



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 20
- Jeremiah 17:9-10
- Ezekiel 36:26

Title:

DILATING THE PUPILS

- The Eye Exam
- Sight vs. Vision
- Eye Exercises

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” Undoubtedly you’ve heard this verse used to explain all sorts of poor decisions and bad behavior. Oftentimes it hovers over both the believer and unbeliever alike, serving to excuse, or even dismiss, what would otherwise be unacceptable. The assertion is that the heart of the redeemed person is really no different than that of the unredeemed. You know it’s true. No, not that the hearts are the same, but that the verse is used so indiscriminately. Let’s correct the record; you should not be surprised when a pagan acts like a pagan, but you should be very disappointed when a Christian does.

Everyday-life circumstances are very effective at exposing what’s in a man’s heart. Y’shua often taught His disciples lessons that would reveal their heart condition. He performed cardiac stress tests, here and there, by inserting parables about the heart into His teaching schedule. If we return to the infamous verse and read what comes next, this is what the Lord told Jeremiah: “Yahweh, searches the heart—tests the mind. And He gives every man according to his choices, according to the fruit of his actions.” A few things jump off the page here. First that the heart is actually the mind. Elsewhere we learn that the Word of God exposes the thoughts and intents of the heart. It should be obvious to all that thoughts and intentions are functions of the mind. It is also apparent that we can discern what is in a man’s heart by observing his activities; let’s say both his words and his actions.

But again, the challenge is about the heart of a Christian. Are we really no different? Are we no more equipped than the average pagan? Are we only equally capable? You’d think that was so each time a Christian commandeers that verse, “The heart is deceitful above all things...” and feels to use such to justify or excuse his or another’s words and actions. “Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing? My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”

May this be the last day, as a follower of Christ, that you erroneously lean on Jeremiah’s words about a deceitful heart. Instead grab onto these from Ezekiel; “You have been given a new heart and a new spirit; your heart of stone has been removed and replaced with a heart of flesh.”

Y’shua will test your heart as He does all those who sit under His teachings. And, He poses this question to every one of us. “Has My goodness uncovered any wickedness lurking in your heart?” Now, let us contemplate two additional paradigm-shattering questions. Pretend you are sitting at the feet of the King on His throne in heaven. Maybe even picture a judge’s bench in a courtroom. Or, to make it more intimate, imagine sitting on God’s lap, warmed by His loving embrace. I can only imagine! The King has a few questions for you—two questions, essentially the same. “What do you wish?” And, “What do you want Me to do for you?” But two very different answers... What do I wish? I wish to be exalted above all

others—very Luciferian. “What do I want You to do for me?” Lord, open my eyes that I may follow You. Two similar questions; two very different answers.

Sight is a function of the eyes and when all you can see is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, you are truly blind. Vision, however, is a function of the heart and when you understand with a pure heart, you will see what all the prophets and righteous men of old desired to see. This exercise can cause your mind to wander in a few very different directions, but one thing is certain. Your answers say everything about what’s in your heart. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Sell all you have to follow Him and you will be His true disciples.

PROPHETIC SEED:

“And He said to her, **“What do you wish?”** She said to Him, **“Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”**” Matthew 20:21 NKJV

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And **desperately wicked**; Who can know it? I, the Lord, **search the heart**, I test the mind, even to **give every man according to his ways**, according to **the fruit of his doings.**” Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV

“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, **these things ought not to be so.**” James 3:10 NKJV

“Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? **Or is your eye evil because I am good?**” Matthew 20:15 NKJV

“How shall we who **died to sin** live any longer in it?” Romans 6:2 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“I will give you a new heart and put **a new spirit** within you; I will **take the heart of stone out** of your flesh and **give you a heart of flesh.**” Ezekiel 36:26 NKJV

“So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, **“What do you want Me to do for you?”** They said to Him, **“Lord, that our eyes may be opened.”**” Matthew 20:32-33 NKJV

THE EYE EXAM

1. Many are called, but few chosen...

A. The last will be first, and the first last...

(1) The Lord tests the heart!

(a) The Workers in the Vineyard

1. ““For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and

whatever is right you will receive.’ “So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. **But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner,** saying, ‘These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. **Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’** So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”” Matthew 20:1-16 NKJV

(2) The Kingdom of Heaven is an upside-down-kingdom

(a) Parable of the Talents

1. ““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.” Matthew 25:26 NKJV

(3) It’s all a test, a heart examination... Does evil come forth from your heart when you encounter God’s goodness?

(a) What type of heart do you have!

1. “**The heart is deceitful** above all things, And **desperately wicked**; Who can know it? I, the Lord, **search the heart,** I test the mind, even to **give every man according to his ways,** according to **the fruit of his doings.**” Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV
2. “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:11-13 NKJV

B. Third Prediction of Death and Resurrection

(1) Repeat test! Suffering has a GREATER PURPOSE

(a) Checking in again

1. “Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, “**Behold** [see, look], we are going up to Jerusalem, and [you will see] the Son of Man will be **betrayed** to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will **condemn Him to death,** and deliver Him to the Gentiles to **mock** and to **scourge** and to **crucify.** And the **third day He will rise again.**”” Matthew 20:17-19 NKJV
2. “*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than*

***his master.'** If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also."* John 15:18-20 NKJV

(2) Two Past Notifications

(a) The first time He mentioned His death to His disciples, Peter went completely sideways.

1. "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. **Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him**, saying, "**Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!**" But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."" Matthew 16:21-23 NKJV

(b) The second time elicited no response.

1. "Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "**The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him**, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful."Matthew 17:22-23 NKJV

(3) Also repeated was the sign of Jonah

(a) They already learned about the sign of Jonah (twice).

1. "But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish** [Jonah 1:17], **so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**" Matthew 12:39-40 NKJV
2. "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it **except the sign of the prophet Jonah.**" And He left them and departed."Matthew 16:4 NKJV

(4) Note about His Betrayal...

(a) After his betrayal in the garden in Jerusalem, He had to make the choice to STAY.

1. He could have walked away free but instead..."Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless **not My will, but Yours, be done.**" Luke 22:42 NKJV
2. "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. But if the servant plainly says, '**I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,**' then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall **pierce** his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever." Exodus 21:2-6 NKJV
3. Y'shua came to earth as a bondservant: "*made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.***" Philippians 2:7 NKJV

SIGHT vs. VISION

2. Sight is a function of the eyes...Vision is a function of the heart...

A. Is your eye evil because I am good? (Matthew 20:15)

(1) Open Your Eyes (see: [On Collision Course](#))

(a) Look in my eyes—what do you see?

1. **“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”** Matthew 6:22-23 NKJV
2. **“The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble. My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it [from within your heart] spring [from your eyes] the issues of life.”** Proverbs 4:19-23 NKJV
3. **“As in water face reflects face, So a man’s heart reveals the man [through his eyes].”** Proverbs 27:19 NKJV

(2) Eye influencers... The Eye Gate

(a) What you look upon, and take in through your eyes, affects your entire being (spirit, soul and body).

1. **“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.”** Psalms 119:18 NKJV
2. **“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.”** Psalms 101:3 NKJV
3. **“I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?”** Job 31:1 NKJV

(3) Paul’s Eye Conversion...

(a) Eyes Closed

1. **“Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” {6} So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.””** Acts 9:4-6 NKJV
2. **“Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one [blind]. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”** Acts 9:8-9 NKJV

(b) Eyes Open

1. **“And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.”** Acts 9:17-18 NKJV

(c) Eye Ministry— as Paul recounts his testimony of conversion to king Agrippa...

1. [Y'shua speaking] "But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, **to make you a minister and a witness** both of the **things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal** to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, {18} **to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.**" Acts 26:16-18 NKJV

(d) Eyes wide open—be enlightened

1. "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, **making mention of you in my prayers**: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, {18} **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,**" Ephesians 1:15-18 NKJV
2. Pray... *"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from **Your law.**"* Psalms 119:18

B. Light and Darkness

(1) Emanate Light

- (a) Because Y'shua compares the human eye to a lamp, an object that shines outward, **you must also be concerned for what your eyes are transmitting.**
 1. **"Let your light so shine** before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 NKJV
 2. **"The way of the wicked is like darkness; ... give attention to my words**; Incline your ear to my sayings. **Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart**; For they are life ... **Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it [from within your heart] spring [from your eyes] the issues of life.**" Proverbs 4:19-23 NKJV

C. Sight with no vision...

(1) "What do you wish?" That is the question!

(a) Greatness is Serving

1. "Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and **asking something from Him**. And He said to her, **"What do you wish?"** She said to Him, **"Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."** But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, **"We are able."** So He said to them, **"You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with;** but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, **"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever**

desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And **whoever desires** to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:20-28 NKJV

(2) This is one of the test questions to determine if you have sight or vision. Sight is a function of the eyes...Vision is a function of the heart...

(a) The mother of James and John approaches Y’shua and He asks her, **“What do you wish?”**

1. **“Is your eye evil** because I am good?” Matthew 20:15 NKJV
2. **“As in water face reflects face, So a man’s heart reveals the man [through his eyes].”** Proverbs 27:19 NKJV
3. **His name (authority):** “And whatever you **ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask **anything in My name**, I will do it.” John 14:13-14 NKJV
4. **His will:** “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask **anything according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever **we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**” I John 5:14-15 NKJV
5. **Without selfish motives:** “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. **You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss,** that you may spend it **on your pleasures.**” James 4:1-3 NKJV

(b) What does she ask for and is it amiss? Does it follow the guidelines?

1. Y’shua says, “You do not know what you ask...,” or in other words, you are asking for the wrong thing. Why? You have no real vision; you are only seeing with your eyes. **“Is your eye evil** because I am good?” Matthew 20:15

(3) Y’shua informs them that they will indeed be faced with serious persecution, but that it is only up to His Father who will be by His sides. And suffering they will in their future!

(a) John of course is exiled to Patmos.

1. “I, John, both your brother and companion in the **tribulation** and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was **on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God** and for the **testimony of Jesus Christ.**” Revelation 1:9 NKJV

(b) And James is eventually murdered by Herod Agrippa

1. “Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. **Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.**” Acts 12:1-2 NKJV
2. **“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him** and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under

the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV

(4) The greatest example of one who wished to exalt Himself!

(a) I want to make myself the boss!

1. **I will!** ""How **you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer**, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! **For you have said in your heart: 'I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.**"" Isaiah 14:12-14 NKJV
2. "And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "**Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.**"" Matthew 20:21 NKJV

(b) What motivates such wrong answers?

1. "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them **the prophecy of Isaiah [6:9-10] is fulfilled**, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, **And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,** So that I should heal them.' **But blessed are your eyes for they see,** and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, **I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see,** and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." Matthew 13:13-17 NKJV

D. Vision but no sight...

(1) "What do you want Me to do for you?"

(a) Two blind men approach Y'shua to receive their sight...

1. "Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, **"Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"** Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but **they cried out all the more**, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, **"What do you want Me to do for you?"** They said to Him, **"Lord, that our eyes may be opened."** So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him."Matthew 20:29-34 NKJV

(2) Y'shua asks them a similar question that He asked the mother of James and John:

(a) The quintessential question: **"What do you want Me to do for you?"** as before **"What do you wish?"** Here again are the choices:

1. **"Is your eye evil** because I am good?" Matthew 20:15 NKJV
2. **"As in water face reflects face, So a man's heart reveals the man [through his eyes]."** Proverbs 27:19 NKJV

(b) Use Psalm 37 as your guide for this exercise and be sure you review [Legal Matters](#) to learn how God's justice system operates.

1. **"Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth."** Psalms 37:3-9

EYE EXERCISES

3. Improving Your Vision

A. Bad vision!

(1) Two types of blindness!

(a) Blinded by love (for the things of the flesh)!

1. **"Do not love the world** or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world**, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the **lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." I John 2:15-17 NKJV

(b) Blinded by amnesia (for God's forgiveness)!

1. **"For he who lacks *these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins."** II Peter 1:9 NKJV

B. Dilating the Pupils

(1) Dilating your pupil **lets more light into your eye!**

(a) Sight is a function of the eyes (the pupil)

1. **"The heart is deceitful** above all things, And **desperately wicked**; Who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV

(b) Vision is a function of the heart (of the pupil)!

1. **"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;** I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause **you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."** Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV

(c) Restored Vision!

1. **"But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;** for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." Matthew 13:16-17 NKJV

C. These things ought not to be...

(1) A Forked Tongue!

(a) **“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing...”** James 3:10 NKJV

1. “My brethren, **let not many of you become teachers**, knowing that **we shall receive a stricter judgment**. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. **Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things**. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And **the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity**. **The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body**, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. **With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.**” James 3:1-9 NKJV

(2) Friendship with the World!

(a) Given over to the desires of your flesh!

1. “Where do wars and fights come from among you? **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust** and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because **you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures**. Adulterers and adulteresses! **Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**” James 4:1-4 NKJV

(3) Love of the things of this world!

(a) The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life!

1. “**Do not love the world** or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world**, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the **lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:15-17 NKJV

(4) Trust in Man!

(a) Putting your faith in man always ends in disaster!

1. “Thus says the Lord: “**Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord**. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, **And shall not see when good comes**, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited.” Jeremiah 17:5-6 NKJV

D. These things ought to be...

(1) Trust in Yahweh!

(a) You will never be disappointed when you put your faith in God!

1. “**Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord**. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But

its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8 NKJV

2. "**Now hope does not disappoint**, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:5 NKJV

(2) Look up not out!

(a) Set your sights on heavenly things!

1. "If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. {2} **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** {3} For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:1-3 NKJV
2. "But **seek first the kingdom** of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33 NKJV

(3) Command over sin in your life! Practice righteousness!

(a) Get the sin out!

1. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**" Romans 6:1-2 NKJV
2. "**If you love Me**, keep My commandments." John 14:15 NKJV
3. "**Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness**, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that **He was manifested to take away our sins**, and in Him there is no sin. **Whoever abides in Him does not sin.** Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, **let no one deceive you.** He who **practices righteousness** is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, **that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God." I John 3:4-9 NKJV
4. "We know that whoever is born of God **does not sin**; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him." I John 5:18 NKJV

(4) Fix your eyes on Jesus...

(a) Do not get entangled with your old ways!

1. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV
2. "For if, **after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord** and Savior Jesus Christ, they are **again entangled in them** and overcome, **the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them." II Peter 2:20-21 NKJV

(5) Become a biblically literate disciple!

(a) "Think in bible." Let God's word reprogram your DNA!

1. "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.** And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."" John 8:31-32 NKJV
2. **"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,** you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; **so you will be My disciples.**" John 15:7-8 NKJV

(6) Go all in!

(a) Be willing to leave anything and everything to follow Him!

1. ""Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and **sells all that he has** and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and **sold all that he had** and bought it." Matthew 13:44-46 NKJV