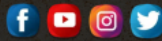


"THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ENLIGHTENED; THAT YE MAY KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, AND WHAT THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS," EPHESIANS 1:18

# A MONTHLY MESSAGE OF HOPE • LOVE • FORGIVENESS

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## FOLLOWING THE WORD OF GOD, IS THE PERFECT GUIDE TO ENDLESS BLESSINGS IN 2024 AND BEYOND

**Text: John 5:39-40**, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. <sup>40</sup> And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”

If you could be promised everything that you wanted, such as: success in life, success in your family, success in your relationships, success in your work, success in your school, success in your church, by doing one simple thing, would you do it? Of course you would. There would be no question or hesitation to this. You would choose success over failure without even really thinking about it.

The good news is that you have that promise right now. You don't have to wait to attend a religious service, nor do you have to wait until your favorite song begins to play. There is one simple thing you can do to ensure your success: **Read your Bible**. And not just read it, but think about what you read, memorize the verses, apply what you learn to your life. When you do this, you will find the perfect guide to helping you reach the ultimate destination of success. Here are three promises from the Bible for why it is so important to your life:

### 1. Reading the Bible Brings Jesus into the Scene

In John 14:21, Jesus said, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” When He talked about keeping His commandments, He was talking about reading, respecting, reflecting on and living what the Word says. Reading your Bible and applying what it says to your life invites Jesus to work in your life.

If you have a problem with the plumbing in your home, you don't call a pediatrician to fix the pipes, you call the entity that you know can fix the specific issue that you have. We will go as far to check the yelp scores, how many stars the business has. Once that is confirmed, then we reach out to the business that has the best verified and trusted results to remedy our issue.

The Guinness Book of World Records, has listed the Bible as the bestselling book of all time. An estimated 5 to 7 billion copies have been printed over approximately 1,500 years, according to the British and Foreign Bible Society. Therefore, when we have issues that causes us to need direction, read the Bible. Reading will cause the heavenly host of God to enter the situation. It is written, Matthew 7:7-8, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: <sup>8</sup>For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

## **2. Reading the Bible Prepares You when Difficulties Strike**

Romans 10:17 says, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (*New King James Version*). When you focus on God and His Word, troubles won’t leave you scrambling. Fear can’t get a hold on you because you are confident in God’s provision.

Many of us run at the first sign of trouble, I know that, because I have. Faced with a sickness that the doctor said, “we have done all we can do.” Faced with pressures that were so strong that it would burst a pipe. Faced with hurts that I did not see coming. Faced with obstacles that I could not handle on my own. When the weight of so much collapsed me to the ground, I turned my mind from weeping over the issues, to crying out to God. Psalm 18:6, “In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.” Then the spirit of God reminded me of the scripture, Psalm 30:5, “...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” We must remember, who is “...the author and finisher of our faith.” (Hebrews 12:2).

In 1944, Ruth Caye Jones, penned the hymn, “In Times Like These,” I submit to you today, before we are confronted with difficulties that may turn our lives upside-down, run to the Word of God, today and be ready for battle.

## **3. Reading the Bible Brings Certainty and Clarity to Your Life**

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take” (*New Living Translation*). When you read the Bible, you’ll find clear direction and leading from the Lord through it. He leads you through the Word and by His Holy Spirit.

If you are looking for the best results in 2024 and every day, month, and year thereafter, I submit to you, to accept this challenge: read your Bible at least 3 hours a day, but break that time up throughout your day and watch the Spirit of God, “Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.” Psalm 119:133.

**CONCLUSION:** These few points of spiritual growth rely on your active participation. You can’t simply run through a Bible passage without really reflecting on it and letting it affect you. Instead, meditate on it, study it, pray about it and apply it to your daily life. When you do, it will improve your life for the better. Don’t wait another day to start reading your Bible and experience the profound change that it brings!