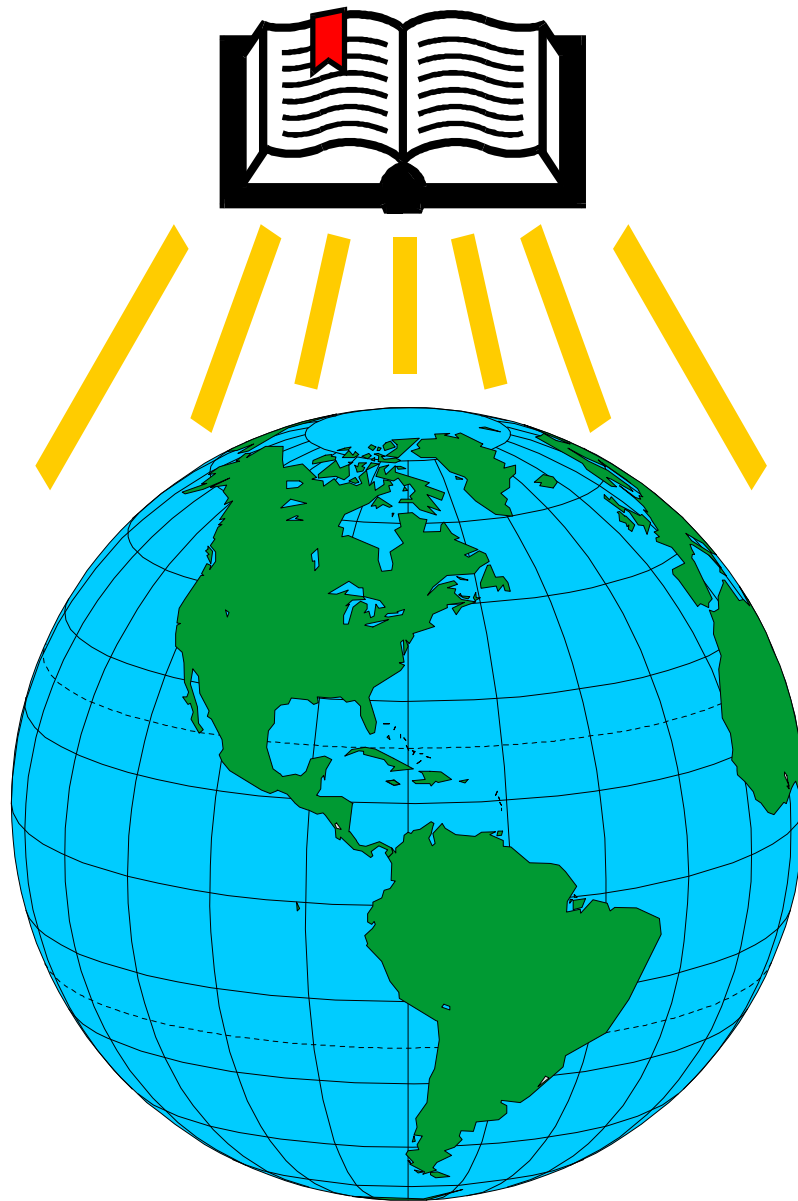


The Gospel for the World

A Study Guide
by Tony Hall



3rd Revision – 12/2001

The Gospel for the World



Within your hands you hold a study guide designed to help you understand the Gospel, "The Good News".

Becoming a Christian is a decision of faith. It is not just a few steps that one goes through! It is a life-changing, heart-transforming process that God wants all to understand.

This booklet is only a tool. Realize that there is only one book that contains the words of life and that is the Bible.

May God bless you in your study!

Tell Your Story!

Becoming a Christian is the most important time of a person's life! It is also a very exciting time. Please take time to answer the following questions. Do not leave anything out. It is important to share as much you can.

- Are you a Christian? _____ Yes, I am a Christian.
 _____ No, I do not consider myself a Christian.
 _____ I am not sure.

If you checked yes, I am a Christian or I am not sure, please share the day or days in which you became a Christian. Share anything that you feel contributed to your becoming a Christian. This could be, but definitely not limited to, talking to someone, saying a prayer, going forward, etc. List whatever you feel contributed to your becoming a Christian.

Referring to the list above, at what point do you consider yourself to be "saved"?

Share anything else that you feel played a role in your conversion to Jesus.

(Thanks for sharing! This will help the person studying with you to better understand you and the how you began your relationship with God. It also reminds you of the things that have helped you so far on your journey for God!)

Did you know that there are many things that prove the Bible is accurate and true? Three of those things are archaeology, prophecy and science. Let's look at just a few examples.

Archaeology shows the Bible to be true.

- (1) In Isaiah 20:1, the Bible mentions a king of Assyria named Sargon. For many years, there was no record of King Sargon except that of the Bible. In 1843, Emile Botta found, near Nineveh, the remains of a palace surrounded by many buildings. Hundreds of records found show it to be King Sargon's imperial city, Khorsbad. From 600 B.C. to 1843, we had nothing documented about King Sargon, yet the Bible told his story accurately. (North, Stafford *How to Explain*. Edmond Oklahoma, 1992)
- (2) In II Kings 18-19, the Bible tells of another King of Assyria named Sennacherib. In fact, his army conquered many cities in Judah. Sennacherib even attempted to take Jerusalem. However, he did not because God sent a plague on his army. In 1849, an archaeologist found a clay prism on which Sennacherib had produced a record of his great deeds. This prism records that he conquered 48 cities of Judah and even talks of surrounding Jerusalem, but makes no claim to have captured it. Again, the Bible is accurate. (North, Stafford *How to Explain*)
- (3) In Ezra 1:1-2, we find that Cyrus allowed Jews in captivity in Babylon to return to their own land and rebuild their temple. In 1880, an archaeologist found an ancient clay cylinder on which Cyrus had recorded the important acts of his reign. The cylinder states that Cyrus also had the captive peoples return to their own lands to rebuild temples to their gods. The Bible was accurate. (North, Stafford *How to Explain*.)
- (4) During the six year excavations of Jericho (1930-1936), an archaeologist named Garstang made an amazing find. It was so amazing that he had a statement of what was found prepared and signed by himself and two other members of the team. In reference to these findings Garstang says: "As to the main fact, then, there remains no doubt: the walls fell outwards so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over their ruins into the city." Why so unusual? Because the walls of cities do not fall outwards, they fall inwards. And yet in Joshua 6:20 we read "...The wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city every man straight ahead, and they took the city." The walls were made to fall outward. (McDowell, Josh *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, 1979.)

Prophecy shows the Bible to be true.

- (1) Jeremiah 51:32-64, written in 595 B.C., and Isaiah 13:19-21, written in 712 B.C., both predict that the city of Babylon will become desolate and will never be rebuilt. Today Babylon lies in ruins and has no human inhabitants.
- (2) Ezekiel 29:14-19 (589 B.C.), predicts that Nebuchadnezzar will take Egypt and that it will never again rise to a major world empire. Today Egypt is still considered a “third world country”.
- (3) Ezekiel 35:1-19, predicts that the descendants of Esau, the Edomites, will cease to exist as a people and their cities will be desolate. All of this was fulfilled. Today there are no Edomites and their cities lie in ruins.
- (4) Deuteronomy 28:26-37 and 63-66 predict that the Israelites will continue as a people, but will be scattered among many nations and will be persecuted.

These and hundreds of other prophecies raise the question... “How did these writers know what would happen to entire nations and different people centuries before it actually happened?”

Facts of science show the Bible to be true.

There were many ideas of science being taught at the same time that the Bible was being written. Man has always been a creature of learning. The interesting thing is, while man was learning, God was telling. The writers of the Bible were recording things that were different than those men considered to be leaders of thought. It is amazing to compare the thoughts of men and the Bible. Let's look at a few comparisons.

During the time the Bible was being written...

- (1) *Man thought* – The world rested on the shoulder of a Greek god, sat on the back of a giant turtle, or was supported by huge pillars.
Bible said – Job 26:7 – the “earth hangs on nothing”.
- (2) *Man thought* – The earth was flat.
Bible said – Isaiah 40:22 – talks about the “circle of the earth.”
- (3) *Man thought* – There were 3000 stars.
Bible said – Genesis 15:5 and 22:17 – declares the stars to be numberless.

Also, God writes of things within the scientific world that man did not discover for a long time! In fact, in some cases it was the Bible that led man to find it.

<u>Scientific Fact</u>	<u>Man Discovered</u>	<u>Located in the Bible</u>
Oceans have natural paths in them	1854	Psalms 8:8
Most seaworthy ship design is 30:5:3 ratio	1860	Genesis 6
Early in existence, water covered everything (Ice Age)	Modern Science	Genesis 1:2

When you look at all of the evidence that supports the Bible, it becomes even easier to believe that the Bible is the absolute truth.

God is the author of the Bible.

The Bible is from God.

II Peter 1:20-21

II Timothy 3:16-17

God's Word is important today.

Hebrews 4:12

It is important to do what God says.

James 1:22-25

Questions:

Do you believe the Bible is from God?

Are you willing to follow everything the Bible tells you?

The Savior for the World

Lesson 2

The Bible contains 66 smaller books. The first 39 of those books are called the Old Testament, and the last 27 books are called the New Testament. These 66 books were written by about 40 different writers over a span of 1500 years. There is one central theme throughout the entire Bible. God wants to have a close relationship with His people. He demonstrated how much He desires that relationship by sending someone supremely precious to Him, Jesus Christ.

In this lesson, we want to take a look at the most important person to ever walk the earth.

Tell me what you know

Have you heard of Jesus before?

If so, who is Jesus to you?

Let's look at the Bible

The Birth of Jesus – Matthew 1:18-25 – Also found in Luke 2:1-7

What do we find out?

1. God, through the Holy Spirit, placed a child into the womb of Mary. (vs. 18, 20)
2. The child's name will be Jesus. (vs. 21)
3. Jesus came for a purpose. (vs. 21, Luke 19:10)

Jesus Grows up – Luke 2:41-52

What do we find out?

1. Jesus was about His Father's business.
2. Jesus grew in favor with God and man.

The Life of Jesus – Matthew 4:23

What do we find out?

1. Jesus taught.
2. Jesus preached.
3. Jesus healed.

The Death of Jesus – Matthew 26:36-27:56

What do we find out?

1. Jesus did not want to die, but submitted to the will of God. (26:36-46)
2. Jesus is betrayed by one of His own, Judas. (26:48-49)
3. The leaders of the Jews wanted to kill Jesus because He professed to be the Son of God. (26:57-66)
4. Jesus was mocked and beaten. (26:66-68)
5. Jesus was sent before Pilate. (27:1-2)
6. Pilate allowed the Jews to choose one man to be released. They chose Barabbas, a Jewish murderer, instead of releasing Jesus. (27:15-26)
7. Jesus received the sentence of chastise (flogging) and crucifixion. (27:26)
8. Soldiers mocked Jesus (27:27-33)
9. They crucified Jesus (27:32-37)
10. Jesus died on the cross (27:45-50)

Why would God have His only Son die on a cross? God loves you!

God loves you, and He knows that this was the only way that the barrier that separates us from Him could be removed. God wants that barrier removed so that you and I can have a vital relationship with Him.

God loves you.

John 3:16

I John 4:8-12

God Created us in His image.

Genesis 1:26-28

Acts 17:29

God wants us to live in a close and vital relationship with Him.

Psalm 36:7

Psalm 23

Romans 8:31-39

Questions:

Why did Jesus do this?

Why would God send His only Son?

Do you believe Christ is the Son of God?

Do you want a close relationship with God?

The Barrier of Sin

Lesson 3a

The barrier between God and us is sin.

What is sin?

I John 3:4

There are two kinds of sin:

1. Doing what is forbidden.
 - Galatians 5:19-21
 - I Corinthians 6:9-10
 - Ephesians 5:3-7
2. Not doing what is commanded.
 - James 4:17

Who has sinned?

Romans 3:23

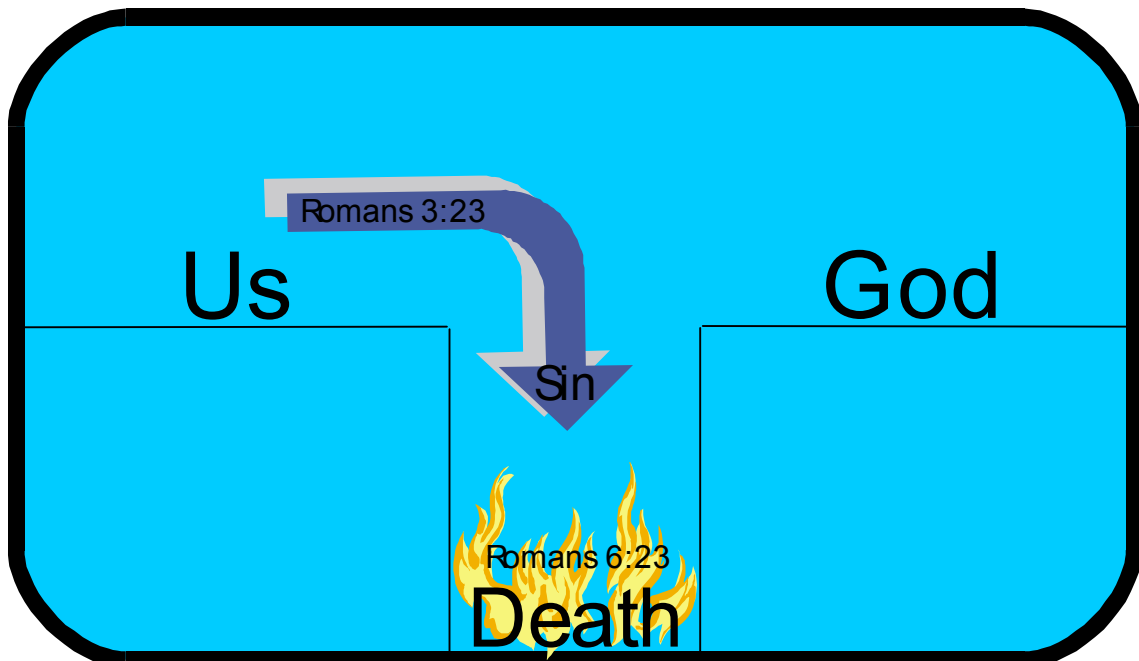
What are the consequences of sin?

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:12-14

Isaiah 59:2

I John 1:5



The Cure for Sin

Lesson 3b

Man needs a Savior

Matthew 1:21 – Jesus came to save us from our sins.

Luke 19:10 – Jesus came to save the lost.

Romans 5:6-10 –

In sin we are:

- (1) powerless
- (2) ungodly
- (3) sinners
- (4) God's enemy

But God loves us, so He sent His Son.

In Jesus we are:

- (1) justified by His blood
- (2) saved from wrath, and
- (3) reconciled to God

Christ is a “once and for all” sacrifice for our sins

Romans 3:21-25

Romans 5:6-11

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Hebrews 10:10-14

Christ is the only way to have eternal life with God

John 14:6

I John 5:11-12

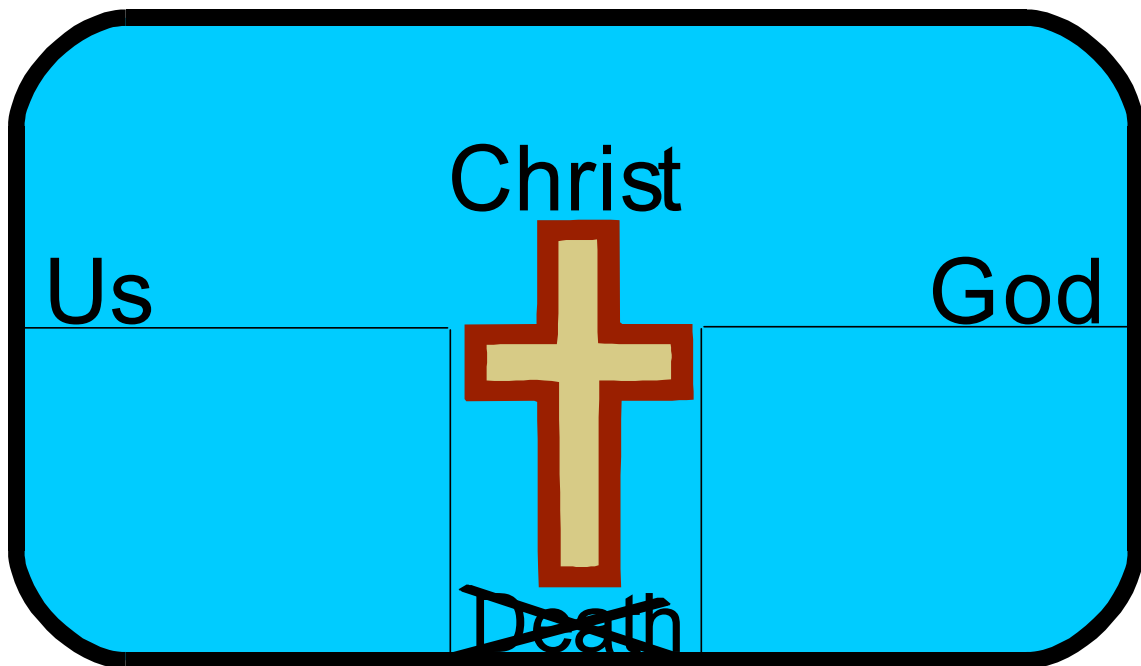
Question:

Have you sinned?

What are the consequences of your sin?

Who is the answer to your sin?

It is through Jesus Christ's death that we can have hope of eternal life!



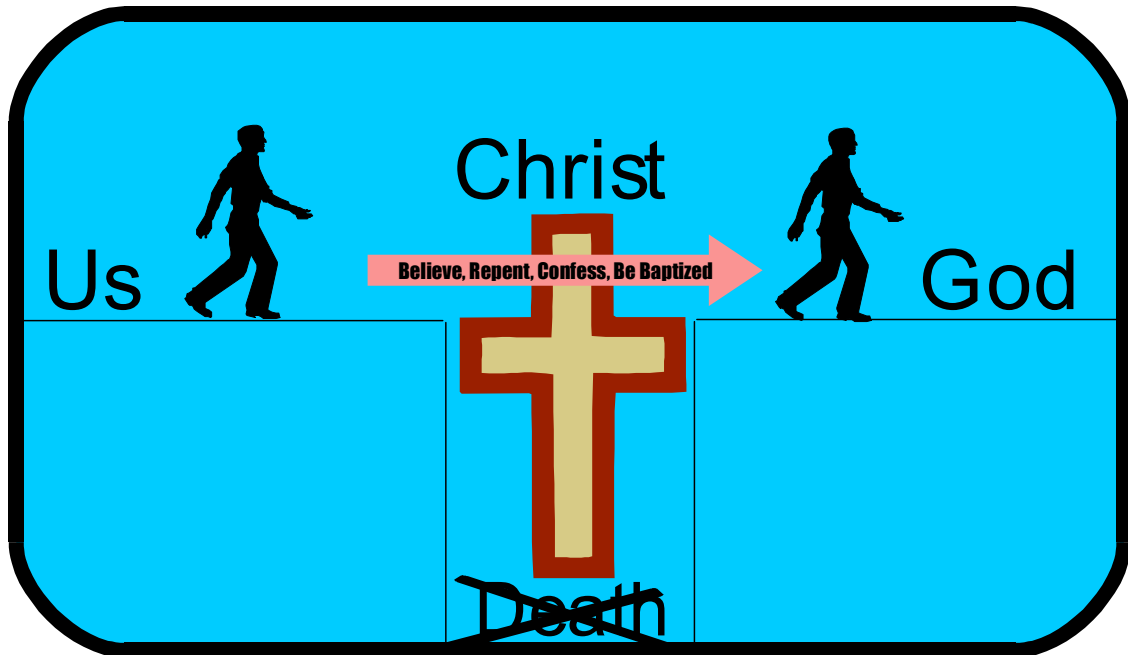
How does God ask you to respond to the death of Christ, so that you may receive eternal life?

God wants us to respond to his sacrificial gift of Jesus Christ. We have learned that through the blood of Christ we can have a vital relationship with Him. So, now the question becomes, “How do we come in contact with the blood of Christ?”

We must realize that this is not a checklist of things to do. It is a life-changing, heart-transforming process that God has given us for coming into His kingdom and becoming one of His children.

1. We must hear the message.
Romans 10:17 – Faith comes from hearing the message.
John 6:45 – It is God’s word, not man’s, that we must listen to.
2. We must believe / have faith.
John 8:24 – If we do not believe, we will die in our sins.
Hebrews 11:6 – Belief is required to please God.
3. We must repent.
Acts 3:19 – Repentance means to turn, change, or convert. We must turn our lives toward God so that he can wipe out our sins.
Acts 17:30 – God commands that all people repent.
Luke 13:3-5 – Repentance is essential for all men.
4. We must confess Jesus Christ.
Romans 10:9-10 – We need to confess with our mouths that, “Jesus is Lord.” That confession must come from our hearts!
5. We must be baptized.
Acts 2:38 – Everyone must be baptized for the (1) forgiveness of sins and (2) the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Mark 16:16 – Baptism in faith is the response to the Gospel.
Romans 6:3-7 – Baptism is where we come in contact with the blood of Jesus Christ, which wipes away our sins so we can walk in a new life.
Acts 10:48 – We must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
John 3:1-6 – Jesus tells Nicodemus, “Unless you are born of the water and the Spirit you will not enter the kingdom.”
Acts 8:26-39 – The conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. At what time did the Ethiopian rejoice? It was after he was baptized. It is at baptism that we have our sins washed away and are added to the book of life.
Acts 22:16 – Baptism washes away sin.

When we have done these things because of our faith, we will then be set free from our old sinful self and walk in a new and vital relationship with God!



Question:

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins?

The walk of faith continues after we put Christ on through His plan of salvation. Christianity is not a part-time job, nor is it even a full-time job. Christianity is a lifestyle. It is who we are. The verses to follow will help you as you have begun your walk with Christ.

The walk of faith continues

Romans 16:26 – We must be obedient to God in our faith.

Luke 9:23-26 – Living for Christ is a daily commitment.

God wants you grow spiritually

Ephesians 4:11-16 – We need to have Bible knowledge so that we can stand firm in His teaching.

Colossians 1:28-29 – We want to grow so that people may see the perfect Christ living in us.

God wants you to fulfill your role in the church

Hebrews 10:24-25 – We must encourage each other, and to do that we must attend church.

I Corinthians 12:12-26 – We as Christians are members of Christ's Body. We therefore have a responsibility to Christ and to all of the other members of the Body.

Galatians 6:1-5 – We must help one another.

God wants you to be on guard against false teaching

I Timothy 4:1-11 – God has said there will be people that teach different things than what He has written in His word. Be on guard!

II Timothy 4:1-5 – There are people who do not want to hear what God has said. They want to hear what makes them feel good. They allow their feelings to guide them, not the Word of God. We must be led by God through the scriptures and not by our feelings.

God wants you to worship Him as He has commanded

John 4:24 – We must worship God in truth (as He commands) and in spirit (from our hearts).

God wants you to share Jesus with others

Matthew 28:18-20 } Go share the Gospel of Christ!
Mark 16:15-16 }

Your study is not over. It actually has just begun. Satan wants you to get comfortable and stop growing. He wants you to slip back into the pattern of the world and forget what you have committed to. Now you must find a church that is teaching truth and begin studying and working with them.

Christianity is a journey. It is something that takes a lifetime to complete. Living a Christian life is the best life you could ever live!

Here are some additional verses that may help you as you walk with God.

God's Answers in Time of Need:

For a great opportunity	Isaiah 55
For the secret to happiness	Colossians 3:12-17
For understanding of Christianity	II Corinthians 5:15-19
How to get along with others	Romans 12
If dealing with fear	Psalm 34:7
If people seem unkind	John 15
If work becomes discouraging	Psalm 126
If you are becoming selfish	John 13:1-17
If you want to be fruitful	John 15
When God seems far away	Psalm 139
When in sorrow	John 14
When men fail you	Psalm 27
When the world seems bigger than God	Psalm 90
When you are depressed	Psalm 27
When you are in danger	Psalm 91
When you are lonely and fearful	Psalms 23
When you feel down and out	Romans 8:31
When you grow bitter and critical	I Corinthians 13
When you leave home for labor or travel	Psalm 121
When you need strength	Philippians 4:13
When you sin in your life	Psalm 51
When you wallet is empty	Psalm 37
When you want Christian assurance	Romans 8:1-30
When you want courage for a task	Joshua 1
When you want peace and rest	Matthew 11:25-30
When you worry	Matthew 6:19-34
When your faith needs stirring	Hebrews 11
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish	Psalm 67

May God bless you as you continue to search the scriptures and better know God's Will! Romans 12:1-2

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