



# The ONE YEAR<sup>®</sup>

walk with GOD  
DEVOTIONAL

365 daily Bible readings  
to transform your mind

chris tiegreen



TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS, INC.  
Carol Stream, Illinois

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*The One Year Walk with God Devotional: 365 Daily Bible Readings to Transform Your Mind*

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ISBN-13: 978-1-4143-1661-1 (lthrlk)

ISBN-10: 1-4143-1661-5 (lthrlk)

ISBN-13: 978-1-4143-0056-6 (sc)

ISBN-10: 1-4143-0056-5 (sc)

Printed in China

12 11 10 09 08 07  
6 5 4 3 2 1

## WALK THRU THE BIBLE

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is a global Christian educational organization that partners with the local church. Our vision is to provide relevant and biblical teaching, training, and tools to pastors, people, and professionals to produce Romans 12 Christians worldwide—disciples whose relationships with God, the world, themselves, other Christians, and non-Christians reflect the character and purposes of Jesus.

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Walk Thru the Bible  
4201 North Peachtree Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341-1207  
770-458-9300

## INTRODUCTION

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We are told in Romans 12:2 to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. As every Christian knows, that's a process. We did not come into this world with a clear perception about God and His Kingdom—or about our own selves, for that matter. We began with distorted views, and part of our task as Christians is to let God change our views to accurately reflect His character and His Kingdom. In other words, we need wisdom.

That's what these daily readings are about. They are aimed at redirecting our thinking so that we understand ourselves, our world, and our God accurately. They are designed to move us further along that path of having our minds renewed and our lives transformed.

Although the focus in these devotionals is biblical wisdom, the readings are not limited to what we normally consider the Bible's "wisdom literature"—Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. These books are the core of biblical wisdom, but God's mind is found everywhere throughout the Scriptures. You will find that about half of these devotionals come from the wisdom books, and about half come from other parts of the Bible. In every case, however, the daily reading is meant to help you reflect on how your mind works.

As you read these wisdom devotionals, remember that the Word of God expresses the mind of God. His thoughts are available to us. Let these devotionals help you dig deeper into His revelation. Let His Spirit change your thinking. Most of all, let your mind be renewed and your life be transformed.

# Where Wisdom Begins

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.*

PROVERBS 9:10



**IN WORD** We're uncomfortable with the idea of fearing God. We defend Him as One whose love is so great He needs not be feared. As 1 John 4:18 says: "Perfect love drives out fear." So we redefine fear as "awe" and "reverence." Yet the Scriptures use the term "fear of God" frequently enough to give us the impression that something more than awe is appropriate. It is the kind of fear that terrified the disciples when they heard God's voice at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:6); that overwhelmed Isaiah when he cried out: "Woe to me! . . . I am ruined!" in God's presence (Isaiah 6:5); and that drove John facedown at the sight of the glorified Son (Revelation 1:17).

Why does a God of love tell us that wisdom begins when we fear Him? Because when we approach the Holy One with a casual familiarity, we are not living in reality. We do not take Him as seriously as we ought, and we do not take our sin as seriously as we ought. Fear—not of punishment but of the overwhelming greatness of God—sees Him correctly. When we stand on the edge of the vast, bottomless chasm that separates us from Him, and we behold the immeasurable expense He paid to bridge that chasm, we experience fear. Fear of what would have been if we had never known the gospel. Fear of our own unworthiness. Fear of the absolute dedication to Him that is now required of us. When this fear grips us, we begin to understand the enormity of the gospel and of our God. That understanding begins to rearrange our lives. And that is what wisdom is all about.

**IN DEED** It is vital that we know God's love and rest comfortably in it. But a true understanding of God's love begins with an overwhelming awareness of His greatness, holiness, and power as they contrast our own sinful nature. There is nothing more fear-inducing than that. But this is where we must begin. This will shape our self-awareness, our relationships, our work, our prayers—*everything* we think and do. It will make us wise.

**JANUARY 1**

*Proverbs 9:10-12*

True wisdom is gazing at God.

—the Syrian



# Wise Worship

*I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.* ROMANS 12:1

## JANUARY 2

*Romans 12:1-2*

Worship . . . is not part of the Christian life; it is the Christian life.

—Gerald Vann

**IN WORD** Wisdom begins with basing one's life on reality. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). Why? Because fear of the Lord is based on a true understanding of who we really are and who God really is. But there is a next step. Wisdom doesn't begin and end with fear; it continues into worship. When we really understand who God is, the natural response is to offer Him whatever we can get our hands on—and all we have is ourselves.

All of those in the Bible who encountered the living God in His glory fell on their face in worship. Like Isaiah, they would offer themselves (Isaiah 6:8). If we have not yet gotten to that point of laying ourselves on the altar before Him—*without reservation*—we have not yet encountered the living God. His glory prompts sacrifice. It is the only wise, intelligent, reasonable response to the magnitude of His goodness.

**IN DEED** We often think of worship as words and songs that come out of our mouths. It is so much more. It is a lifestyle, a sacrificial way of living that acknowledges every moment of every day that there is One far more worthy of our allegiance than ourselves. When His interests consistently supercede ours, and we act accordingly, we are worshipping.

Imagine yourself in the throne room of God. See the altar at His feet. Get on it. Lay yourself out before Him and say to Him: "I am Yours. Do with me as You will. I give up my right to govern myself, because You are far more worthy to do it, and You will never do me harm. I exist for Your purposes, and for Yours alone." Do this every morning, then live out your day mindful of whose you are. In light of who He is, this is true worship. And true worship is the wisest thing we can do.

# A Higher Mind

*We have the mind of Christ.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:16



**IN WORD** At first glance, Paul's claim is boastful. It would not go over well in our "politically correct" culture of today. It probably did not go over well in the Corinthian culture then, except within the church. There, it would have been a treasured truth and an amazing revelation.

So it is with us. It is almost unthinkable: the mind of the One through whom the entire universe was created, the fount of all wisdom, is available to us. We are not limited to human reasoning. We are not bound by the limitations of history's greatest thinkers, who, while often exceeding human standards of intelligence, have all fallen drastically short of discovering eternal truth by natural means. No, we have a supernatural access to ultimate reality from an eternal perspective. We know the direction of history and where it is leading; we know how to escape this fallen world; and we know who holds all power in the palm of His right hand. This vast, incomprehensible treasure is ours—if we will accept it.

That's our problem. We often resort to lesser means of wisdom because we're unaware that the mind of Christ is accessible, or we're unable to believe such an extravagant promise. But if we can't believe it, we can't have it. The mind of Christ is ours through the Spirit of God, who comes to us only through faith. The Spirit searches the deep things of God (v. 10) and reveals them to His people. Such things are foolish to the world, but they are truth nonetheless—truth that we can know and base our lives on.

**IN DEED** You have your own mind. You also have Christ's. Which would you rather depend on? Begin each day by disavowing your own wisdom. We must acknowledge that we do not have the understanding to make the decisions we will face each day. We do not know all the details or future implications of any decision. But God does, and He makes His wisdom available. Acknowledge your utter dependence on the mind of Christ, ask for His wisdom, and believe.

**JANUARY 3**

*1 Corinthians 2:6-16*

The truly wise are those whose souls are in Christ.

—St. Ambrose



# Driven by Instinct

*In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.* JUDE 18

## JANUARY 4

*Jude 17-21*

Let temporal things serve your use, but the eternal be the object of your desire.

—Thomas à Kempis

**IN WORD** Guidance is always a pressing issue for the Christian. Pick a moment in your life—any moment at all—and it is likely that you have needed guidance on some critical area at that particular moment. We are *always* in need of direction, and most of us are acutely aware of that need.

The unbeliever, as this passage says, is a slave to instinct and self. Those who do not follow God must follow their own internal logic. And that logic is a mess of distorted perspectives, most often driven by self. The self-guided person will make decisions based on emotional needs, cravings for self-esteem, physical impulses, and present-life planning. There is nothing eternal about their choices, no urge to submit to their Creator, no consistent willingness to put others' needs ahead of their own desires. Even in their highest moral behavior, they are driven from within, where the Spirit does not dwell.

We, too, often lapse into instinctual decision making. Though we want God's guidance and ask for it, we often do not wait for it. We make decisions based on what our internal logic tells us. Is that logic guided by the Spirit? Or do we serve our own emotional needs, self-esteem cravings, physical impulses, and present-life interests? We are inhabited by God's wise, eternal Spirit. But are we driven by Him?

**IN DEED** When we are driven by our own internal impulses and reasoning, we are settling for second best. Even when those instincts are shaped by years of discipleship, they are still subject to sin and deception. We can use them to God's glory, but we can't trust them. They must always be submitted to the guiding mind of God.

We do not need to follow the patterns of this world. We are not left to figure things out on our own. We are not ruled by our base desires, or even by our noble ones. We have not been abandoned to our own moral codes and higher philosophies. We are called to follow our Leader. We must submit our instincts to Him and follow Him diligently.



# Guided by God

*If my people would but listen to me, . . . how quickly would I  
subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!*

PSALM 81:13-14



**IN WORD** The hardest aspect of the Christian life is to learn to submit to God in all things. His yoke is easy, but remembering to be bound by it is difficult. We worship Him for His goodness, we thank Him for His love, we pledge to be His disciples, and we ask Him for His wisdom. All the while, the nuts and bolts of following Him are hard to grasp. When it comes to making decisions, we still like our independence.

What is it about our independence that so intrigues us? Why are we so captivated with our decision-making powers? Why, even when we know that a sense of autonomy is Satan's specialty and the root of our sin, do we insist on maintaining little pieces of it in various corners of our lives? Why, when God tells us one thing and our internal compulsions tell us another, do we often choose the compulsions? What does that say about our trust in God?

That's what the fall of man in the Garden of Eden was all about: mistrusting God and seeking our own interests. And that's still what sin is all about. When we choose our own will over God's, we're mistrusting Him and trusting ourselves. What an absurdity! We forget the most basic of all biblical teaching: God's will is in our best interest.

**IN DEED** Are you convinced of that? The Christian life will be a struggle until we know deep down in our hearts that His commands—even the hard ones—are ultimately for our benefit. We can be sure that the best way to seek our own self-centered interests is to be entirely God-centered. In this paradox, godliness and the self-life meet. Or, as Jesus said, "Whoever loses his life will preserve it" (Luke 17:33). Our happiness is deeper and richer when we listen to Him.

In that sense, it is a self-fulfilling act to forsake our own will and submit to His. Submission seems so noble, but we have a lot at stake in it. When we serve Him, we serve ourselves. Believe that wholeheartedly, and see what happens.

## JANUARY 5

*Psalm 81:11-16*

If God's will is your will and if He always has His way [with you], then you always have your way also.

—Hannah Whitall Smith



# Not Your Own

*You are not your own; you were bought at a price.*

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

## JANUARY 6

*1 Corinthians*  
6:18-20

The condition for gaining God's full blessing is absolute surrender to Him.

—Andrew Murray

**IN WORD** Life is a series of decisions. Some of them are relatively minor, others have lasting impact. We often act on the minor decisions—what to eat, what to wear, whom to talk to—out of our natural behavior patterns, giving them little thought. With the serious choices—which job to take, where to live, and the like—we weigh pros and cons and try to determine the right course of action. In any case, we are likely to forget an important backdrop to our decision making: We are not our own. We belong to God.

Isn't this easy to forget? We tend to approach life with a certain autonomy, as though we are independent individuals with a responsibility to acknowledge God in worship and sacrifice. But God wants a deeper worship in our lives. Rather than living independently of Him while giving Him our respect, He wants us to live dependently on Him with awareness that every action, every thought, every impulse is to fit into His purposes. We must not act—or even breathe—without this awareness. We have been bought. We are His.

Some might consider this the equivalent of slavery or servitude. Paul always did (Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:10; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1), regardless of whether he was free or in prison. But it is a joyful service that carries with it no sense of oppression. How could it? Our Master is the epitome of benevolence. He knows our innermost being and is zealously intent on fulfilling us. The key for us is living with the knowledge that we are owned and operated by the most loving and qualified Owner possible.

**IN DEED** The Christian who lives with this wisdom—that we are owned by Another—is a Christian profoundly changed. Our decisions are affected, our character is reformed, and our load is lightened. We lose the right to ourselves, but we also lose the burden of self-rule. It is a wonderfully freeing truth. Everything about us is the concern of Someone else.

# The Available Mind of God

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault.* JAMES 1:5



**IN WORD** Why would God set up a process for us to gain wisdom? Why would He not just give it to us? Because asking for His wisdom and receiving it brings us into relationship with Him. The wisdom we receive is not information imparted, but character learned. We observe who He is and we learn to behave like Him. We come to know Him better in the process. His wisdom is readily available, but we must ask.

Have you found yourself needing guidance in a given situation? Our usual tendency is to pray for direction. But God has a better way. Pray for wisdom, and the direction will become clear. If we were to pray for direction, God could only answer by giving us information. But if we pray for wisdom, God answers by giving us His own mind.

We are prone to call upon God for wisdom only when we find ourselves in a difficulty. But far from being a one-time request in a moment of need, this verse hints at an ongoing process. It isn't that we ask for wisdom one day when we're at our wit's end; we are to ask for wisdom daily because we will find ourselves at wit's end sooner or later. God's provision of His mind is often given in advance. It is more than instructions for a way to go; it is training for a way of life.

**IN DEED** Do you need direction? Guidance? Wisdom from above? The crucial step, often neglected, is to ask. How often we try to figure things out on our own! How often we ask others for advice before we ask God! Ask Him now. Ask often. Make the asking a regular part of your life. Don't wait until trouble comes; learn the mind of God now. He offers it generously.

**JANUARY 7**

*James 1:2-7*

There is a deep wisdom inaccessible to the wise and prudent, but disclosed to babes.

—Christopher Bryant



# The Obedient Mind of Man

*When he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

JAMES 1:6

## JANUARY 8

*James 1:2-7*

God will never reveal more truth about Himself till you obey what you know already.

—Oswald Chambers

**IN WORD** We easily forget the requirement before the promise. God's extravagant gift of His wisdom is only given when a prior condition is met. When we ask we must believe. Otherwise, His wisdom will not come.

What does God mean by requiring our belief? Is it only that we must believe He will answer us? It is that, but it is more. We must believe—ahead of time—that what He tells us is wisdom to be followed. We must be committed to heed His instructions before He gives them. If we are not committed, He will not answer. If we do not purpose in our hearts to do His will, we will never discover it.

Many Christians ask for God's wisdom as an option to throw into the mix. It becomes one possibility among a range of many. If we are only requesting His advice, He will not give it. He only gives solutions to be implemented, not suggestions to consider. The commitment to follow comes first. The mind of God is generously granted to us, but only for us to obey. It is not a shopping item. It does not come with a return policy.

To ask for God's will as an option to consider rather than a command to obey is to place our intellect above His. We put ourselves in the position of authority, with Him submitting His proposals. But He will not relate to us that way. He is the authority. When He speaks, there is no better option. The omniscient Creator does not offer us a second-rate plan. His first direction is always the right one.

**IN DEED** Do you ask God for His wisdom with a resolve to obey it? If not, do not expect it to come. Expect rather to be tossed around like a wave in a storm. But if your heart will commit to His way, His way will be easily found. God gives us His mind in response to our faith.

# In Defense of Truth

*The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men  
who are truthful.* PROVERBS 12:22



**IN WORD** Dishonesty is epidemic in our culture. Court records, academic surveys, and common observation confirm it. Truth and integrity are expendable in our society.

Why do people lie? Or, to put it more subtly and inclusively, why do virtually all of us sometimes try to create an impression that isn't entirely accurate? The reasons are many and varied. They include a desire to stay out of trouble, a drive to get ahead, and an obsession about our image. In any case, a person's dishonesty indicates a lack of trust in God for the consequences of integrity. When we lie—even in a seemingly insignificant way—it is because we are avoiding the results of not lying. We take matters into our own hands because we're afraid of what will happen if we tell the truth. We do not trust God to honor our integrity.

But our God is a God of integrity. It is in His character. He never lies, and He is not silent when the truth needs to be revealed. It is His nature to be absolutely reliable. There is no hint of pretense in Him. He is who He says He is, He does what He says He will do, and He honors those who follow His lead. Always.

**IN DEED** This is both comforting and convicting. It is comforting because we know that God's promises in His Word are reliable. When He inspires prophecy, it is accurate. When He promises blessing, it will come. When He says He will defend His people, He will. We can read His Word with unwavering assurance that it is pure truth with no fine print hidden away from our trusting eyes.

But the purity of God's character is also convicting. We know that though we are called to be like Him, our integrity falls short of His. He is shaping us to reflect His glory, but when we give a false impression, we interfere with His work.

Trust God with the truth. Tell it and display His integrity. Know that He will always defend truth—and those who tell it.

**JANUARY 9**

*Proverbs 12:22*

Where truth is,  
there is God.

—Miguel de  
Cervantes



# Perfect Timing

*I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.* PSALM 40:1

## JANUARY 10

*Psalm 40:1*

Simply wait upon Him. So doing, we shall be directed, supplied, protected, corrected, and rewarded.

—Vance Havner

**IN WORD** Patience is one of the hardest virtues for us to understand. We pray to an omnipotent God. We know He is able to help us at any moment. We know that He who defines Himself as “love” and gave His Son for us is not reluctant to help us. So when we ask such a God to intervene in our circumstances, why is there so often a delay?

Nowhere in the Bible does God promise us instant answers to our prayers. His promises for answered prayer are amazing and reassuring, but none of them includes a timetable. He only assures us that He is never too late. Yet in our impatience, we don’t want an answer that is simply “not too late.” We want an answer now. We have needs, and we do not understand why those needs must be prolonged.

But God has His reasons. Perhaps our needs are being prolonged because they are accomplishing something in us that nothing else will. Perhaps they are being prolonged because God is doing a necessary work in the life of someone else who is involved in our situation. Perhaps He is teaching us about prayer or perfecting our faith. Maybe He is even letting us identify with Jesus in the fellowship of His sufferings—it is, after all, His overarching purpose to conform us to the image of Christ. How can we be conformed if we have no identification with His pain?

**IN DEED** Sometimes God will make clear that our answer is delayed because the delay will further His work in our own hearts or in another area. Sometimes He gives us no reason at all. The Christian’s wise response, in either case, is to know that if we are waiting on God, there must be a very good reason. And if we wait in faith and expectancy, the wait will be amply rewarded. His timing is always perfect.



<i>Faithfulness</i> . . . . .	March 27, June 22, September 13	<i>Hope</i> . . . . .	April 30, October 7, November 13, December 14
<i>Fear</i> . . . . .	January 12, October 1, December 11	<i>Hospitality</i> . . . . .	November 11
<i>Fearing God</i> . . . . .	January 1, April 13, October 10	<i>Humility</i> . . . . .	February 21, March 21–23, May 31, June 5, June 30, August 6, August 13, October 18, December 3
<i>Fellowship</i> . . . . .	October 31	<i>Hypocrisy</i> . . . . .	November 4
<i>Flexibility</i> . . . . .	April 3	<i>Identity</i> . . . . .	June 25, December 6–9
<i>Following God</i> . . . . .	January 18	<i>Idolatry</i> . . . . .	November 19–23
<i>Fruit of the Spirit</i> . . . . .	February 12, June 15–24	<i>Image of God</i> . . . . .	May 3
<i>Fruitfulness</i> . . . . .	February 12	<i>Incarnation</i> . . . . .	December 22, December 24–26
<i>Generosity</i> . . . . .	April 5, April 19	<i>Instruction</i> . . . . .	August 7
<i>Gentleness</i> . . . . .	June 23	<i>Integrity</i> . . . . .	March 25, July 26
<i>Giving</i> . . . . .	March 18, June 10	<i>Intentions</i> . . . . .	April 28–29
<i>Glorifying God</i> . . . . .	January 21	<i>Jesus</i> . . . . .	December 27
<i>God's care</i> . . . . .	March 8	<i>Joy</i> . . . . .	June 17, September 6, October 24
<i>God's character</i> . . . . .	March 30	<i>Judgment</i> . . . . .	February 24
<i>God's eternal nature</i> . . . . .	May 7	<i>Justice</i> . . . . .	April 21, June 12
<i>God's faithfulness</i> . . . . .	January 26, July 15, September 21	<i>Kindness</i> . . . . .	June 20
<i>God's glory</i> . . . . .	July 14, August 5	<i>Knowing God</i> . . . . .	April 3
<i>God's love</i> . . . . .	January 22, October 21	<i>Law</i> . . . . .	February 11
<i>God's power</i> . . . . .	October 7	<i>Lies</i> . . . . .	November 20
<i>God's provision</i> . . . . .	January 27, June 10, October 12	<i>Living in the Spirit</i> . . . . .	February 13, April 2, June 15
<i>God's sovereignty</i> . . . . .	February 8, May 13, May 23, August 2	<i>Lordship</i> . . . . .	February 3, February 28
<i>God's strength</i> . . . . .	July 28	<i>Love</i> . . . . .	March 11, March 24, June 16, November 9, November 11, December 16
<i>God's timing</i> . . . . .	July 6–9, September 19, October 3	<i>Loving God</i> . . . . .	March 28
<i>God's will</i> . . . . .	August 25, September 19, October 22	<i>Materialism</i> . . . . .	January 13
<i>Godliness</i> . . . . .	January 26	<i>Meditation</i> . . . . .	October 27
<i>Goodness</i> . . . . .	June 21	<i>Meekness</i> . . . . .	August 15
<i>Grace</i> . . . . .	February 11, February 13, February 15, June 13, September 7	<i>Memorization</i> . . . . .	October 28
<i>Gratitude</i> . . . . .	November 24–27	<i>Mercy</i> . . . . .	January 25, April 21, June 11, August 7, September 23, September 25
<i>Grief</i> . . . . .	August 14, December 21	<i>Mind of Christ</i> . . . . .	January 3, March 21–23
<i>Guidance</i> . . . . .	January 4–5, January 7, February 9, August 29–30	<i>Money</i> . . . . .	January 31, March 3, March 17, May 2, August 23, August 31, September 1
<i>Guilt</i> . . . . .	July 19	<i>Motives</i> . . . . .	April 28–29, August 24
<i>Happiness</i> . . . . .	December 20	<i>Mourning</i> . . . . .	December 21
<i>Health</i> . . . . .	March 16	<i>Need</i> . . . . .	April 5
<i>Heart</i> . . . . .	March 11, May 10, July 25, October 14	<i>Negativity</i> . . . . .	January 24
<i>Heaven</i> . . . . .	April 19	<i>New self</i> . . . . .	February 6, February 16–17, July 11, November 10
<i>Holiness</i> . . . . .	May 5–6, May 15, June 2–3, September 18	<i>Obedience</i> . . . . .	January 8, March 1, May 30, September 20, October 5, October 10, November 29
<i>Honesty</i> . . . . .	January 9, May 13	<i>Occult</i> . . . . .	May 28
		<i>Patience</i> . . . . .	January 10, April 1, June 19



*Peace* . . . . . April 10, June 18, August 19,  
 October 6  
*Permanence* . . . . . September 26  
*Persecution* . . . . . August 20, October 25  
*Perseverance* . . . . . March 6, May 16  
*Perspective* . . . . . October 23, November 28  
*Persuasion* . . . . . March 26  
*Pessimism* . . . . . January 24  
*Planning* . . . . . December 1  
*Poverty* . . . . . April 9, July 18, August 22  
*Power* . . . . . December 18  
*Prayer* . . . . . January 10, January 25, February 2,  
 March 26, June 29, July 17, August 21–22,  
 August 25, October 22, October 26  
*Preparation* . . . . . December 23  
*Pride* . . . . . March 26, April 12, June 5, June 30,  
 August 6, December 3  
*Priorities* . . . . . March 3–4, March 17, July 16  
*Prophecy* . . . . . October 4  
*Purification* . . . . . March 5  
*Purity* . . . . . March 2, August 18, August 21  
*Purpose* . . . . . May 3, December 1, December 5  
*Reason* . . . . . May 27  
*Rebuke* . . . . . February 20  
*Redemption* . . . . . September 2  
*Refuge* . . . . . April 24, May 18, September 3  
*Regret* . . . . . May 23, October 6, December 13  
*Renewal* . . . . . January 11  
*Repentance* . . . . . April 23  
*Reputation* . . . . . March 12  
*Resisting the devil* . . . . . March 31  
*Rest* . . . . . September 9  
*Resurrected living* . . . . . February 16–18  
*Rewards* . . . . . April 8  
*Righteousness* . . . . . January 29, February 10,  
 April 7, July 20, November 6  
*Rivalry* . . . . . September 28  
*Sacrifice* . . . . . January 14  
*Safety* . . . . . September 10–11, October 2  
*Satan* . . . . . July 13–14, September 14,  
 October 25  
*Security* . . . . . May 21  
*Self-centeredness* . . . . . March 15, June 6  
*Self-control* . . . . . June 24, September 7  
*Selfishness* . . . . . February 5  
*Self-reliance* . . . . . March 15, October 12  
*Separateness* . . . . . September 14  
*Service* . . . . . January 14, November 11  
*Shepherd* . . . . . September 25, December 24  
*Sin* . . . . . February 15, April 20, May 5–9,  
 August 21, August 27, September 24  
*Sovereignty* . . . . . August 2  
*Spiritual gifts* . . . . . June 26  
*Spiritual growth* . . . . . January 15, March 7,  
 July 20, July 26  
*Spiritual warfare* . . . . . February 22, March 9,  
 March 31, July 13, September 15  
*Submission* . . . . . January 5  
*Success* . . . . . January 30  
*Suffering* . . . . . March 8, April 22, May 16  
*Surrender* . . . . . January 6, February 28  
*Temptation* . . . . . April 26–28, December 2  
*Testing* . . . . . March 5, July 29  
*Thankfulness* . . . . . February 23, April 25  
*Thought life* . . . . . April 4, November 8,  
 December 19  
*Tongue* . . . . . January 19, March 2, May 19–20  
*Transformation* . . . . . February 6  
*Trials* . . . . . May 22, May 24, July 29, July 31,  
 September 8, October 24, November 15  
*Trust* . . . . . February 8, February 19,  
 March 13–14, May 12, May 18,  
 May 21–22, June 10, September 11,  
 October 1, October 5, October 11,  
 November 7, November 17,  
 November 22, December 4  
*Truth* . . . . . October 13–14  
*Unbelief* . . . . . December 28  
*Unity* . . . . . June 26, July 4  
*Victory* . . . . . February 22, September 15,  
 September 17  
*Vindication* . . . . . October 11  
*Voice of God* . . . . . October 8  
*Waiting* . . . . . April 1, June 28, July 27,  
 September 19, October 3  
*Weakness* . . . . . February 14, July 28,  
 September 17, December 17  
*Wisdom* . . . . . January 1, January 3,  
 January 7–8, February 9, February 25–27,  
 March 13, March 28, May 4, May 14,  
 June 27, October 15, October 26–31,  
 December 26, December 28–31  
*Wisdom from the cross* . . . . . April 14–18  
*Words* . . . . . January 19, March 2, May 19–20,  
 June 7–8, August 10, October 29  
*Work* . . . . . February 3–4, September 27,  
 December 5  
*World* . . . . . September 12–13, October 16  
*Worry* . . . . . March 10, November 16  
*Worship* . . . . . January 2, January 20,  
 January 23, July 15, November 5  
*Zeal* . . . . . November 12

## SCRIPTURE INDEX



### OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:26-28 . . . . .	May 3	Job 42:1-6 . . . . .	August 2
Genesis 3:1-7 . . . . .	April 26–28	Psalms 1 . . . . .	February 11–12
Genesis 3:8-10 . . . . .	December 11	Psalms 3 . . . . .	January 28
Genesis 50:20 . . . . .	August 30	Psalms 5:12 . . . . .	January 26, June 6
Leviticus 26:14-17 . . . . .	July 19	Psalms 7 . . . . .	January 27
Numbers 9:15-23 . . . . .	April 3	Psalms 8 . . . . .	October 23
Numbers 24:10-14 . . . . .	August 25	Psalms 9 . . . . .	August 20
Deuteronomy 30:19 . . . . .	October 19, November 30	Psalms 9:1-10 . . . . .	May 12
Joshua 3:9-17 . . . . .	July 24	Psalms 14 . . . . .	December 28
Joshua 7:1-26 . . . . .	September 18	Psalms 16 . . . . .	September 3–6
Joshua 23:6-11 . . . . .	February 22	Psalms 18 . . . . .	December 17–18
Judges 3:1-4 . . . . .	September 16	Psalms 19 . . . . .	March 2
Judges 7 . . . . .	September 17	Psalms 23 . . . . .	June 21
Judges 21:25 . . . . .	November 29	Psalms 27 . . . . .	October 1–3
1 Samuel 12:19-25 . . . . .	June 29	Psalms 31 . . . . .	December 4
1 Samuel 13:5-15 . . . . .	July 27	Psalms 37:1-11 . . . . .	August 15
1 Samuel 16:1-13 . . . . .	July 25	Psalms 37:30-40 . . . . .	August 19
1 Samuel 26 . . . . .	September 19	Psalms 37:39-40 . . . . .	April 24
2 Samuel 12:1-13 . . . . .	April 23	Psalms 38 . . . . .	August 14
1 Kings 13:7-26 . . . . .	September 20	Psalms 39:4-6 . . . . .	November 28
1 Kings 17:7-16 . . . . .	June 10	Psalms 40:1 . . . . .	January 10
1 Kings 19:1-18 . . . . .	July 12	Psalms 40:1-5 . . . . .	February 19
1 Chronicles 29:14-19 . . . . .	July 26	Psalms 41:1-3 . . . . .	June 11
2 Chronicles 16 . . . . .	November 17	Psalms 42 . . . . .	August 16
2 Chronicles 36:15-16 . . . . .	October 4	Psalms 49 . . . . .	August 31, September 1–2
Ezra 8:21-23 . . . . .	November 18	Psalms 50 . . . . .	April 25
Nehemiah 8:1-12 . . . . .	June 17	Psalms 51 . . . . .	August 13, August 18
Job 1 . . . . .	July 29	Psalms 51:3-6 . . . . .	March 25
Job 1:6-12 . . . . .	July 13–14	Psalms 55:4-8, 16-18 . . . . .	May 16
Job 1:13-22 . . . . .	July 15–16	Psalms 55:16-23 . . . . .	March 8–10
Job 2:7-10 . . . . .	February 8	Psalms 57 . . . . .	January 20
Job 13:13-19 . . . . .	July 30	Psalms 62:5-10 . . . . .	July 4
Job 23:1-12 . . . . .	March 5	Psalms 63:1-8 . . . . .	October 21
Job 31:24-28 . . . . .	May 21	Psalms 65 . . . . .	April 5
Job 37 . . . . .	July 31	Psalms 69:13-18 . . . . .	January 25
Job 38:1-21 . . . . .	August 1	Psalms 71:1-3 . . . . .	May 18
Job 41:1-11 . . . . .	June 13	Psalms 74 . . . . .	August 3–5
		Psalms 78:9-16 . . . . .	September 21
		Psalms 78:17-31 . . . . .	September 22

Psalms 78:32-39	September 23	Proverbs 12:11	May 11
Psalms 78:56-64	September 24	Proverbs 12:15; 15:22	June 27
Psalms 78:65-72	September 25	Proverbs 12:21	May 22
Psalms 81:11-16	January 5	Proverbs 12:22	January 9
Psalms 82:3-4	August 22	Proverbs 12:25	June 14
Psalms 86	May 15	Proverbs 14:2	March 1
Psalms 89:1-8	June 22	Proverbs 14:12	November 29-30
Psalms 89:14-18	January 23-24	Proverbs 14:14	April 8
Psalms 90	August 11	Proverbs 14:15	December 10
Psalms 90:8	August 27	Proverbs 14:30	April 10-11
Psalms 91	September 9-10	Proverbs 14:31	April 9
Psalms 92:12-15	September 11	Proverbs 14:32	May 18
Psalms 96	January 21	Proverbs 15:3	May 13
Psalms 100	February 23	Proverbs 15:8-11	November 5-8
Psalms 105:1-7	November 24-27	Proverbs 15:19	October 19
Psalms 106:1-23	June 28	Proverbs 15:22	June 27
Psalms 107	January 22	Proverbs 15:25	December 3
Psalms 112	July 20-22	Proverbs 15:29	August 21
Psalms 119:9-16	July 1, October 28-29	Proverbs 15:32	October 4
Psalms 119:41-48	July 3	Proverbs 16:2	August 24
Psalms 119:49-56	October 30	Proverbs 16:3	January 30
Psalms 119:57-64	October 31	Proverbs 16:5	April 12
Psalms 119:97-104	July 2	Proverbs 16:7	February 1
Psalms 119:145-152	October 27	Proverbs 16:9	August 29-30
Psalms 119:169-176	October 26	Proverbs 16:15	October 20
Psalms 128:1-2	April 13	Proverbs 16:20	August 7
Psalms 139	December 30	Proverbs 16:24	June 7-8
Psalms 139:1-17	May 13	Proverbs 16:25	April 26-28
Psalms 139:23-24	August 24	Proverbs 17:14	August 26
Proverbs 1:20-33	February 20	Proverbs 19:3	February 5
Proverbs 1:33	December 11	Proverbs 19:11	June 19
Proverbs 2:6	March 26	Proverbs 20:6	March 7
Proverbs 3:1-12	March 11-20	Proverbs 21:5	December 1
Proverbs 3:13-18	March 3	Proverbs 21:13	August 22
Proverbs 3:34	December 3	Proverbs 21:30	December 29
Proverbs 4:1-9	February 25-27	Proverbs 22:7	January 31
Proverbs 4:20-27	January 15-19, May 10	Proverbs 23:1-3	December 2
Proverbs 5:21	February 24	Proverbs 23:22-25	December 31
Proverbs 6:20-29	March 27	Proverbs 24:10	July 28
Proverbs 7:2	March 28	Proverbs 25:21-22	April 6
Proverbs 8	May 5-9	Proverbs 25:28	June 24
Proverbs 9	May 4	Proverbs 27:20	May 25
Proverbs 9:10-12	January 1	Proverbs 28:1	July 19
Proverbs 9:17	August 27	Proverbs 28:9	February 2
Proverbs 10:3	February 10	Proverbs 29:25	February 7
Proverbs 10:19	August 10	Proverbs 29:26	June 12
Proverbs 10:29	May 14	Proverbs 30:5	May 17
Proverbs 11:2	August 6	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11	April 30, May 1
Proverbs 11:6	January 29	Ecclesiastes 2:1-11	May 2
Proverbs 11:17	June 20	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	July 5-8
Proverbs 12:2	June 6	Ecclesiastes 3:11	July 9

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13. . . . . *September 27*  
 Ecclesiastes 3:14 . . . . . *September 26*  
 Ecclesiastes 4:1-3. . . . . *July 18*  
 Ecclesiastes 4:4 . . . . . *September 28*  
 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. . . . . *September 30*  
 Ecclesiastes 5:1-3. . . . . *July 17*  
 Ecclesiastes 6:7 . . . . . *May 25*  
 Ecclesiastes 7:8-9. . . . . *June 19*  
 Ecclesiastes 7:13-14. . . . . *December 20*  
 Ecclesiastes 7:14 . . . . . *December 21*  
 Ecclesiastes 7:20 . . . . . *April 20*  
 Ecclesiastes 11:5-6. . . . . *March 30*  
 Song of Songs 2:1-4 . . . . . *June 16*  
 Song of Songs 6:3 . . . . . *March 24*  
 Isaiah 25:1 . . . . . *December 1*  
 Isaiah 26:7-11 . . . . . *May 24*  
 Isaiah 30:15-18. . . . . *February 21*  
 Isaiah 30:18 . . . . . *June 12*  
 Isaiah 48:17-19. . . . . *October 5-6*  
 Isaiah 50:1-3. . . . . *October 7*  
 Isaiah 50:4-9. . . . . *October 8*  
 Isaiah 51:7-8. . . . . *October 9*  
 Isaiah 51:12-16. . . . . *October 10*  
 Isaiah 54:15-17. . . . . *October 11*  
 Isaiah 55:1-7. . . . . *October 12*  
 Isaiah 59:2 . . . . . *February 2*  
 Jeremiah 6:13-15 . . . . . *October 13*  
 Jeremiah 17:5-13 . . . . . *October 14*  
 Lamentations 3:26 . . . . . *April 1*  
 Daniel 2:19-23 . . . . . *February 9*  
 Daniel 4:28-37 . . . . . *May 31*  
 Daniel 12:1-4 . . . . . *April 7*  
 Joel 2:21-27. . . . . *December 13*  
 Jonah 3:1-4:11 . . . . . *August 17*  
 Micah 5:1-4 . . . . . *December 24*

**NEW TESTAMENT**

Matthew 5:13-16 . . . . . *December 6*  
 Matthew 7:24-27 . . . . . *October 15*  
 Matthew 12:36. . . . . *August 10*  
 Matthew 16:24-27 . . . . . *March 29*  
 Matthew 21:28-32 . . . . . *May 11*  
 Matthew 24:36-51 . . . . . *September 29*  
 Matthew 25:21. . . . . *October 20*  
 Mark 5:35-43 . . . . . *December 12*  
 Mark 10:42-45 . . . . . *January 14*  
 Luke 10:25-37 . . . . . *August 9*  
 Luke 12:13-21 . . . . . *January 13*  
 Luke 16:10-15 . . . . . *August 23*  
 John 1:1-14. . . . . *December 22*  
 John 12:31 . . . . . *September 15*  
 John 14:1-6. . . . . *August 12*

John 14:8-14. . . . . *August 8*  
 John 14:14 . . . . . *October 22*  
 John 14:30 . . . . . *September 15*  
 Acts 14:19-22 . . . . . *September 8*  
 Acts 24:24-26 . . . . . *September 7*  
 Romans 3:10-18. . . . . *April 20*  
 Romans 3:21-31. . . . . *August 28*  
 Romans 6:1-14. . . . . *February 15-17*  
 Romans 6:11 . . . . . *February 18*  
 Romans 8:1-4. . . . . *December 25*  
 Romans 8:18 . . . . . *July 9*  
 Romans 8:28-30. . . . . *June 25*  
 Romans 9:20 . . . . . *December 29*  
 Romans 12:1-2. . . . . *January 2, January 11*  
 Romans 12:9-13. . . . . *November 9-14*  
 Romans 13:8 . . . . . *January 31*  
 Romans 13:8-10. . . . . *December 16*  
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. . . . . *December 26*  
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 . . . . . *April 14-16*  
 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 . . . . . *April 17-18*  
 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 . . . . . *January 3*  
 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 . . . . . *December 9*  
 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 . . . . . *January 6*  
 1 Corinthians 12:1-20. . . . . *June 26*  
 1 Corinthians 15:32. . . . . *March 4*  
 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 . . . . . *March 31*  
 2 Corinthians 3:18. . . . . *August 7*  
 2 Corinthians 5:1-4 . . . . . *April 19*  
 2 Corinthians 5:1-7 . . . . . *May 26-30*  
 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 . . . . . *November 19-23*  
 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 . . . . . *December 19*  
 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 . . . . . *February 14*  
 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 . . . . . *July 28*  
 Galatians 2:19-20. . . . . *November 1-2*  
 Galatians 3:1-5. . . . . *February 13*  
 Galatians 3:22-29. . . . . *June 1*  
 Galatians 3:26-4:7. . . . . *December 8*  
 Galatians 4:4-7. . . . . *December 23*  
 Galatians 5:16-26. . . . . *June 15*  
 Galatians 5:16-26; 6:7-8 . . . . . *April 2*  
 Galatians 6:1-5. . . . . *November 4*  
 Ephesians 2:1-10 . . . . . *December 7*  
 Ephesians 4:17-24. . . . . *February 6*  
 Philippians 1:6 . . . . . *September 26*  
 Philippians 2:1-11 . . . . . *March 21-23*  
 Philippians 2:3 . . . . . *September 28*  
 Philippians 3:12-14. . . . . *May 23*  
 Philippians 4:4-5. . . . . *June 23*  
 Philippians 4:4-7. . . . . *June 4*  
 Philippians 4:6 . . . . . *June 14*  
 Philippians 4:8-9. . . . . *April 4*

Colossians 3:1-2	December 10	James 1:9-11	June 30
Colossians 3:1-10	July 10-11	James 1:22-25	June 9
Colossians 3:12	June 20	James 2:8-13	April 21
Colossians 3:15-17	June 18	James 2:14-17	April 29
Colossians 3:16	May 17, October 17	James 3:1-12	May 19-20
Colossians 3:23-25	February 3-4, December 5	James 3:13-18	June 5
Colossians 4:6	June 7-8	James 4:4-6	September 13
2 Timothy 1:7	June 24	James 4:13-17	August 29
2 Timothy 2:23-24	August 26	James 5:7-11	March 6
2 Timothy 3:10-15	October 25	James 5:16	August 21
2 Timothy 3:12	February 1	1 Peter 1:13-16	June 2-3
2 Timothy 4:16-18	November 16	1 Peter 1:13-21	December 14
Hebrews 11:1, 6	July 23	1 Peter 3:15-16	February 28
Hebrews 11:8-10	January 12	1 Peter 5:5	August 6
Hebrews 12:1-11	November 15	1 Peter 5:5-6	April 12
Hebrews 12:14-15	December 15	1 Peter 5:5-7	October 18
Hebrews 13:1-3	April 22	1 John 2:3-6	November 3
James 1:2-4	October 24	1 John 2:15-17	September 12
James 1:2-7	January 7-8	1 John 3:11-16	October 16
James 1:5-8	October 22	1 John 5:18-20	September 14
		Jude 1:17-21	January 4
		Revelation 1:9-18	December 27