

# Who is Qualified?

## Are You Qualified to be Used by God?

Qualified defined:

(qualifie.doc)

- 1 Having met the conditions or met the requirements?
- 2 Are you fit? Are you competent?

### Whose Opinions counts?

1. What does the Devil say? *[You are loser; a has-been; need ministry yourself; jerk; failure]*
2. What do others say? What does the naysayer, or the cynic, or the ones you hurt say?  
*[naysayer = one who habitually opposes, refuses, or denies; Etymology =(NAY + SAY + -ER)]*
3. What do You say?
4. What does God say? *[GO BY THE WORD, not by the religious opinion of others]*

*Ps 119:105--Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. (NAS) [The right path to take]*

*Ps 119:24--Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors. (NKJ) [Word is the only true counselor!]*

*Ps 119:98--You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.  
[An enemy of the purposes of God, is anyone who disagrees with God's perspective in Scripture]*

*Ps 119:130--The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. (NKJ)*

I Cor 1:24--but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks,

Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. *[Only Jesus is the Wisdom & Power of God]*

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For you see your calling, brethren,  
that not many wise according to the flesh, *[He chose fishermen, not from the Sanhedrin]*  
not many mighty,  
not many noble, are called. *[He chose tax collectors—Matthew and Zacchaeus]*

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, *[John the Baptist]*  
and God has chosen the weak things of the world *[Weak things]*

28 to put to shame the things which are mighty;  
and the base things of the world *[Base things] -- the Jews!*  
and the things which are despised God has chosen, *[Despised things]*  
and the things which are not, *[Nothing things]*

to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. (NKJ)

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus,  
who of God is made unto us wisdom,  
and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. (KJV)

- God does not call those who are qualified, but qualifies those who He calls!
- God specializes in using people who are not qualified by man's evaluation, who are not worthy by their own evaluation and who feel and who are completely inadequate!

1 Was Peter qualified to give the Pentecostal Sermon?

2 Was Jonah qualified to preach the revival at Nineveh?

3 Was King David qualified to receive this praise from God, "I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do." Acts 13:22 (NIV)

4 Was Abraham qualified to be the Father of faith, for both the Jews and Gentiles?

5 Was Moses qualified to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt land?

6 Was Paul qualified to become the major apostle of the New Testament Church?

*1 Cor 15:8--Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. [An abortion]*

- 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
- 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. (NKJ)

### ***Who is qualified to be an elder?***

<b>Basketball Player:</b> 1) high percentage shooter; 2) an excellent rebounder; 3) good passer (assists); 4) good dribbler; 5) good free throws; 6) deadly 3 pt shooter; 7) an aggressive defender; 8) a team player, compatible spirit!	<b>An Elder:</b>  <u>Standard</u> —something established for use as a rule or basis of comparison in measuring or judging capacity, quality, content, or value.  <u>Requirement</u> —something required; something demanded, as a condition
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### ***Let's look at a Grace passage of Scripture!***

Heb 4:14--Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

- 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
- 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NKJ)

### ***I. God's Gifts and His Calling are Irrevocable:***

Rom 11:29-For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (NKJ) NAS)

- For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. (KJV)
- For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn. (NLT)
- For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn; he will never go back on his promises.

*Ps 119:105--Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. (NAS) [The right path to take]*

### ***II. God is the God of a New Beginning!***

Ask Peter, ask David, ask Paul, ask Jonah, ask Moses, ask Abraham!!!

Isa 43:18--"Do not remember the former things, *[Are you obeying this Scripture? for yourself? others?]*  
nor consider the things of old. *[What are you considering? focusing on]*

19 Behold, I will do a new thing, *[You can be one of God's "new things"]*  
now it shall spring forth; *[Bring forth, not stomp out!]*  
shall you not know it? *[You need to know God's goodness!]*

I will even make a road in the wilderness *[The consequences of sin bring us into a wilderness place]*  
*[Moses' sin put him in a wilderness for 40 years]*  
and rivers in the desert. *[Have you ever felt like you were in a desert place?]*

20 The beast of the field will honor Me, *[Those demonized]*  
the jackals *[A yellow grayish dog, from the wolf family—a jerk]*  
and the ostriches, *[Those with their head stuck in the sand]*

because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to My people, My chosen. *[Why, because God's people need a drink]*

21 This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise. (NKJ)  
*[You will have some things to praise God for again!]*

### ***III. We must be Delivered from a "spirit of self-condemnation"!***

***Phil 3:12-14(NKJ)—Forgetting and Reaching!***

- 12 Not that I have already attained *[laid hold of; seized]*  
or am already perfected *[completed, finished]*  
but I press on *[pursue, seek eagerly]*

that I may lay hold of  
that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me

*[seize, take possession of]  
[seized, took possession of me]*

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended;  
but one thing I do, forgetting  
those things which are behind  
and reaching forward  
to those things which are ahead,

*[to have taken possession of]  
[to remember without any anger or bitterness]  
[things that are back, back things]  
[to stretch forward]  
[in front things]*

14 I press  
toward the goal  
for the prize  
of the upward  
call of God in Christ Jesus.

*[pursue, seek after eagerly]  
[going for the goal (gold), go for it!]  
[a prize to the victor in the public games—to be like Jesus!]  
[the heavenly, the eternal]  
[God's call and purpose for your life]*

*[Scholar Eli Wiesel, "The wife of Lot was unjustly punished. It is human to look backward."  
But it is the spirit of faith to believe the past is past; faith always looks forward!]*

Ex 14:15-- The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward!

*When the devil keeps reminding you of your past; remind him of his future!*

Luke 9:62--But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow,  
and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (NKJ)

*Yesterday is history; the Future is mystery; Today is a gift of God; That is why it is called "Present"!*

#### IV. THE POTTER'S WHEEL:

Jer. 18:1--The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

2 "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words."

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.

4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he  
made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD.

"Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel! (NKJ)

*God does not throw us away on the potsherd heap; only people do that!*

#### "Start Over" -- Poem by Dr Woodrow Kroll

When you've trusted Jesus, and walked His way,  
When you've felt His hand, lead you day by day,  
But your steps now take you, another way.  
Start over.

When you've made your plans, and they've gone awry,  
When you've tried your best, till there is no more try,  
When you've failed yourself, and you don't know why.  
Start over.

When you've told your friends, what you plan to do,  
When you've trusted them, but they didn't come through,  
Now you are all alone, and it's up to you.  
Start over.

When you've prayed to God, so you'll know His will,  
When you've prayed and prayed, but you don't know still,  
When you want to stop, 'cause you've had your fill.  
Start over.

When you think you're finished, and want to quit,  
When you've bottomed out, in life's deepest pit,  
When you've tried and tried, to get out of it.  
Start over.

When the year's been long, and successes few,  
When December comes, and you're feeling blue,  
God gives a January, just for you.  
Start over.

Starting over means, victories' won.  
Starting over means, a race well run.  
Starting over means, the Lord's, "Well done!"  
So don't just sit there--start over!

#### *Starting Over:*

- 1. Letting God set your priorities, on how you spend your money!*
- 2. Letting God set your priorities, on how you spend your time!*
- 3. Live in the Spirit full time, all the time!*

John 15:1--I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

- 2 **"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away;**  
and every branch that bears fruit **He prunes**, that it may bear more fruit.
- 3 "You are **already clean because of the word** which I have spoken to you.
- 4 **"Abide in Me, and I in you.** *[Abide = live, dwell, remain, continue]*  
As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself**, unless it abides in the vine,  
neither can you, **unless you abide in Me.** *[The whole thing is to be hooked up]*
- 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches.  
He who abides in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit;**  
*[A fruitful life, instead of discouragement and despair]*  
**for without Me you can do nothing.** *[Without abiding you can do nothing]*
- 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me,  
he is cast out as a branch and **is withered;** *[Is your Christian life withered?]*  
and they gather them and **throw them into the fire, and they are burned.** *[Terrible warning]*
- 7 **"If you abide in Me, and My words abide** in you,  
**you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.** *[Double condition]*  
*[Power in answered prayer]*
- 8 "By this My **Father is glorified**, that you bear much fruit;  
**so you will be My disciples.** *[God the Father glorified]*  
*[A genuine Christian] [A disciple instead of a Christian]*
- 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you;  
**abide in My love.** (NKJ) *[Live in the "spirit of love"]*

#### IV. THE TIME IS SHORT FOR ALL OF US:

- A. Ps 90:12--Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (NIV) How  
many years left, do we have? The years go by so fast.
- B. **Only one life will soon be past;** *Only*  
**what's done for Christ will last!**
- C. John 9:4--"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day;  
the night is coming when no one can work. (NKJ)

- D. Josh 14:10 (NKJ) "behold, **the LORD has kept me alive**, as He said, these forty-five years . . .
- E. Luke 10:2(NKJ) -Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.
- F. Luke 19:33-34(NKJ)-But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "**Why are you loosing the colt?**" And they said, "The Lord has need of him."
- G. Isa 6:1-8--"Hear Am I, send me!"

#### V. LUKE 8:27ff--JESUS COMMISSIONS, THE HEALED-DEMONIZED MAN:

*(Of all people, he was not a good candidate for the ministry; he certainly was not qualified)*

27(NKJ)--And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city **who had demons for a long time**. And **he wore no clothes**, nor did he **live in a house but in the tombs**. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "**What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!**" For He had commanded **the unclean spirit** to come out of the man. For it had **often seized him**, and he was kept under guard, **bound with chains and shackles**; and he broke the bonds and **was driven by the demon into the wilderness**. Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "**Legion,**" **because many demons had entered him**. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

32 Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. And they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. **And He permitted them**. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and **the herd ran violently** down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, **sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind**. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. **Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear**. And He got into the boat and returned.

38 Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "**Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.**" And he went his way and **proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.**

#### VI. Luke 15:11-32(NKJ)--THE PRODIGAL SON:

11-16--Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. "And the younger of them said to his father, '**Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.**' So he divided to them his livelihood. "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, **journeyed to a far country**, and there **wasted his possessions with prodigal living**. "But when he had **spent all**, there **arose a severe famine** in that land, and he **began to be in want**. "Then he went and **joined himself to a citizen** of that country, and he **sent him into his fields to feed swine**. "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and **no one gave him anything**.

17-20--"But **when he came to himself**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "*Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.*" "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, **his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him**.

21-32--"And the son said to him, '*Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.*' "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out **the best robe** and put it on him, and put a **ring** on his hand and **sandals** on his feet. 'And bring the **fatted calf** here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; '**for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.**' **And they began to be merry**. "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. "So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has **received him** safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' "**But he was angry and would not go in**. Therefore his **father came out and pleaded with him**. "So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 'But as soon as **this son of yours came**, who has **devoured your livelihood with harlots**, you killed the fatted calf for him.' "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and **all that I have is**

**yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."** *[We need to forgive as easily, as totally, and as quickly as God does!]*

#### **VII. JONAH, THE BACKSLIDEN PROPHET:**

- A. Prophets were human beings also, not necessarily sinless or perfect;
- B. Jonah had trouble with obedience.
- C. Jonah got another chance.
- D. God did not give up on Jonah.
- E. Do you know of someone, who you hope God does not forgive and to whom you would not want to be sent with a message of hope, encouragement, and forgiveness?

#### **VIII. Matt 25:14-30(NKJ)--WICKED AND LAZY SERVANT:**

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

16 "Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

"And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his LORD's money.

19 "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' "He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' "**His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'**

24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a **hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.** 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' "But his lord answered and said to him, '**You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 'And cast the unprofitable (TLB-useless) servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

(Giving of Time and Talent and Treasure = Servant hood)

#### **VIII. WE ARE LIVING IN THE VERY LAST OF THE LAST DAYS:**

- A. Luke 12:42-43, 48 (NIV)--The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager (steward), whom the master puts in charge of his servants **to give them their food** allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom **the master finds doing so** when he returns . . . From everyone who has been **given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.**
- B. John 4:34-35(NKJ)--Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.** Do you not say, There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!**
- C. Mark 13:32-37(NIV)--"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, **each with his assigned task**, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back-- whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, **do not let him find you sleeping.** What I say to you, **I say to everyone: 'Watch!'**"
- D. Ps 90:12--So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.(NKJ)

#### **IX. THE APOSTLE PETER:**

- A. How long did it take God to restore Peter? **Answer: 40 days**, when he was chosen to preach the sermon on the day of Pentecost (*instead of the beloved and faithful disciple, John.*)-- the first birthday of the church. Acts 2:13-18(TLB)- But others in the crowd were mocking. **"They're drunk, that's all!"** they said. Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven apostles and **shouted to the crowd**, "Listen, all of you, visitors and residents of Jerusalem alike! Some of you are saying these men are drunk! **It isn't true! It's much too early for that! People don't get drunk by 9:00 AM!** No! What you see this morning was predicted centuries ago by the prophet Joel-- 'In the last days,' God said, 'I will pour out my Holy Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men dream dreams. **Yes, the Holy Spirit shall come upon all my servants, men and women alike, and they shall prophesy.**"
- B. John 21:15-17(TLB)--**Do you love me? Then get busy tending and feeding my sheep.** 'After breakfast Jesus said to Simon Peter, "**Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others?**" "Yes," Peter replied, "you know I am your friend." "**Then feed my lambs,**" Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "**Simon, son of John, do you really love me?**" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I am your friend." "**Then take care of my sheep,**" Jesus said. Once more he asked him, "**Simon, son of John, are you even my friend?**" Peter was grieved at the way Jesus asked the question this third time. "Lord, you know my heart; you know I am," he said. Jesus said, "**Then feed my little sheep.**"
- C. **Deception about our spiritual strength:** Luke 22:31-32(NKJ)--And the Lord said, Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **"But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."** Luke 22:33-34(NKJ) But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." Then He said, "**I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.**"

#### X. DOING A BEAUTIFUL THING FOR JESUS:

Mark 14:3-6(NIV)--While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very **expensive perfume**, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, **"Why this waste of perfume?** It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they **rebuked her harshly.** "Leave her alone," **said Jesus.** "**Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.**"

2 Sam 24:13-14(NKJ) - So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall **seven years of famine** come to you in your land? Or shall you **flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you?** Or shall there be **three days' plague in your land?** Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me." And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. **Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.**"

#### XI. DAVID'S FORGIVENESS AND REUSABILITY:

Ps 51:1-13(NKJ)--Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the **multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly** from my iniquity, and **cleanse me from my sin.** For I acknowledge my transgressions, **and my sin is always before me.** Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight-- that You may be found **just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness,** that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and **blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do **not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and **uphold me by Your generous Spirit.** (NAS--**sustain me with a willing spirit.**) **Then** I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

Acts 13:22--After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: **'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'** (NIV)

**XII. ALL HAVE SINNED AND ARE COMING SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD:** (You would have to be perfect to go to heaven, if salvation was by works!)

James 2:8-10(NKJ)--If you really fulfill **the royal law** according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; but if **you show partiality (if you show favoritism-NIV)** you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.**

Ps 53:2-3(KJV) God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: **they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.** Ps 53:3(NKJ) Every one of them has turned aside; **they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.**

Luke 18:18-19(NKJ)--Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "**Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.**"

**XIII. WHAT IS MY PART IN GOD'S PLAN:**

A. **Matt 28:18-20(NKJ)**--And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**" Amen.

B. **Luke 11:33(NKJ)**--"No one, when he has lit a lamp, **puts it in a secret place or under a basket,** but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light.

**XIV. GO AWAY FROM ME, LORD; I AM A SINFUL MAN:**

Luke 5:4-11(NIV)--When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "**Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.**" Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their **partners** in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "**Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!**"

For he and all his companions were **astonished at the catch of fish** they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "**Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.**" So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Luke 3:3-9 (NIV) - He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of **repentance** for the **forgiveness** of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. **Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.**"

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.** And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and **every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.**"

Luke 4:17-19 (NKJ)- And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has **anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.**"

**XV. PARABLE OF THE SEEKING SHEPHERD:** [God's lost and found dept.]

Matt 18:12-14--"**What do you think?** If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search **for the one that is straying?** "And if it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, **he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray.** "**Thus it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.** (NAS)

Luke 15:3-7--And He told them this parable, saying, "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture, and **go after** the one which is lost, **until he finds it?** And when he has found it, **he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.** And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, **'Rejoice with me,** for I have found my sheep which was lost!" "I tell you that in the same way, **there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents,** than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (NAS)

#### **XVI. A NEW SHOOT COMING UP OUT OF A CHOPPED DOWN TREE:**

(see the book of Daniel)

Isa 11:1-5(NAS)--Then a **shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,** and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of **wisdom and understanding,** the spirit of **counsel and strength,** the spirit of **knowledge and the fear of the LORD.** **And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear.** But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. **Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist.**

Isa 28:28--**Grain must be ground to make bread;** so one does not go on threshing it forever. Though he drives the wheels of his threshing cart over it, his horses do not grind it. (NIV)

Isa 28:28--Bread grain is easily crushed, **so he doesn't keep on pounding it.** (TLB)

#### **XVII. FORGETTING AND REACHING: ("Take your life back") [see positive.bib]**

Phil 3:12-14--Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but **I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.** Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize** for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Isa 43:18-19--"**Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?** I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. (NIV)

Isa 43:18-19--"**Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it?** I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. (NAS)

Song 2:11-12--For lo, **the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.** The **flowers appear on the earth;** the **time of singing has come,** and **the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.** (NKJ)

#### **XVIII. GOD USES THOSE WHO WERE SICK AND UNPROFITABLE:**

##### **A. Matthew:**

Matt 9:9-10--As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.

11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "**Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?**"

12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "**Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.** (NKJ)

##### **B. Onesimus**

Phile 1:11--Formerly he was useless to you, **but now he has become useful both to you and to me.**

16 (He) **is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.** (NIV)

Phile 1:18--If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account; (KJV)

## **XIX. PRAYERS: ASKING, SEEKING AND KNOCKING:**

Luke 11:7-10 -(NIV) - "Then the one inside answers, '**Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.**' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and **the door will be opened to you.** For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and **to him who knocks, the door will be opened.**

1 Sam 2:4--"The bows of the mighty men are broken, and **those who stumbled are girded with strength.**  
7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; **he brings low and lifts up.**  
9 **He will guard the feet of His saints,** but the wicked shall be silent in darkness.  
**"For by strength no man shall prevail.**

Deut 32:1-3--Listen, O heavens, and I will speak; hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. **Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.** I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! **You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thorn bush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed."** (NIV)

John 1:17--The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (NIV)

Isa 55:6-13--Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. **"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.** As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

## **XX. MAKE A FRESH START: ("Little Beginnings - Great Endings")**

**Re-entry Points of Life:** a death, a birth, an accident, a new friendship, an hospitalization, a divorce, an enormous blessing, or a sad tragedy. All of these are wake up calls!

Isa 28:28--Bread grain is easily crushed, **so he doesn't keep on pounding it.** (TLB)

Isa 28:28--**Grain must be ground to make bread;** so one does not go on threshing it forever. (NIV)

1 Sam 22:2(ASV)--And every one that was in **distress**, and every one that was in **debt**, and every one that was **discontented**, gathered themselves unto him; and he became captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

Acts 10:15--And again a voice came to him a second time, **"What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy."** (NAS) **"Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."** (NIV)

15--The voice spoke again, "Don't contradict God! If he says something is kosher, then it is." (TLB)

--APPENDIX--

Ps 40:1-17--I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry.

2 He also **brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay,** and set my feet upon a **rock,** and **established my steps.**

3 He has put a new song in my mouth-- praise to our God; **many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD.**

4 Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

5 Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done.  
**The things you planned for us no one can recount to you;**  
were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

6 Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; my ears You have opened;  
burnt offering and sin offering You did not require.

7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.  
8 **I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.**"  
9 I **proclaim** righteousness in the great assembly;  
**I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD.**

10 **I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;** I **speak** of your faithfulness and salvation.  
I do **not conceal** your love and your truth from the great assembly.

11 **Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD;**  
**may your love and your truth always protect me.**

12 For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.  
They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.

13 **Be pleased, O LORD, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me.**

14 May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.

15 May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be appalled at their own shame.

16 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation  
always say, "The LORD be exalted!"

17 **Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me.**  
**You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay. (NIV)**

1 Chr 4:10--And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying,

1. **"Oh, that You would bless me indeed,**
2. **and enlarge my territory,**
3. **that Your hand would be with me,**
4. **and that You would keep me from evil,**
5. **that I may not cause pain!"**

So God granted him what he requested. (NKJ)

John 6:27-29(NKJ)--"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

John 6:63(NKJ)--"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Hosea 2:10-15--So now I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers; no one will take her out of my hands. I will stop all her celebrations: her yearly festivals, her New Moons, her Sabbath days-- all her appointed feasts. I will ruin her vines and her fig trees, which she said were her pay from her lovers; I will make them a thicket, and wild animals will devour them. I will punish her for the days she burned incense to the Baals; she decked herself with rings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but me she forgot," declares the LORD.

14 **"Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.** (NIV)

Hosea 2:19-20--**I will betroth you to me forever;**

**I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.**

**I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD.** (NIV)

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Mark 9:37--"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me;  
and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

38 Now John answered Him, saying,  
"Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name,  
and we forbade him because he does not follow us."

39 But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him,  
for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me.

40 "For he who is not against us is on our side. (NKJ)

John 13:20--"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me;  
and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." (NKJ)

Rom 15:7--Therefore **receive one another, just as Christ also received us,**  
**to the glory of God.** (NKJ)

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1 Chr 12:32--men of Issachar, **who understood the times, and knew what Israel should do**-- (NIV)

1 Chr 12:32--And of the children of Issachar, **which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do;** (KJV)

**All these men understood the temper of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.** (NLT)