kingdom—help me, Lord, to reach out with Your Word and bring in the great harvest of souls that are left to be won for You." It's too important to stop. As you sow your seed today, remember the 30, 60, and 100-fold return that Jesus taught in Mark 4. I want you to know that Cathy and I love you and pray for you every day. We consider you our extended family, remember that! We appreciate everything you do for the kingdom, and we are praying for you to receive *everything* that you are believing God for in faith.

Until I write you again, Merry Christmas to you and your family and Happy New Year, too!

Love You,



Jesse Duplantis

P.S. For your December Partnership of \$50 or more, you'll want to request my message, ***Getting Happiness to Flow Daily in Your Life***, on DVD, CD, or both formats. And for your December Partnership of any amount, you can request this message on CD. I believe it will bless you and minister to you. Go to JDM.org and click on "Donate" or see the enclosure to get yours today. Remember, too, that you can also download a copy of this Partner Letter and our FREE Bible Study Notes on JDM.org. Whether it's to dive deeper into the Word in your own personal time with the Lord or to share with others, it's a great tool that we are blessed to be able to make available to you. Thanks for helping us to "Go ye" in so many ways!



Christmas *Changed* EVERYTHING!

*“But when the fulness of time was come,
God sent forth His Son...”* Galatians 4:4

December 2020

Partner Letter Bible Study Notes

Christmas Changed Everything!

1st Week December 2020 Bible Study Notes

Open Bible Study in prayer (led by the group leader or someone they choose).

Last month we examined **the encompassing power of thank you.**

- We learned to ask God in faith and live in the radiant atmosphere of thanksgiving.

*Instruct the group to turn to Galatians 4:4.

Today we will begin our December Bible Study titled: “Christmas Changed Everything!”

All this year, our theme has been “Great Expectation Gets Great Results.”

- At Christmas, we are reminded that God had us on His mind when we were down and without hope.
- He wasn’t about to leave us in our own sin or darkness!
- He sent the Light of the world to light up our world.
- Love came in. Hope came in. Faith came in!

*Invite someone in the group to read Galatians 4:4 KJV:

*“But **when the fulness of the time was come**, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law.”*

Notice that timing is important to God.

- While we will all pass into eternity someday and be outside of time, the timing of events on this planet matters to God.

God sent Jesus at a specific time.

- He’ll send Him again “*when the fulness of time*” comes.

*Group Discussion: Are you already making plans to celebrate the Christmas holidays?

Christmas isn’t just a celebration, it’s also a reminder of how *everything* changed the day Jesus came.

- It will forever be a marker for mankind, even down through eternity.
- We will always remember the day God took on flesh and was born of a virgin.
- He lived and walked among us and gave His life to redeem us from the enemy.

God loves us, and Christmas is the proof that He wanted us to be close.

*Invite someone in the group to continue reading in Galatians 4:-5-7 KJV:

“To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

God wanted to redeem us as sons and daughters and to give us an inheritance.

- We are heirs of God through Jesus Christ because we are God’s created and chosen family.
- Nothing is more precious to God than us!

*Instruct the group to turn to Luke 2:9-11.

Let’s look at a tiny phrase spoken by the angel to the shepherds:

*Invite someone in the group to read Luke 2:9-11 KJV:

*“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, **which shall be to all people**. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”*

When the angel said that Jesus “*shall be to all people,*” he meant ALL people.

- With so much division, unrest, and strife in the world, we need to be reminded that God sent Jesus for ALL of mankind.
- No matter where we come from, no matter our culture or color, and no matter our differences or similarities with one another, God sent Jesus for us ALL.

We were all in the same boat before Jesus came—without a redeemer—and now we are all in the same boat again!

- In this time, we are living under the grace of God that began when Jesus was born and died on the cross for mankind. Today is the day of salvation! Tomorrow will be too!

***Instruct the group to turn to Hebrews 4:16.**

Every day until Jesus comes is a day we can turn to God and pull on the saving grace of the Lord Jesus.

- Christmas is a reminder of that!
- Every single day, we can lean on the grace of God.

***Invite someone in the group to read Hebrews 4:16 KJV:**

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

There are NO obstacles for ANY of us who have received salvation through Jesus Christ.

- Jesus came for ALL people and salvation is available to ALL who call upon His name.
- That is a perfect example of our 2020 theme: Great Expectation Gets Great Results.

We are living in a time in history where even the most debased, detestable, and disgraceful person can turn to God and be freed from that state and be totally changed.

- With one sincere prayer, with one open heart, and with one request, “Jesus, come into my life,” they can completely turn their lives around.

***Group Discussion: Do you realize the magnitude of that?**

Nobody is hopeless. ALL can join the family of God.

- In Jesus Christ, the Creator God was opening up eternity to give all of us an opportunity to spend eternity with Him. Glory!

***Instruct the group to turn to Mark 16:15.**

It might be a special time in the year right now because we are celebrating Christmas, but this open and flowing period of grace through Jesus Christ is a special time in the timeline of our God.

- Time matters, and Jesus gave us all a great commission to do in this time.

***Invite someone in the group to read Mark 16:15 KJV:**

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

Every day, we can reach out and see people turn to the Lord.

- We really believe that Jesus is coming back soon.
- We want to see ALL people have the opportunity to take that ride with us to Heaven!

Confess What You Expect!

1. Christmas is a reminder that *everything* changed the day Jesus came. God loves me and I am part of His created and chosen family.
2. Every single day, I can lean on the grace of God and go boldly to the throne of grace and obtain what I need in prayer. My great expectation gets great results!

Close in Prayer.

Christmas Changed Everything!

2nd Week December 2020 Bible Study Notes

Open Bible Study in prayer (led by the group leader or someone they choose).

It is important that we continue to declare our theme for 2020, “Great Expectation Gets Great Results.”

- God gave us this theme because He knew that we all *had* to expect more and get more this year than any other year.

Each month, the *Voice of the Covenant Bible Study* is developed from Jesse’s monthly Partner Letter and broken down into four lessons.

- We are learning to see with the eye of faith and realize the power available to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

Today, we will continue our December Bible Study titled: “Christmas Changed Everything!”

***Instruct the group to turn to Galatians 4:4.**

Last week we saw that Christmas isn’t just a celebration, it’s also a reminder of how *everything* changed the day Jesus came.

- God wanted to redeem us as sons and daughters and to give us an inheritance.
- Every single day, we can lean on the grace of God.
- We can go boldly to the throne of grace and obtain what we need in prayer.

***Invite someone in the group to read Galatians 4:4 KJV:**

“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”

In Jesus Christ, God revealed Himself to man and man revealed himself to God.

- You see, we have a relationship with God that is continually expanding at the rate that we give it attention.

The more we draw near to God, the more we gain knowledge of Him.

- His great love and His great wisdom become our guide in this life, day-by-day.
- They also charge the atmosphere.
- As the planets move around the sun, so we revolve around the Almighty.

Look at this point today: We are tied to our spiritual orbits by our knowledge of God.

- When we make Him the center of our lives, His atmosphere becomes our atmosphere.

***Group Discussion: Have you ever spent time in prayer and come out renewed, refreshed, and full of more love and hope?**

When you spend time in God’s atmosphere, it becomes your own.

- And when you choose to walk with Him every day like that, you are like the earth revolving around the sun.
- You become teeming with life, growth, and expansion.
- The warmth of your spirit becomes noticeable to others because it’s radiating with God’s presence.

The ability for all of us to live this way began when the fullness of time had come.

- It began with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

***Instruct the group to turn to Psalm 8:4.**

The birth in Bethlehem gave a new significance to birth itself.

- It showed motherhood in a brand-new light.

- It gave fatherhood a greater sanctity.

In Bethlehem, we saw the value of mankind to God.

- We saw that it was so valuable that God Himself would intervene to save mankind from themselves.
- That day, God answered the question recorded in Psalm 8:4.

***Invite someone in the group to read Psalm 8:4 KJV:**

“What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him?”

God answered that question when He did a new thing by sending Himself as Jesus Christ.

- What is man? To God, mankind is everything!

***Group Discussion: Why does God visit mankind?**

He walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day because He wanted to be with us.

- He came as Jesus and dwelt with us, even dying for us, because He loved us too much to lose us.

God loves you, and He loves each person on this planet.

- Again, Christmas is proof of that.

***Instruct the group to turn to Luke 2:10.**

Last week we looked at a tiny phrase spoken by the angel to the shepherds.

***Invite someone in the group to read Luke 2:10 KJV:**

*“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, **which shall be to all people.**”*

When the angel said Christ would be for ALL people, it was a message from God to His creation that Jesus would not only be an organic member of the human race but also a savior to ALL who would call upon His holy name.

- Jesus became a brother to all of humanity that day, too...He became a friend.

***Instruct the group to turn to John 8:12.**

Jesus is the only way to eternal life, the invitation to Heaven, and it's through Him that we can fellowship with Him right here on earth.

***Invite someone in the group to read John 8:12 KJV:**

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

Jesus told us that He is the Light of the world Who gives us the ability to see through the darkness.

- He *is* the atmosphere we crave in our souls.
- In Him we find peace, joy, and a higher love.

All good things come from God and, because of Jesus, we have access to them.

- We can live in His good atmosphere no matter what the devil and all his cohorts are doing around us.

Confess What You Expect!

1. I am tied to a spiritual orbit by my knowledge of God—and when I make Him the center of my life, His atmosphere becomes my atmosphere.
2. Jesus gives me the ability to see through the darkness and live in His good atmosphere no matter what the devil and all his cohorts are doing around me.

Close in Prayer.

Christmas Changed Everything!

3rd Week December 2020 Bible Study Notes

Open Bible Study in prayer (led by the group leader or someone they choose).

During this third week of our December Bible Study, we will continue to see that “Christmas Changed Everything!”

*Instruct the group to turn to Galatians 4:4.

Remember that Christmas isn’t just a celebration, it’s also a reminder of how *everything* changed the day Jesus came.

- Jesus gave us the ability to see through the darkness and live in His good atmosphere no matter what the devil and all his cohorts are doing around us.
- We can boldly declare our 2020 theme: “Great Expectation Gets Great Results.”

*Invite someone in the group to read Galatians 4:4 KJV:

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law.”

Notice that timing is important to God.

- God sent Jesus at a specific time.
- He’ll send Him again *“when the fulness of time”* comes.

The main point in our study today is this: Christianity relates not only to the future of mankind but also to the present.

- Heaven will be our home one day, but if God meant for you to only focus on Heaven, He wouldn’t have put you here on the earth.
- He gave you life so that you may live it.
- He gave you the measure of faith so that you may use it.

Every day you have earthly duties, and God teaches you how to do them from your spirit of faith.

- The more Word you put into your heart, the more understanding you will have of God’s good ways.
- The more Word you put into your heart, the more those principles of the Word will come to your mind in those moments during your everyday life when you need them most.

*Instruct the group to turn to Galatians 5:22-23.

You create the atmosphere you want to live in.

- As a follower of God, your aim should be to live in *His* atmosphere because it’s the best one for you and everybody you come into contact with.
- His atmosphere is one that is marked by the fruit of His Spirit.

*Invite someone in the group to read Galatians 5:22-23 KJV:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

- This means your state of being is at its highest expression when you are living and flowing in the spirit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.
- The more you live in God’s atmosphere, the easier you rise above earthly challenges.

*Group Discussion: How can you fly above Christian turbulence?

By making your internal atmosphere line up with God’s—it’s a spiritual way of living that will affect your day, every day!

***Instruct the group to turn to Matthew 6:34.**

Moment by moment, God's ways help us make daily adjustments to our lives that point us toward His best.

- He created us to live for *today* rather than tomorrow so that our tomorrows are better by default.

***Invite someone in the group to read Matthew 6:34 KJV:**

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Jesus taught us that tomorrow has enough trouble of its own, and so we should focus on *today*.

- Today is the day of salvation.
- Today is the day of peace.
- Today is the day to do things right, treat people right, and to live in His atmosphere.

Maybe today is also the day to do what you meant to do yesterday!

***Group Discussion: What is God leading you to focus on today?**

In last week's Bible Study, we saw that time matters to God—remember that.

- *Today* is the day!

You can look forward to having a clear, hopeful, and joyful spirit today.

- That joy has empowered God's people throughout all history.

***Instruct the group to turn to Luke 2:10.**

What Jesus began has continued all the way through the generations to us.

- We can have joy in our everyday living—it's what God sent to us when He sent Jesus!

Remember the proclamation of the angel to the shepherds and to the world.

***Invite someone in the group to read Luke 2:10:**

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

So, don't forsake today's joy by worrying about tomorrow's trouble.

- It's not worth it.

***Today* is the day to smile and live.**

***Instruct the group to turn to Hebrews 11:1.**

***Today* is the day to have great expectation that you will get great results.**

- Not tomorrow!

***Invite someone in the group to read Hebrews 11:1 KJV:**

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Notice that the Word of God says, "*Now faith is...*"

- Take advantage of your "now."
- Remember that Christianity is always more about *today* than it is about tomorrow.

Confess What You Expect!

1. Christianity relates not only to the future of mankind but also to the present. God gave me life that I may live it and the measure of faith that I may use it.
2. Moment by moment, God's ways help me make daily adjustments to my life that point me toward His best. I live for *today* and my tomorrows are better by default.
3. I don't forsake today's joy by worrying about tomorrow's trouble. I take advantage of my "now." Christianity is always more about *today* than it is about tomorrow.

Close in Prayer.

Christmas Changed Everything!

4th Week December 2020 Bible Study Notes

Open Bible Study in prayer (led by the group leader or someone they choose).

As 2020 draws to a close, I want to briefly review the *Voice of the Covenant Bible Study* for each month, which focused around our theme, “Great Expectation Gets Great Results.”

1. We began in January by studying about the power of being able to “see” with the eyes of faith.
2. In February we learned that when we **believe, all things are possible.**
3. Our March study challenged us to always **press toward the mark** by thinking higher, believing higher, and walking in the high places with God.
4. Then in April, we examined the power that is released when we declare, “**I can do all things through Christ Who gives me strength.**”
5. During May, we learned that **the right word at the right time will get the right result.**
6. June challenged us to **expect God to always lead us to triumph!**
7. The July study reminded us that **this is the victory that overcomes the world — our FAITH!**
8. During the month of August, the Bible Study encouraged us to **expect more for our family, our country, our job, and in our relationship with God.**
9. The September study focused on Jesus’ instructions in Mark 11:24 to **believe that we receive what we DESIRE when we pray and we shall have them.**
10. Throughout the month of October, the Bible Study was a reminder that **the battle is the Lord’s, BUT the fight is ours.**
11. In November, we examined **the encompassing power of thank you** and learned to ask God in faith and live in the radiant atmosphere of thanksgiving.
12. And during this last month of 2020, we have been studying that **Christmas changed everything!**

*Instruct the group to turn to Luke 2:10.

Today in our Bible Study for December, we will look at this final point: There is no news equal to the Good News of Christmas.

- That news broke every barrier and opened the door to victory for ALL people.

Let’s look again at the angel’s proclamation about the birth of Jesus.

*Invite someone in the group to read Luke 2:10:

“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

In Christ, not only was God reaching out to ALL of mankind, but He was offering ALL access to His Spirit.

*Group Discussion: Can you see how the message of Christmas changed everything?

In the angel’s proclamation that Jesus would be for ALL people, we learned that:

- 1) The Gospel is not originated by man, but it is brought to him.
- 2) In revealing the Gospel, we have been given the highest joy, and we are identified by that joy.
- 3) And because of that joy, we have the strength of God Himself. Glory!

*Instruct the group to turn to Nehemiah 8:10.

Joy is my favorite part of God’s Spirit!

- Joy isn’t just happiness; it’s so much deeper.
- The Bible tells us that the joy of the Lord is our *strength*.

*Invite someone in the group to read Nehemiah 8:10 KJV:

“Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Think about that—joy is connected to strength.

- Some people think that they are strong when they are hard-nosed or callous, but that’s a lie.

Our greatest strength comes from accessing the joy of the Lord, which we gain through our personal relationship with Jesus.

- From God’s Spirit to our spirit, joy manifests and becomes our strength.

It’s not a joy that we create by our human willpower, but joy is what rises up as we communicate with the Lord in spirit and in truth.

- When we recognize what He has done and when we praise Him, we access that spiritual power that gives us strength.
- And no matter what is happening around us, we can pull on the power of that strength.

Joy is insulating and joy is freeing.

- Joy loosens the grip of fear and lets us relax in the power of God that’s flowing in and through us.

Joy is a consequence of getting close to and living in God’s Spirit.

- Never forget that. We are STRONG. We are JOYFUL!

Many years ago, in that small village called Bethlehem, Jesus was born.

- His birth was the greatest event on the smallest of scales.
- Angels sang in the night skies, wise men and shepherds followed supernatural guidance just to get to that small manger where Jesus was laying.

Even as an infant, Jesus was already beginning to shake the world.

- His life, death, burial, and resurrection shook the world, and He is still shaking the world today.

Jesus is shaking the world through all the messages we share with people who need Jesus.

- We are carrying on the shaking of this world with love, joy, and all the other good things that come from God in Heaven.

We are the carriers of the Gospel to this world, and we make an impact every single time we point others to Christ.

- It’s Jesus Who saves and changes lives, but we’ve got to keep sharing Him if we want people to know Him.
- God’s Word has the power to turn bad people into good people, sick people into healed people, financially broke people into prosperous people, sad people into joyful people, and gives those without hope a future worth living for.

Remember, Christmas Changed Everything and Great Expectation Gets Great Results!

Confess What You Expect!

1. There is no news equal to the Good News of Christmas. That news broke every barrier and opened the door of victory for me, offering me access to His Spirit.
2. My greatest strength comes from accessing the joy of the Lord through my personal relationship with Jesus. Through Him I am STRONG and I am JOYFUL!
3. Jesus’ life, death, burial, and resurrection shook the world. He is still shaking the world today every single time I point others to Him. I am a carrier of His Gospel!

Close in Prayer.