



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- Proverbs 16:1-9; 2 Cor. 2:1-3
- 2 Cor. 12:9-10' Phil. 3:12

SURRENDER MY ATTITUDE

- Surrender Self-Pity
- Practice Determination

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

"Beloved, now we are children of God. **It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him**, for we will see Him just as He is." 1 John 3:2 WEBUS

"**The plans of the heart belong to man**, but the answer of the tongue is from Yahweh. **A man's heart plans his course**, but Yahweh directs his steps." Proverbs 16:1, 9 WEBUS

"**I wrote this very thing to you, so that when I came, I wouldn't have sorrow** from them of whom I ought to rejoice; **having confidence in you all that my joy would be shared** by all of you." 2 Corinthians 2:3 WEBUS

"**I take pleasure in weaknesses**, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, and in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then am I strong.**" 2 Corinthians 12:10 WEBUS

"Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect; **but I press on, that I may take hold of that for which also I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus.**" Philippians 3:12 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That's what it means to surrender. When Y'shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender self-pity and practice determination.

Pray this without ceasing: "Yahweh, I surrender any self-pity. I know things don't always go as planned. When things don't go as expected, and those losses seem to pile up, it is natural to pity oneself. I know that is acceptable for a moment, but then it's time to move on! I know that living in a prolonged state of sorrow can become like a sticky sin that gets on everyone with whom I come into contact, and it can possibly make them vulnerable to feeling oppressed or depressed. I never want to contribute to anything that might make someone else stumble. Today, God, I practice determination. This is a character trait that screams, "Tribulations and failures only make me stronger!" I know that to indulge in feeling bad for myself can paralyze me from moving forward in life. I recognize that it is equally important to differentiate determination from self-will—the former is admirable, while the latter is ugly. And it may even be more important for me to distinguish determination from legalism—which is not only ugly, but detrimental to my faith."

Whoever won't surrender the habit of self-pity and practice determination simply won't become like Him.

SURRENDER THE POOR ME ATTITUDE!

1. Surrender My Attitude

A. Surrender Self-Pity

- (1) **Introduction:** Things don't always go as planned, and when they don't go as expected, and losses seem to pile up, it is natural to pity oneself. That is acceptable for a moment, but then it's time to move on!

(a) Things don't always go as planned!

1. **"The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from Yahweh.** All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but Yahweh weighs the motives. **Commit your deeds to Yahweh, and your plans shall succeed.** Yahweh has made everything for its own end— yes, even the wicked for the day of evil. Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to Yahweh; they shall certainly not be unpunished. By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for. By the fear of Yahweh men depart from evil. **When a man's ways please Yahweh, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.** Better is a little

with righteousness, than great revenues with injustice. **A man's heart plans his course, but Yahweh directs his steps.**" Proverbs 16:1-9 WEBUS

a) Advanced Strategy: the end of the matter is this...

- 1) If you authentically desire and seek Yahweh's will, He will make His plans known to you.
- 2) He directs your steps—so you are ultimately best served when your plans align with what will please Him—if you want to succeed in anything that truly matters.

(b) Sometimes what we are called to do can hurt others, and that can place everyone involved at risk of joining a pity-party.

1. "But I determined this for myself, **that I would not come to you again in sorrow. For if I make you grieve, then who will make me glad** but he who is made to grieve by me? And **I wrote this very thing to you, so that when I came, I wouldn't have sorrow** from them of whom I ought to rejoice; **having confidence in you all that my joy would be shared** by all of you." 2 Corinthians 2:1-3 WEBUS

- a) Paul visited Corinth and He felt horrible about what he witnessed—and what he was called to do about it.
 - 1) “I was **with you in weakness**, in fear, and in much trembling.” 1 Corinthians 2:3 WEBUS
- b) He then wrote a letter (1 Corinthians) to the church with scathing rebukes...
 - 1) The letter contained many corrections along with critical theological teachings.
 - 2) He certainly felt terrible about how that letter made them feel, although it was necessary.
 - 3) He wrote again after his second visit; a letter that was much more encouraging.
 - 4) He did not want to wallow in self-pity over how the first letter made them or himself feel.
 - 5) Thankfully, he was able to celebrate the changes they had made.
 - 6) He wished for them to also celebrate with him, so they could escape their own pity party.
- c) It might be difficult to do what God calls you to do, but it will all work out as He promised!
 - 1) “We know that **all things work together for good** for those who love God, for those who are

called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

WEBUS

- (c) When things don't go as expected, and those losses seem to pile up, it is natural to pity oneself. That is acceptable for a moment, but then it's time to move on!

1. **“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore** we won't be afraid, **though the** earth changes, **though the** mountains are shaken into the heart of the seas; **though its** waters roar and are troubled, **though the** mountains tremble with their swelling. Selah.” Psalms 46:1-3 WEBUS

- a) Even though... and no matter what... you can trust that with Yahweh, all things work for the good!

- 1) *“Don't you be afraid, for I am with you. **Don't be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. Yes, I will uphold you** with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all those who are incensed against you will be disappointed and confounded. Those who strive with you will be like nothing, and shall perish.”* Isaiah 41:10-11

WEBUS

b) How do you get from here (where you feel self-pity) to there (where you feel determined)?

1) ***“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you.”*** 1 Peter 5:6-7 WEBUS

(d) Things must get difficult at times; and there is always a greater purpose in our trials!

1. **“But we have this treasure in clay vessels, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not to despair; pursued, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; always carrying in the body the putting to death of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.** For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. So then death works in us, but life in you. But having the same spirit of faith, according to that which is written, “I believed, and therefore I spoke.” We also believe, and therefore we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also

through Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the grace, being multiplied through the many, may cause the thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Therefore we don't faint, but though our outward person is decaying, yet our inward person is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory, while we don't look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 WEBUS

- a) You are a heavenly citizen living in a temporary fragile body...
 - 1) At times you might even feel helpless, but that should be a temporary feeling that disappears when you remember that it is when you feel powerless that is when the exceeding greatness of God's power can manifest in you.
 - 2) You may feel like the walls are closing in and that there is no escape from your present circumstance, almost as if you can't even take a

breath at times—but God has assured you that His power in you guarantees that your feeling of defeat will soon give way to His victory.

- 3) Here is a hint that should help during the hardest times: just consider any suffering as a way to empathize with what the Lord Jesus did for you!

b) Therefore...

- 1) No matter what it looks like on the outside, consider what's happening to you on the inside because of it, to be infinitely more important.
- 2) Be inspired by it each day because it is producing in you something far more valuable than what could ever be stolen from you!

c) This is best illuminated by Y'shua's words...

- 1) *"I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. **In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.**"* John 16:33 WEBUS

(2) Living in a state of sorrow for a prolonged period becomes like a sticky sin that gets on everyone with whom you come into contact.

(a) How you feel certainly affects others...

1. “that there should be no division in the body, but that the **members should have the same care for one another. When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.** When one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

WEBUS

- a) You must be aware that what you portray day in and day out will influence the people around you.
- b) It is altogether normal for your fellow Christians, who are naturally empathetic and compassionate, to feel what you feel.
- c) So, if you mope around depressed and always portray a negative outlook, others will begin to feel the same.
- d) In other words, your feelings are not just about you—and you should be aware and care about how they make others feel.
 - 1) *“each of you not just looking to his own things, but **each of you also to the things of others.**”*

Philippians 2:4 WEBUS

(b) What you say certainly affects others...

1. “Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, **but only what is good for building others up as the**

need may be, that it may give grace to those who hear.” Ephesians 4:29 WEBUS

- a) Words matter: “*Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never harm me!*” is an idiom from the pit of hell.
- b) Your words do affect others, and you must take responsibility for them.

- 1) “*So the tongue is also a little member, and boasts great things. See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! And **the tongue is a fire. The world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature, and is set on fire by Gehenna.***” James 3:5-6 WEBUS

- c) As such, measure your words carefully; they have the power to preserve and prolong life and enhance enjoyment, as salt does food.

- 1) “*Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. **Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt,** that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*”

Colossians 4:5-6 WEBUS

- d) Salt that loses its saltiness is good for nothing...

1) *"Salt is good, but **if the salt becomes flat and tasteless, with what do you season it? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile.** It is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* Luke 14:34-35 WEBUS

(c) What you do certainly affects others...

1. "Let no one seek his own, **but each one his neighbor's good.**" 1 Corinthians 10:24 WEBUS

- a) "Others first!" should be the motto of the Christian faith. Is it the motto for your life?
- b) Every action you take should be filtered through this question, "How will this affect others?"
- c) To make that more palatable, or to "season it with salt," let me say it this way...

1) *"**Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,**"* Colossians 3:23 WEBUS

(d) Who you are certainly affects others...

1. "Don't be deceived! **"Evil companionships corrupt good morals."**" 1 Corinthians 15:33 WEBUS

- a) Who you are will become defined by the predominant way you represent yourself to others.
- b) If you are walking around always feeling sorry for yourself, that is who you will be to others.

c) If you are constantly feeling down, you will bring others down with you—and as Christians, we are instead called to build one another up!

1) *“So then, let’s follow after things which make for peace, **and things by which we may build one another up.**”* Romans 14:19 WEBUS

(3) Your self-pity can possibly make others vulnerable to feeling oppressed or depressed.

(a) If you are anxious, you can make others around you feel anxious.

1. **“Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs it down,** but a kind word makes it glad.” Proverbs 12:25 WEBUS

a) Anxiety is a heavy weight on a man’s heart; it can easily make him feel depressed or oppressed.

(b) Your bad attitude places others at risk...

1. **“A man’s spirit will sustain him in sickness, but a crushed spirit, who can bear?”** Proverbs 18:14 WEBUS

a) If you crush a man’s spirit, you make him vulnerable to becoming or remaining ill.

(c) The easiest way to crush a man’s spirit is with your irresponsible words.

1. **“A gentle tongue** is a tree of life, but deceit in it crushes the spirit.” Proverbs 15:4 WEBUS
 - a) In other words, a soothing tongue brings a man life, and a perverse tongue oppresses his spirit.
- (d) And to reiterate, an attitude of self-pity can easily be projected at others with your words.
1. **“There is one who speaks rashly like the piercing of a sword**, but the tongue of the wise heals.” Proverbs 12:18 WEBUS
 - a) It is reckless and irresponsible to speak negativity around others without considering how it will affect them.
 - b) In fact, it is completely selfish to spread your sickness with your words, as opposed to sharing life and healing.

(4) You should never contribute to anything that might cause someone else to stumble.

- (a) Don't make things more difficult for others...
 1. “but **whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble**, it would be better for him if a huge millstone were hung around his neck and that he were sunk in the depths of the sea. **“Woe to the world because of occasions of stumbling!** For it must

be that the occasions come, but woe to that person through whom the occasion comes!" Matthew 18:6-7

WEBUS

- a) We already learned that you must be the type of person who builds others up, not tears them down.
- b) Anything you do, say, or represent should be a source of edification, not demoralization.
- c) Y'shua said, be a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9), not a troublemaker.
- d) The Apostle Paul also emphasized the topic.
 - 1) *"Therefore let's not judge one another any more, but judge this rather, **that no man put a stumbling block in his brother's way, or an occasion for falling.**"* Romans 14:13 WEBUS
- e) Paul was very sensitive to what might cause another man to stumble; he emphasized that even in circumstances when what you are doing in the presence of others is good with God, if it could cause someone else to falter—refrain!
 - 1) *"But **be careful that by no means does this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to the weak.**"* 1 Corinthians 8:9 WEBUS

B. Practice Determination

(1) **Introduction:** Determination is the character trait that screams, "Tribulations and failures only make me stronger!"

(a) God's power is best demonstrated when yours is depleted!

1. "He has said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** Most gladly therefore **I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me. Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses,** in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, and in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then am I strong."**

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 WEBUS

- a) God's grace is His supernatural empowerment.
- b) It is most noticeable when you come to the end of yourself and you recognize that you have no power to do it on your own.
- c) When you live your life from that perspective, then you will see the most difficult times in your life as the greatest opportunities to step aside and watch God's power in action!

(2) **The Proper Perspective on Trials, Temptations, Testing, and Suffering!**

(a) Each trial works in you a far more exceeding, eternal, and weighty glorious outcome than the challenge itself!

1. “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations, knowing that the **testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its perfect work,** that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**” James 1:2-4 WEBUS

a) Count it all joy... the outcome will always be perfect!

1) “*being confident of this very thing, that **he who began a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ.*” Philippians 1:6 WEBUS

2. “Not only this, **but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope doesn’t disappoint us,** because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 5:3-5 WEBUS

a) Not only this... but more than you can hope for!

1) “*For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared***

with the glory which will be revealed toward us.” Romans 8:18 WEBUS

3. **“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved in various trials, that the proof of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes, even though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ—” 1 Peter 1:6-7 WEBUS**

a) In this you greatly rejoice... greater revelation!

- 1) *“For **our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory,” 2 Corinthians 4:17 WEBUS***

(3) To indulge in feeling bad for oneself can paralyze you from moving forward in life.

(a) Perseverance: Don't get sidetracked by your past sins!

1. **“Therefore let's also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with perseverance the race that is set before us,” Hebrews 12:1 WEBUS**

a) Look straight ahead and keep moving forward.

b) *“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...”* Hebrews 12:2 NIV

(b) Diligence: Fix your gaze directly before you.

1. **“Keep your heart with all diligence,** for out of it is the wellspring of life. Put away from yourself a perverse mouth. Put corrupt lips far from you. **Let your eyes look straight ahead. Fix your gaze directly before you.** Make the path of your feet level. Let all of your ways be established. **Don’t turn to the right hand nor to the left.** Remove your foot from evil.” Proverbs 4:23-27 WEBUS

a) It will keep you from straying off course even a little!

(c) Retrospective Perspective: a healthy approach to the past...

1. “However, I consider **those things that were gain to me as a loss for Christ.** Yes most certainly, and **I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus,** my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and count them nothing but refuse, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own,** that which is of the law, **but that which is through faith in**

Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith, that **I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed to his death**, if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Philippians 3:7-11 WEBUS

- a) Anything from your past, even things that might have been good, should be considered a welcomed loss in comparison to what you’ve gained in Christ, so there is no reason to dwell there.

- 1) “***Don’t remember the former things***, and don’t consider the things of old. ***Behold, I will do a new thing. It springs out now. Don’t you know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.***” Isaiah 43:18-19 WEBUS

- (d) Prospective Perspective: a healthy approach to the future...

- 1. “Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect; **but I press on, that I may take hold of that for which also I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus**. Brothers, I don’t regard myself as yet having taken hold, but **one thing I do: forgetting the things**

which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, think this way. **If in anything you think otherwise, God will also reveal that to you.** Nevertheless, **to the extent that we have already attained, let's walk by the same rule.** Let's be of the same mind." Philippians 3:12-16
WEBUS

- a) Forget the past, and be determined to reach toward the future—the goal is to reach the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
 - 1) *"until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,**"* Ephesians 4:13 WEBUS
- b) As such, you have no time to wallow in self-pity.
- c) And if you somehow don't believe this is the way to live, God will reveal it to you.
- d) And if you do believe it is true, then you have no time to waste!

(4) It is important to differentiate determination from self-will—the former is admirable, while the latter is ugly.

(a) Determination: Learn to be content no matter what!

1. “Not that I speak because of lack, for **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content in it.** I know how to be humbled, and I also know how to abound. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in need. **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**” Philippians 4:11-13 WEBUS

a) You can do all things through Christ, who gives you strength.

(b) Determination: through endless challenges and dangers!

1. “**Five times** I received forty stripes minus one from the Jews. **Three times** I was beaten with rods. **Once** I was stoned. **Three times** I suffered shipwreck. **I have been** a night and a day in the deep. **I have been** in travels often, perils of rivers, perils of robbers, perils from my countrymen, perils from the Gentiles, perils in the city, perils in the wilderness, perils in the sea, perils among false brothers; in labor and travail, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, and in cold and nakedness. **Besides those things that are outside, there is that which presses on me daily:** anxiety for all the assemblies. **Who is**

weak, and I am not weak? Who is caused to stumble, and I don't burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that concern my weakness." 2 Corinthians 11:24-30 WEBUS

a) Paul went through every trial and tribulation imaginable, both physical and emotional, and this was his conclusion: *"If I must boast, I will boast of the things that concern my weakness."*

(c) Determination: even when all your good work seems to fall on deaf ears.

1. "Don't be deceived. God is not mocked, for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption. But he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season if we don't give up**. So then, as we have opportunity, **let's do what is good toward all men**, and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith."

Galatians 6:7-10 WEBUS

a) Don't become weary in doing good; you will reap a harvest in due season if you don't give up.

(d) Self-Will: *“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me.”*

1. “From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up. **Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This will never be done to you.”** But he turned and said to Peter, **“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.”**” Matthew 16:21-23 WEBUS

a) Peter’s self-will: *“Far be it from you, Lord! This will never be done to you.”*

b) Y’shua’s response: *“You are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.”*

(e) Self-Will: “Tell me to get out of the boat, Lord!”

1. “Those who ate were about five thousand men, in addition to women and children. **Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side,** while he sent the multitudes away. After he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into the mountain by himself to pray. **When**

evening had come, he was there alone. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, distressed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It's a ghost!" and they cried out for fear. **But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Cheer up! It is I! Don't be afraid." Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the waters."** He said, "Come!" **Peter stepped down from the boat and walked on the waters** to come to Jesus. **But when he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid,** and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, **"Lord, save me!"** **Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"** When they got up into the boat, **the wind ceased."** Matthew 14:21-32 WEBUS

- a) The passage of Scripture that describes the account of Peter getting out of the boat and walking on water is used time and again to teach about Peter's bold faith.

- b) However, if you are willing to look just below the surface (no pun intended), you might recognize that what Peter did was quite the opposite of faith, and instead was an impetuous demonstration of self-will.
- c) The two things to pay attention to include:
 - 1) What happened to the storm when he exited the boat?
 - 2) And what happened to the storm when Y'shua returned him to the boat?
 - 3) Which action calmed the storm?
- d) Where else do we see a storm on the water in Scriptures and what lessons do we learn?
 - 1) Jonah tossed himself into the ocean because even with all the warning signs, he'd have rather committed suicide than stay in the boat and instruct the captain to turn it around and head to Nineveh. The storm ended for the innocent men on the boat when Jonah touched the water, but for Jonah, the turmoil was just starting!
 - 2) Paul was trapped for weeks at sea in a storm, and he was instructed by God to stay in the boat and to tell others to do the same: *"Paul said to*

the centurion and to the soldiers, ***“Unless these stay in the ship, you can’t be saved.”***” Acts

27:31 WEBUS

- e) Just a short while earlier, on the same boat that Peter impetuously desired to exit, Y’shua taught His disciples precisely what to do when facing a storm on the water. Stay in the boat! *“He got up, rebuked the wind and the sea, and there was a great calm.”*
- 1) *“Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”* ***When he got into a boat, his disciples followed him. Behold, a violent storm came up on the sea, so much that the boat was covered with the waves; but he was asleep. The disciples came to him and woke him up, saying, “Save us, Lord! We are dying!” He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then he got up, rebuked the wind and the sea, and there was a great calm. The men marveled, saying, “What kind of***

***man is this, that even the wind and the sea
obey him?***”” Matthew 8:21-27 WEBUS

f) That is what Peter should have done as opposed to,
“Demanding the Lord to tell him to come to Him.”
That was no different than him rebuking Y’shua for
Him revealing to His disciples that He must suffer:
*“Far be it from you, Lord! This will never be done
to you.”*

1) See [“Stay in the Boat”](#)

(f) Self-Will: *“Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever
we will ask.”*

1. “James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came near to
him, saying, **“Teacher, we want you to do for us
whatever we will ask.”** He said to them, **“What do
you want me to do for you?”** They said to him,
**“Grant to us that we may sit, one at your right hand
and one at your left hand, in your glory.”** But Jesus
said to them, **“You don’t know what you are asking.**
Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and to be
baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”
They said to him, **“We are able.”** Jesus said to them,
“You shall indeed drink the cup that I drink, and you
shall be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized

with; **but to sit at my right hand and at my left hand is not mine to give, but for whom it has been prepared.**” Mark 10:35-40 WEBUS

- a) James and John demanded: *“Grant to us that we may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left hand, in your glory.”*
- b) Y’shua’s response: *“To sit at my right hand and at my left hand is not mine to give, but for whom it has been prepared.”*
- c) Demanding from the Lord what you want, when it is not what He wants, is not the **healthy character trait** of determination; but **the ugly attitude** of self-will!

1) *“This is the boldness which we have toward him, that if we **ask anything according to his will**, he listens to us.”* 1 John 5:14 WEBUS

(g) The Critical Difference: *“Not my will, but Your will be done!”*

- 1. *“Father, if you are willing, **remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.**”* Luke 22:42 WEBUS

(5) It may even be more important to distinguish determination from legalism—which is not only ugly, but detrimental to one's faith.

(a) Determination: Fight the good fight; finish the race; keep the faith!

1. “I command you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom: **preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all patience and teaching.** For the time will come when they will not listen to the sound doctrine, but having itching ears, will heap up for themselves teachers after their own lusts, and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn away to fables. **But you be sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill your ministry.** For **I am already being offered,** and the time of my departure has come. **I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.”** 2 Timothy 4:1-7 WEBUS

- a) Paul was determined to finish every aspect of his ministry powerfully, right up to the very end of his life.

- 1) He preached with urgency at every moment.
- 2) He patiently reprimanded, corrected, encouraged, and taught.
- 3) He was even-tempered and self-controlled every step of the way.
- 4) He endured hardship while he evangelized.
- 5) His life had been offered to his ministry calling completely; he held nothing back.
- 6) **That is pure determination!**

(b) Determination: I've been hindered thus far!

1. "Now **I don't desire to have you unaware, brothers, that I often planned to come to you (and was hindered so far)**, that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles."

Romans 1:13 WEBUS

- a) Paul spent his entire ministry life determined to get to Rome.
- b) He had been hindered many times, but no longer.
 - 1) ***"Therefore also I was hindered these many times from coming to you, but now, no longer having any place in these regions, and having these many years a longing to come to you, whenever I travel to Spain, I will come to you."***

For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while.” Romans 15:22-24 WEBUS

c) That is pure determination!

(c) Legalism: I can be justified by the works of the law.

1. “yet knowing that **a man is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ**, even we believed in Christ Jesus, **that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because no flesh will be justified by the works of the law.” Galatians 2:16 WEBUS**

- a) We begin with a very definitive statement about works of the law... by it no one could ever be justified as it stands in stark contrast to faith.
- b) It is such an important phrase to understand, and it is safe to say that it is the premise for which the entire letter to the Galatians was written.
- c) But what does it mean and maybe more importantly, what does it NOT mean?
- d) We can easily infer here, minimally, that it is something akin to the opposite of faith—because

works of the law is the opposite of living by faith, and that makes it undesirable.

1) *“I just want to learn this from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by hearing of faith?**”* Galatians 3:2 WEBUS

e) So, now we can recognize what it isn't, but what is “works of the law”?

1) Works of the law is a Hebrew idiom translated for us into English, and it is a type of legalism. It's a phrase that points to the practice of attempting to be justified to God by strict adherence to all of God's commandments IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH (becoming sinless by your own doing—to owe God nothing and therefore achieve eternal redemption in your own righteousness).

(d) Legalism: *“For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse.”*

1. **“For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse. For it is written, “Cursed is everyone who doesn't continue in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them.”** Now that no man is justified by the law before God is evident, for, **“The**

righteous will live by faith.” The law is not of faith, but, “The man who does them will live by them.””

Galatians 3:10-12 WEBUS

- a) One might say that anyone who believes they can or must achieve right standing with God by works of the law is living under a curse.
- b) Why is “works of the law” a curse?
 - 1) It is impossible to obey God’s commands in your own strength.
 - 2) It specifically identifies someone NOT keeping God’s commands by faith.
 - 3) Under a curse—for not obeying God.
- c) Hint: because we cannot do it in our own strength is why we need a Savior and the Holy Spirit. If you could do it on your own, you’d need neither.
- d) Point of Clarity
 - 1) That is why a man must be justified by faith in Christ— *“The righteous will live by faith.”*
 - 2) Faith in Christ does something that a man cannot do on his own.
- e) But one must be wise when interpreting all that Paul is saying, and to NOT read into something he is NOT saying.

1) “...even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you, as also in all of his letters, speaking in them of these things. In those, **there are some things that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist, as they also do to the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.**” 2 Peter 3:15-16 WEBUS

f) When he says, “*The law is not of faith,*” you must take what he says in context.

1) To prevent you from coming against the importance of God’s law, interpret that phrase as, “*Works of the law is not of faith.*”

g) We can be certain of his intent by what follows, “*The man who **does them** will live by them.*”

1) This is a quote from the Old Testament (Leviticus 18:5), a reference that magnifies the importance of obeying God’s law, and thus he could not possibly be disparaging of it in any way.

h) If we go to the reference passage, it should be easy to discern that leaving the pagan practices of your past and strongly adhering to Yahweh’s commands will bring you life (a very good thing)! So, how

could Paul mean it to be negative? It would be only if you attempt to “do them” in your own strength—works of the law—as that guarantees failure to obey!

- 1) *“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, ‘I am Yahweh your God. You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived. You shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. You shall not follow their statutes. You shall do my ordinances. **You shall keep my statutes and walk in them. I am Yahweh your God. You shall therefore keep my statutes and my ordinances, which if a man does, he shall live in them. I am Yahweh.**”*

Leviticus 18:2-5 WEBUS

(e) Legalism: Under the law!

1. “Now we know that whatever things the law says, it speaks to those **who are under the law**, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may be brought under the judgment of God. **Because by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight;** for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:19-20 WEBUS

- a) Now that you understand what **“works of the law”** means, and what it doesn’t mean, you must also understand what it means to be **“under the law”**.
- 1) It means that you believe you can be justified by strict adherence to God’s commands in your own strength, and now with one added nuance—albeit a critical one.
 - 2) If you are “under the law”, there is no remedy when you fall short of total obedience.
 - 3) To not be “under the law” DOES NOT mean God’s laws no longer apply—it simply means you have a remedy for falling short.
 - 4) Under the law equates to having no remedy for disobedience because you are depending on yourself for total obedience.
- b) It is clear that Paul magnified obedience to God’s commands as a way of life, **but the act of being obedient to God by faith was called something other than the idiom: “works of the law.”**
- c) That idiom was: **“doer of the law.”** Do you see here that although by *“works of the law, no flesh will be justified,” “the doers of the law will be justified”*?

- 1) *“For as many as have sinned without the law will also perish without the law. As many as have sinned **under the law** will be judged by the law. **For it isn’t the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be justified.**”* Romans 2:12-13 WEBUS
- d) A doer of the law identifies those being obedient by faith because, *“The righteous will live by faith.”* They are those of whom the Scripture speaks, *“The man who **does them** will live by them.”*
- e) For our purposes and to forever bring clarity, we will call doing the law, *“grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience,”* to contrast it from legalism, works of the law, and under the law!
- f) Therefore...
 - 1) *“We maintain therefore that a man is **justified by faith apart from the works of the law.**”*
Romans 3:28 WEBUS
- (f) Legalism: The big mistake—attempting to establish your own righteousness!
 1. “Brothers, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God is for Israel, that they may be saved. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not according

to knowledge. **For being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they didn't subject themselves to the righteousness of God.** For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

Romans 10:1-4 WEBUS

- a) Paul makes parallel points in his letters to Rome and Galatia...
 - 1) *"For Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, **"The one who does them will live by them."**"* Romans 10:5 WEBUS
- b) But he first specifies the source of the legalism:
"being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness."
- c) That is what "works of the law" and being "under the law" look like in practice: "I can be righteous in my own strength!"
- d) It is only after making the diagnosis that Paul again reminds us of the remedy to this error that is found in Leviticus 18:5... *"The one who does them will live by them."*

- e) We will continuously refer to the remedy as grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience to God's commands. It is the only path to life!
- f) And as Christians, we know that righteousness is only attainable one way: *"For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."*

(6) Another Brand of Legalism: when the traditions of man take precedence over God's commands.

(a) Legalism: Doctrines of men!

1. "He answered them, **"Why do you also disobey the commandment of God because of your tradition?"** For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'Whoever may tell his father or his mother, "Whatever help you might otherwise have gotten from me is a gift devoted to God," he shall not honor his father or mother.' **You have made the commandment of God void because of your tradition.** You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, **'These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their**

heart is far from me. And they worship me in vain, teaching as doctrine rules made by men.'" Matthew 15:3-9 WEBUS

a) What we now know as "works of the law" or being "under the law" shows up in this passage as...

- 1) Disobeying the commandments of Yahweh because of your own traditions!
- 2) Making the commandments of Yahweh void because of your own traditions!
- 3) Hypocrisy: drawing near to Yahweh with your mouth, and honoring God with your lips; but possessing a heart far from honoring Him.
- 4) Worshiping Yahweh in vain, and teaching manmade rules as if they are Yahweh's doctrine (works of law, legalism).

(b) Legalism: Traditions of men!

1. **"For you set aside the commandment of God, and hold tightly to the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things."** He said to them, **"Full well do you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.** For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother;' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or

mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban,"' that is to say, given to God, "then you no longer allow him to do anything for his father or his mother, **making void the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down. You do many things like this.**"

Mark 7:8-13 WEBUS

- a) More legalism: when the traditions of man take precedence over God's commands...
 - 1) Setting aside the commandments of Yahweh by valuing the traditions of men more than the laws of God.
 - 2) Rejecting the commandments of Yahweh by keeping your own traditions instead.
 - 3) And again, voiding God's word by giving man's traditions precedence and then handing down those manmade priorities, as if they have the weight of God's laws.

(c) The Critical Difference: *"Created in Christ Jesus for good works."*

- 1. "But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, **even when we were dead**

through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come **he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus; for **by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared before that we would walk in them.” Ephesians 2:4-10 WEBUS

- a) Grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience:
 - 1) While you were dead in your sins, He made you alive by His grace to show you the exceeding riches of His grace and kindness.
 - 2) It is by grace you have been saved through faith.
 - 3) You could never do it on your own (that would be works of the law).
 - 4) God’s grace had to be a gift from Him, not the result of the works of man (of the law), or you’d be able to claim credit.

b) However, what should be your response to God's grace empowering you?

1. Good works or what the Scripture defines as, "doing the law": Grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience to God!

Prayer: I SURRENDER SELF-PITY (*Yahweh, I know things don't always go as planned. When things don't go as expected, and those losses seem to pile up, it is natural to pity oneself. I know that is acceptable for a moment, but then it is time to move on! I know that living in a prolonged state of sorrow can become like a sticky sin that gets on everyone with whom I come into contact, and it can possibly make them vulnerable to feeling oppressed or depressed. I never want to contribute to anything that might make someone stumble.*) I WILL PRACTICE DETERMINATION (*Today, God, I acknowledge that this is a character trait that screams, "Tribulations and failures only make me stronger!" I know that to indulge in feeling bad for myself can paralyze me from moving forward in life. I recognize that it is equally important to differentiate determination from self-will—the former is admirable, while the latter is ugly. And it may even be more important for me to distinguish determination from legalism—which is not only ugly, but detrimental to my faith.*)

ASSIGNMENT #22

1. Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:

- A. “For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**” Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS
- B. “But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed**, nor hidden that will not be known.” Luke 12:2 WEBUS
- C. “For **God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.**” Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS
- D. “For **no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.** But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire;** and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is.” 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 WEBUS
- E. “For the time has come for **judgment** to begin with the household of God. If it **begins first with us**, what will happen

to those who don't obey the Good News of God?" 1 Peter 4:17 WEBUS

2. **Surrender Self-Pity:** *"But I determined this for myself, **that I would not come to you again in sorrow. For if I make you grieve, then who will make me glad** but he who is made to grieve by me?" 2 Corinthians 2:1-2 WEBUS*

A. Search your heart humbly and honestly.

- 1) Do you recognize that things don't always go as planned?
- 2) Do you acknowledge that when things don't go as expected, and those losses seem to pile up, it is natural to pity oneself—but that is only acceptable for a moment, and then it's time to move on?
- 3) Do you see that living in a prolonged state of sorrow can become a sticky sin that gets on everyone with whom you come into contact, and it can possibly make them vulnerable to feeling oppressed or depressed?
- 4) Will you commit to no longer contributing to anything that might make someone else stumble?
- 5) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it.
- 6) Who will hold you accountable to surrender your feelings of self-pity?

3. **Practice Determination:** *“Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, and in distresses, for Christ’s sake. **For when I am weak, then am I strong.**”* 2 Corinthians 12:10 WEBUS

A. Are you prepared to practice determination?

- 1) Do you understand that determination is a character trait that screams, “Tribulations and failures only make me stronger!”?
- 2) Will you admit that to indulge in feeling bad for oneself can paralyze you from moving forward in life?
- 3) Will you acknowledge that it is equally important to differentiate determination from self-will—the former is admirable, while the latter is ugly?
- 4) Can you recognize that it may even be more important to distinguish determination from legalism—which is not only ugly, but detrimental to one’s faith?
- 5) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it.
- 6) Who will hold you accountable to practice determination while avoiding self-will and legalism?