

THE *Vision*
OF HIS
GLORY

ANNE
GRAHAM
LOTZ

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

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A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE FOR

THE *Vision*
OF HIS
GLORY

DAILY STUDIES FOR
PERSONAL OR GROUP USE

A PERSONAL WORD FROM ANNE

My beloved friend, Jill Briscoe, once visited what had been an extremely poverty-stricken country in Africa. As she flew in, she looked down on miles and miles of African veldt that had previously been covered by a lush grasslike crop, but was now an unbroken, brown, dusty plain stretching all the way to the horizon. As Jill traveled to the mission station where she would be staying, mile after mile of barren, dry, poverty-stricken land passed by her window. Little dust devils danced in the hot afternoon sun, while shimmering heat waves made the emaciated, dust-covered people walking listlessly beside the road look more like ghostly apparitions than humans.

The relief workers told her the sad story: The veldt had once been a beautifully green, rolling expanse covered by a newly discovered crop that adapted easily to the climate and soil of the area. Within a few short years, this crop had promised to make the people in the area totally self-sufficient as it became the main, and plentiful, staple of their diet.

Sadly, the relief workers shook their heads as they explained what had happened: The crop had, indeed, become the main staple in the diet of the local people, but too late it had been found to have no nutritional value at all. The tragedy was that hundreds of people had starved to death—with their stomachs full!

Those pitiful African people seem to symbolize many church members in America today who are spiritually starving to death with their stomachs full! We have made the main staples of our “diet” those things that have no real nutritional value—political agendas, social issues, human rights, books about God’s Word, musical videos, theological formulas for reaching the postmodern man,

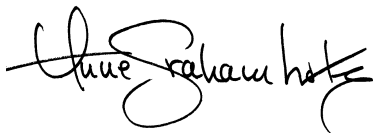
and marketing strategies for the local church, along with a myriad of conferences, seminars, retreats, dramas, and “special events.” None of these things is harmful in itself, but when substituted for the nutrition of daily Bible reading and prayer, the result is increasing spiritual starvation.

For the past twenty years as I have crisscrossed America, speaking in arenas, to conventions and churches, I have become convinced of one thing: the average church member is desperately hungry for God’s Word. While we read books about it and hear sermons on it and live by principles from it, we are sadly devoid of it on a daily basis. When our lives begin to unravel due to pressure, problems, or pain, we don’t seem to know how to access its power and truth in a personal, relevant way that makes a difference. As a result, thousands have spirits that are shriveling even while they are sobbing, “Please, just give me Jesus!”

What does your spiritual diet consist of? Although you may be an active church member and a committed Christian, could it be that you are actually starving for the Bread of Life? Are you starving for the Bread, which is Jesus Himself, offered to you and me through God’s Word?

If so, then this workbook is for you! It has been designed to take you directly into God’s Word. There is no middleman. There are no blanks to fill in. There is not even any cross-referencing required. The simple format for meditation has been developed from my own daily personal time in God’s Word as a means of reading a passage in order to hear Him speaking to me personally through it. Day after day, as I use this method in my Bible reading, God has fed me and filled me to overflowing!

As you begin this Bible study, pray this simple prayer: “Dear God, *please, give me a vision of Your glory!*” Then open your Bible and enjoy the Food!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chue Sakuma Hata". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'C' at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

GETTING STARTED

These worksheets are designed to be used as a companion to *The Vision of His Glory*. Used together, they will provide a format for Bible study that is effective for group discussion (Sunday school classes, women's or men's church groups, home or neighborhood Bible classes, one-on-one discipleship) as well as for your private devotions. Believing that God speaks to us through His Word, we have designed these worksheets to lead you through a series of questions concerning the designated Scripture passage. The exercises enable you to not only discover for yourself the eternal truths revealed by God in the Bible, but also to hear God speaking personally to you through His Word and thus have a fresh encounter with Him.

Getting Started on Your Own

It is suggested that *Getting Started*, *Tips for Success*, *Take One Step at a Time*, and the Sample Chapter be used as an initial lesson in order to familiarize yourself with the format to be used. The worksheets are subsequently divided to correspond with the chapters of the book. If you make your way through this study using one set of worksheets each day, you will complete a chapter a week. The Scripture passage for each worksheet corresponds with the Scripture passage in the divisions of the book chapters. Each set of worksheets will provide a very rich, meaningful pathway for your daily walk with Jesus.

Getting Started in a Group

If you embark on this study in a group, you may want to meet once a week to share the insights you've gained. It is suggested that *Getting Started*, *Tips for Success*, *Take*

One Step at a Time, and the Sample Chapter be used as an initial lesson in order to familiarize yourself with the format to be used. The worksheets are subsequently divided to correspond with the chapters of the book. If you make your way through this study using one set of worksheets each day, you will complete a chapter a week. Ideally, your group will gather each week under the leadership of a facilitator who will lead you through a meaningful discussion of what you've individually discovered. If the group is large (twelve or more), you may need to divide into smaller groups for discussion time, with moderators being chosen to lead each one.

The facilitator may offer a summation at the end of the group study, emphasizing specific applications from Revelation to meet the needs and characteristics of your particular group, depending on age, sex, and interests of the members.

Whether you choose to get started on your own or in a group, I pray that your time spent exploring Revelation will result in your own fresh vision of His glory!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I have taken countless trips in my lifetime—some long, some short, some far, some near. But every single trip involves a certain amount of preparation in order to be successful. And the preparation itself requires a measure of discipline. This Bible study is no exception.

Spiritual discipline is an essential part of an individual's ability to grow in his or her personal relationship with God through knowledge and understanding of His Word. It is my sincere prayer that whether you use these worksheets as a private daily devotion or in a weekly group Bible study, it will provide you with an easy, meaningful format for this growth to occur.

To stay on track and make this study most effective and meaningful to your life, I offer these specific suggestions:

- Set aside a regular *place* for your daily Bible study.
- Set aside a regular *time* for your daily Bible study.
- Pray before beginning each day's study, asking God to speak to you through His Word.
- Write out your answers for each step of the worksheets in sequence. Do not skip a step.
- Make the time to be still and listen, reflecting thoughtfully on your responses, especially in Step 5.

TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME

Step 1. LOOK IN GOD'S WORD: Begin by reading the designated passage of Scripture. This is printed for you on each day's devotional section. When you have finished reading the passage, move to Step 2.

Step 2. LIST THE FACTS: Make a verse-by-verse list of the outstanding facts. Don't get caught up in the details; just pinpoint the most obvious facts. As you make your list, do not paraphrase but use actual words from the passage itself. Take a moment to read the completed example of a worksheet on the following pages. When you have read the passage in Step 1, look over the facts listed in Step 2 so that you understand these instructions more clearly.

Step 3. LEARN THE LESSONS: After looking at the passage and listing the facts, you are ready for Step 3. Go back to the list of facts in Step 2 and look for a lesson to learn from each fact. Ask yourself who is speaking, what the subject is, where the action is taking place, when it happened, and so on. Ask, *What are the people in this passage doing that I should be doing? Is there a command I should obey? A promise I should claim? A warning I should heed? An example I should follow?* Look again at the completed example on the following pages. Note that you may have more than one lesson for each verse.

Step 4. LISTEN TO HIS VOICE: The fourth step is the most meaningful, but you cannot do it until Steps 1, 2, and 3 have been completed. In order to complete Step 4, rephrase the lessons you found in Step 3 and put them in the form of ques-

tions you could ask yourself, your spouse, your child, your friend, your neighbor, or your coworker. As you write out the questions, listen for God to communicate to you personally through His Word.

There are some challenging passages in Revelation. Don't get hung up on what you don't understand. Look for the general principles and lessons that can be learned. Remember, don't rush. It may take you several moments of prayerful meditation to discover meaningful lessons and hear God speak to you. The object of these devotional studies is not to get through the study, but to develop your personal relationship with God in order to satisfy your spiritual hunger and increase your spiritual health.

Step 5. LIVE IT OUT: Read the assigned Scripture passage prayerfully, objectively, thoughtfully, and attentively as you listen for God to speak. He may not speak to you through every verse, but He *will* speak. When He does, record in Step 5 the verse number, what it is He seems to be saying to you, and your response to Him. You might like to date it as a means not only of keeping a spiritual journal, but also of holding yourself accountable to following through in obedience.

God bless you as you seek to learn this simple yet effective method of reading His Word, that you might hear His voice speaking to you personally through it. My prayer is that as you walk daily in this study through Revelation, you will learn to love the Bread of Life.

SAMPLE CHAPTER

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

Mark 9:2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

9:2a Jesus took three disciples alone up a mountain

9:2b–3 He was transfigured before them with clothes dazzling white.

9:4 Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus.

9:5 Peter said three shelters should be put up.

9:6 He didn't know what to say.

9:7 A voice spoke from the cloud saying, "Listen to My Son . . ."

9:8 Suddenly they saw no one except Jesus.

3 LEARN THE LESSONS:
What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

9:2a Jesus wants to be alone with us.

9:2b–3 There are times we have to be alone with Jesus in order to have a vision of His glory.

9:4 The vision of His glory will be the focus of believers in eternity

9:5 Instead of worshipping Christ, some who call themselves Christians want to build earthly monuments to His name.

9:6 Sometimes our emotions prompt us to speak when we should be silent.

9:7 We are commanded by God to listen to what Jesus says.

9:8 When everything else fades away, including our visions and dreams of glory, our focus should still be on Jesus.

4 LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:
What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

9:2a When do I make time to be alone with Jesus?

9:2b–3 What fresh vision of Jesus am I lacking because I don't spend time alone with Him each day?

9:4 How drastically will I have to adjust my focus from what it is today to what it will be one day in eternity?

9:5 What earthly monument—a ministry, a church, a denomination, a reputation—am I seeking to build instead of genuine worship of Christ?

9:6 When have I spoken out when I should have been silent in worship?

9:7 Having glimpsed the vision of His glory, how obedient am I to God's command to listen to the voice of His beloved Son?

5 LIVE IT OUT:
Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

I will begin today to make time each day to be alone with Jesus, read my Bible, and listen to His voice.

CHAPTER 1

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DEPRESSED

by the Smallness of Your Life

Does your life seem small to you? Do you feel abandoned, worthless, lost in the shuffle of life? What hope is there for your future?

If your hope is in this world, there is none. But to those who are depressed by the smallness of their lives, God gives hope for the future through the vision of His glory. This vision begins to unfold in the first chapter of the book of Revelation, as we reflect on what God says through prophecy.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 1:1–2

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 1:3

3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



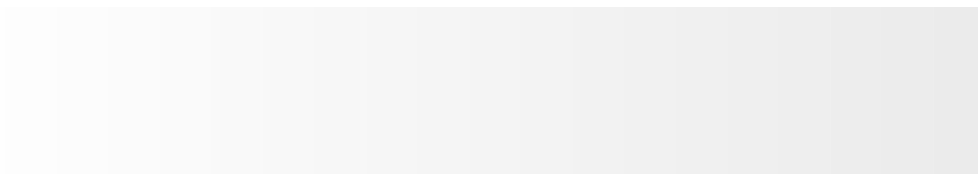
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 1:4–5a

4 John, to the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5a and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



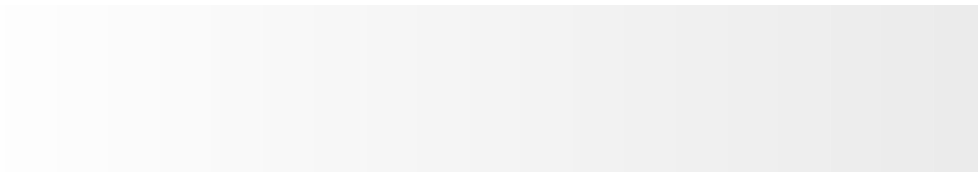
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 1:5b–7

5b To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, **6** and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. **7** Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



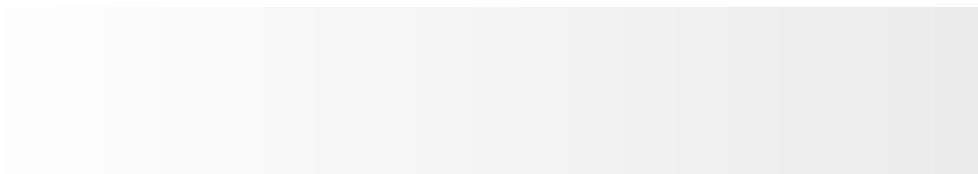
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 1:8

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



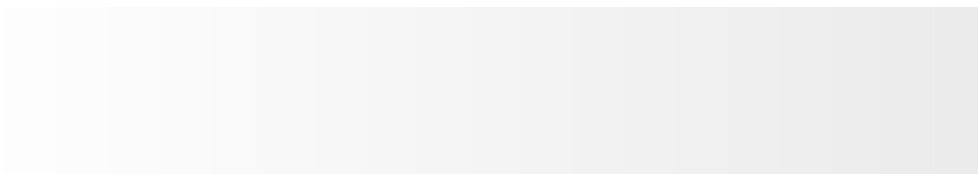
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 1:1–8? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 2

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DEPRESSED

by the Greatness of Your Problems

Amy Carmichael, the great missionary to India, wrote, “When we are facing the impossible, we can count upon the God of the impossible!”

The apostle John received a fresh vision of the God of the impossible at a time when not only the early church but he himself faced overwhelmingly great problems. When John received this vision that he recorded in the book of Revelation, the Emperor Domitian was on the throne in Rome. Secular history records Domitian as the cruelest of all the Roman emperors. He declared himself to be God, sentencing to death those who refused to worship him.

The early Christians did refuse to worship Domitian; therefore, they were sentenced to die by the thousands. Some were thrown to the lions in the great coliseum; some were burned at the stake. Others were wrapped in the skins of wild animals and fed to the dogs or dipped in tar and lit as torches for the emperor’s garden. Still others were crucified, including mothers with their babies draped around their necks.

The early Christians, including John, faced great problems! But rather than focus on each painful step of his walk of faith in the midst of such stress and suffering, the glorious vision enabled John to focus on the goal of Jesus Christ. By sharing the glorious vision, John encouraged those running the race of faith to maintain their focus on Christ as they patiently endured.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 1:9–11

9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, 11 which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 1:12

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



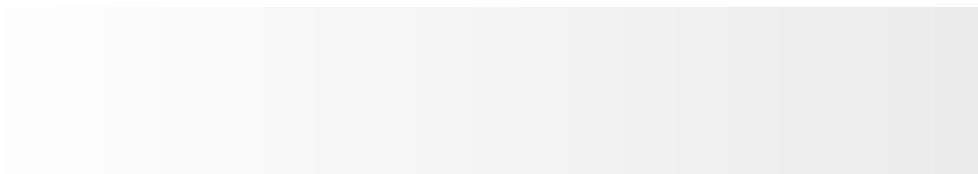
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 1:13–14

13 and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. **14** His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



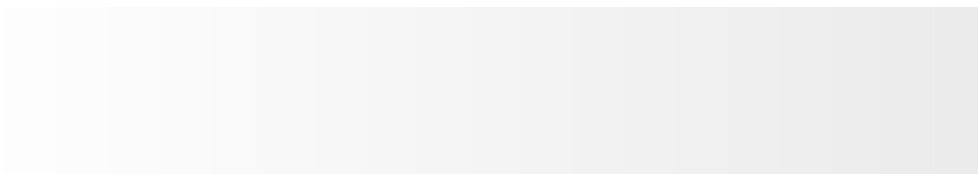
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 1:15–16

15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. **16** In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



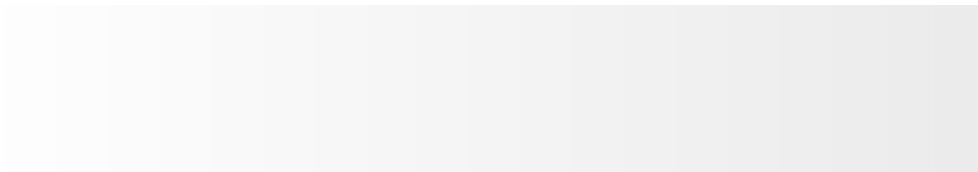
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 1:17–20

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. **19** Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. **20** The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



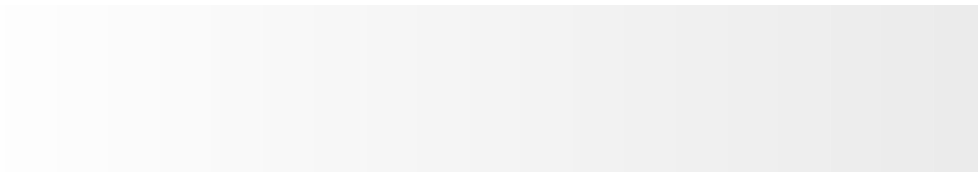
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 1:9–20? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 3

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DELUDED

by Your Own Importance

In Revelation 2 and 3, God shines the intense light of His Word into the hearts of seven churches, revealing, in essence, cobwebs, dust, and soot—things that were not pleasing to Him, things the churches were not aware of under the ordinary lighting of their own standards and comparisons. The churches seemed in danger of losing the vision of His glory.

Four of the churches were revealed to be deluded by their own importance. One of them, the church at Ephesus, was deluded by something many would not consider a problem for those seeking to do God's work. But it became a problem for the Ephesian church—and it may be a problem for you. The Ephesian Christians were deluded by the importance of service.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 2:1–7

1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. 6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 2:12–17

12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. **13** I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. **14**

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. **15** Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16** Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. **17** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



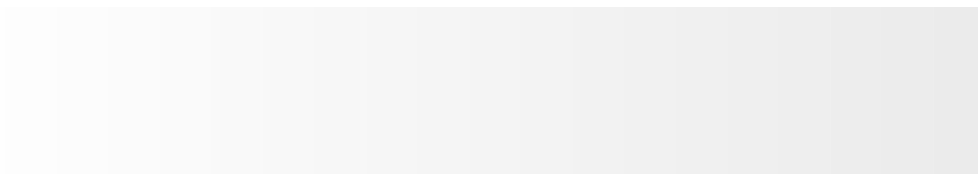
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 3:1-6

1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. 4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. 6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



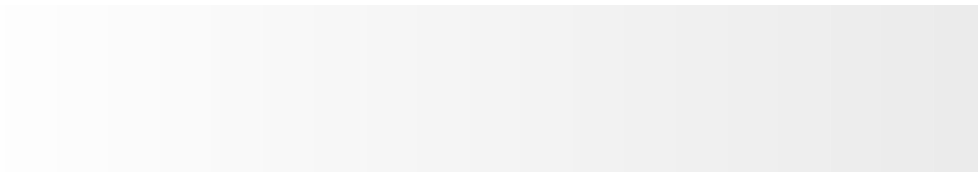
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 3:14–18

14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. **15** I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! **16** So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. **17** You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. **18** I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



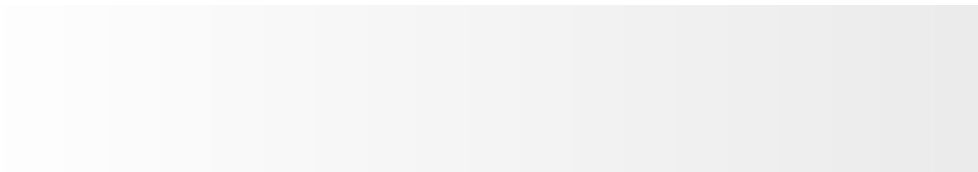
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 3:19–22

19 “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. **21** To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



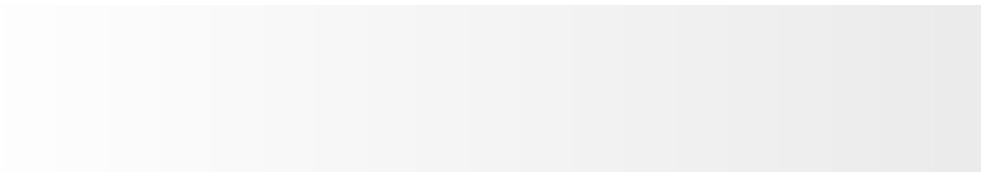
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 2:1–7, 12–17; 3:1–6, 14–22? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 4

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DELUDED

by Your Own Insignificance

A friend related to me her conversation with a nurse in the intensive care unit of a hospital. The nurse stated her support for abortion based on her professional experience in the ICU, not only in that hospital but previously in another city. Her reasoning was that the majority of premature babies who enter the ICU are in that condition because of poor prenatal care due to the mother's negligence. The nurse went on to point out that most mothers of the premature infants she cared for were either on drugs, had AIDS, were alcoholics, or had been abused in some way.

Since the birth and care of these babies put enormous pressure on the hospitals, which absorb most of the cost for the low-income mothers, and since the babies would be sent home to situations where they would not be well cared for, why should they be born? The nurse believed it would actually solve problems, save expense, and stop the cycle of poverty and abuse if these small, unloved, unwanted, insignificant babies were eliminated.

What do you feel is so insignificant you want to “do without” it—to discard it? A relationship? A child? A marriage? An opportunity for service? Your future? Your own life?

The vision of His glory gives hope to those who are deluded by their own insignificance because it reveals, in Christ, there is no such thing as an insignificant person or an insignificant place or an insignificant position!

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 2:8–11

8 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.”

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 2:18–23

18 “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. **19** I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. **20** Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. **21** I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. **22** So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. **23** I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



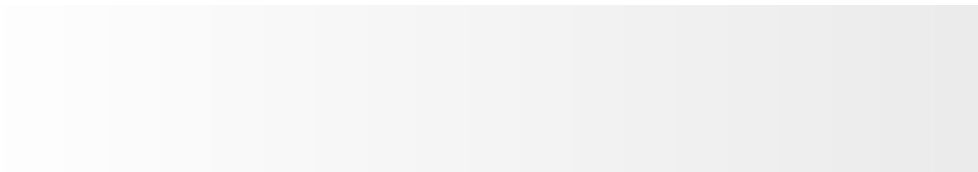
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 2:24–29

24 “Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): **25** Only hold on to what you have until I come. **26** To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— **27** ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’— just as I have received authority from my Father. **28** I will also give him the morning star. **29** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



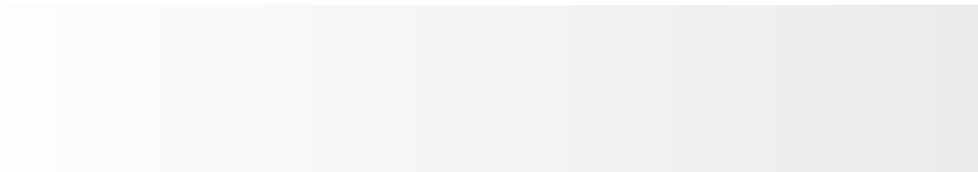
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 3:7-9

7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



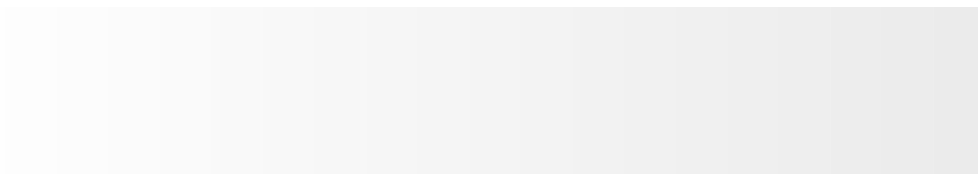
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 3:10–13

10 “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. **11** I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. **12** Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. **13** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



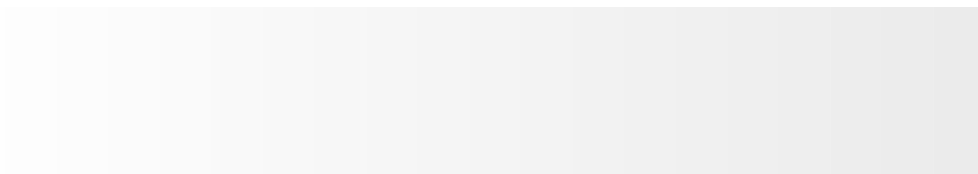
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 2:8–11, 18–29; 3:7–13? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 5

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DISCOURAGED

by the Majority of the Ungodly

My father was once interviewed on television by Diane Sawyer. She asked if, after having preached for fifty years to over 120 million people face-to-face on every continent of the globe, after having presented the gospel through television, radio, and the printed word, he was pleased with his “success.” My father’s answer startled her because he replied, “I don’t think of myself as successful at all. I feel like a failure.” Pressing him to explain himself, she inquired, “Did you think you could change the world?” He responded softly, “I thought maybe, after a lifetime of preaching . . . But the world is worse today than when I began my ministry.”

Do you have the same deep sense of failure? In spite of your obedience, your dependence, and your service to God, do things seem to be worse, leaving you overwhelmed and hopelessly discouraged by the majority of the ungodly?

Lift up your head! Open your eyes to the vision of His glory—a glorious vision of hope God has given in His revelation of who Jesus is! He is the Lord!

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–17

13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. **14** We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. **15** According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 4:1–3a

1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. 3a And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



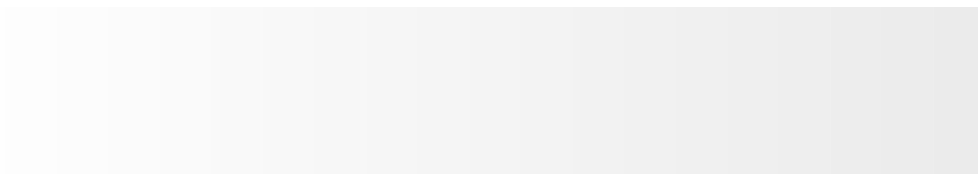
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 4:3b-5

3b A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. **4** Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. **5** From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



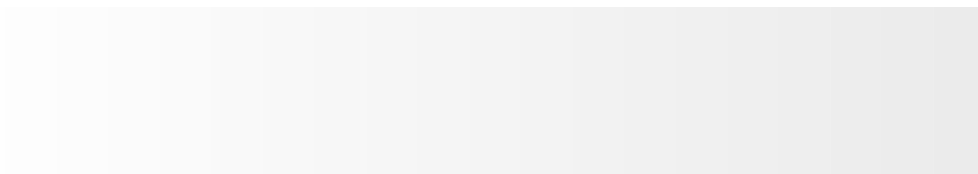
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 4:6–7

6 Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



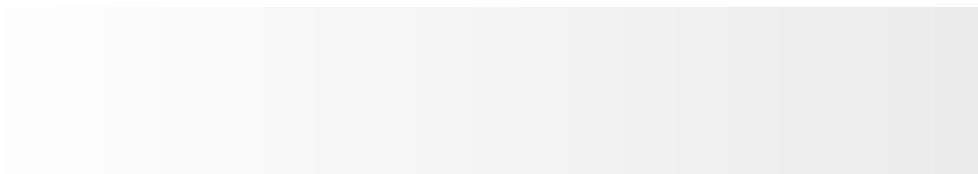
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 4:8–11

8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” 9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: 11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



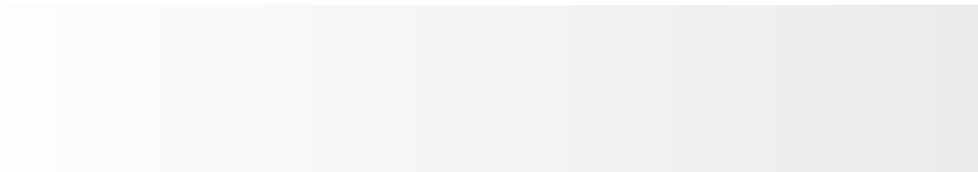
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 4? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 6

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DISCOURAGED

by the Minority of the Godly

Is it worth it to tell the truth, when lying would get you a promotion or a salary increase?

Is it worth it to get involved with the homeless, the hopeless, the helpless in Jesus' name and for His sake, and risk hostility and rejection?

Is it worth it to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Christ, when no one else in your church seems to take his or her faith that seriously?

Is it worth it to live your life in obedience to God's Word, surrendered to God's will, walking in God's way, when the entire world seems to be going in the opposite direction?

Is it worth it to live a godly life and become a member of the minority? Is it worth it?

My personal answer to all of the above is a resounding, unhesitating "yes! YES! YES! It's worth it!" Living a godly Christian life is worth whatever it costs—a thousand times over! Why? *Because He is worth it!*

The vision of His glory in Revelation 5 describes the "worth-it-ness," or the worthiness, of Jesus Christ and gives thrilling hope to those who are discouraged by the minority of the godly. Our hope is in who Jesus is!

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 5:1-3

1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 5:4–5

4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 5:6–8

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



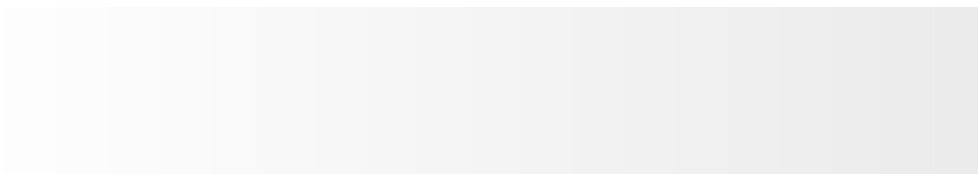
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 5:9–10

9 And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



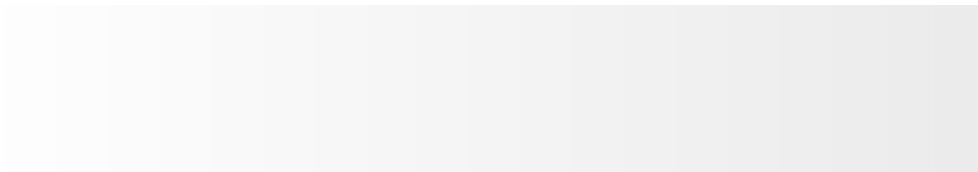
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 5:11–14

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. **12** In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" **13** Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" **14** The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



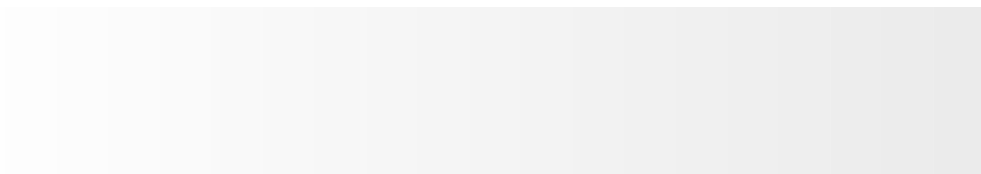
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 5? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 7

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DISTRESSED

by Evil Actions

Sometimes the evil actions of others become very personal, and we cannot avoid them because they are committed against us or against our loved ones. In such instances, the outrage can become a root of deep-seated anger, hatred, frustration, and bitterness that festers until our lives are filled with distress.

Have you been stripped of everything? Stripped materially, emotionally, financially, socially, intellectually, physically? Stripped of your marriage, your health, your family, your home, your friends, your reputation, your youth? Are your days filled with distress because of the evil actions of others? Does your future look bleak and barren because your present is so bitter?

If you have been stripped of anything—or everything—look up! One day God will straighten the crooked, right the wrong, humble the proud, judge the wicked, and vindicate the righteous! Why? Because God is just!

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 7:9–12

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 7:13–17

13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” **14** I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” **15** Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. **16** Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. **17** For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



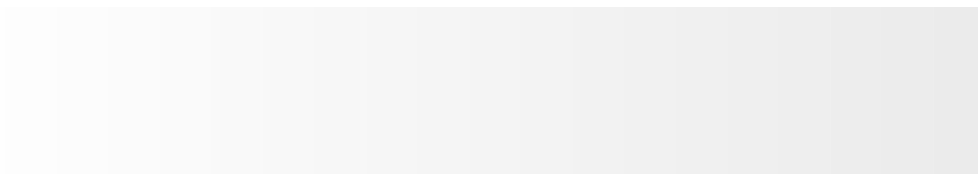
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 11:15–17

15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.” **16** And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17** saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



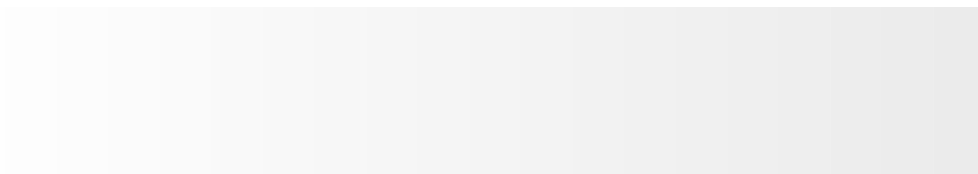
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 11:18–19

18 “The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.” **19** Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



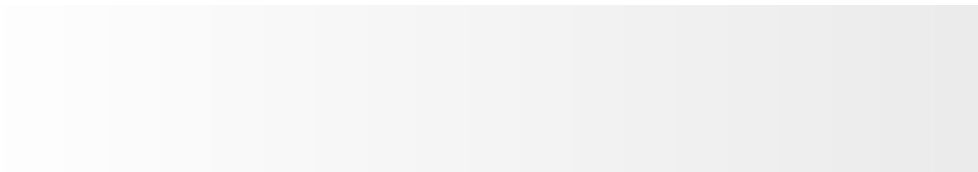
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 12:10–12

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. **11** They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. **12** Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



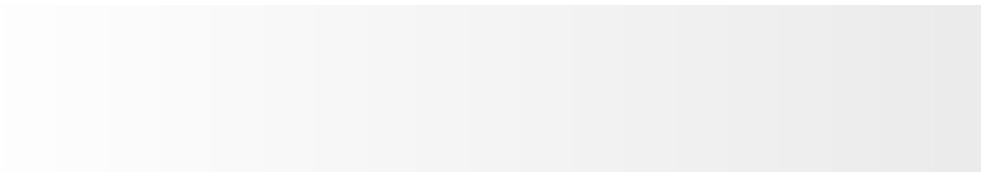
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 6–12? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 8

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DISTRESSED

by Evil Alliances

What evil alliance is causing you distress? Is it an alliance between your spouse and your mother-in-law? Or an alliance between your spouse and another companion? Or is it a distressing alliance between your boss and the chairman of the board of directors? Or an alliance between your pastor and a business consultant? Or an alliance between your child and someone else?

No matter how powerful the alliance confronting you now seems, the Bible reveals that an evil alliance is yet to come that will cause all others to seem insignificant in comparison. It will ultimately dominate the world, giving Satan unbridled freedom to work out his blasphemous plan of rebellion and destruction.

But the vision of His glory gives us hope when we are distressed by evil alliances, regardless of the size or scope, because it reveals Jesus Christ asserting His power, avenging His people, and in the end, appearing in person to break up all evil alliances and establish His kingdom on earth!

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 13:1-7

1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. 2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. 3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. 4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" 5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. 6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. 7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 13:11–13

11 Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. **12** He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. **13** And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



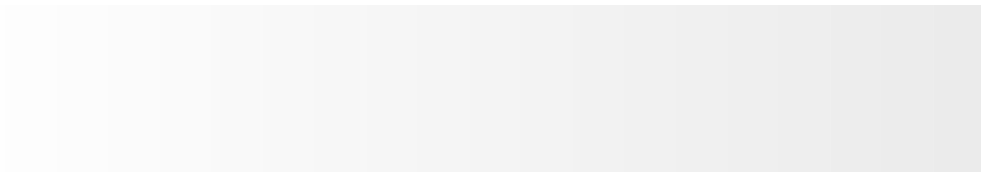
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 19:1-5

1 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, 2 for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." 3 And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." 4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!" 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 19:6–10

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) 9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." 10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 19:11–16

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. **12** His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. **13** He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. **14** The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. **15** Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. **16** On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



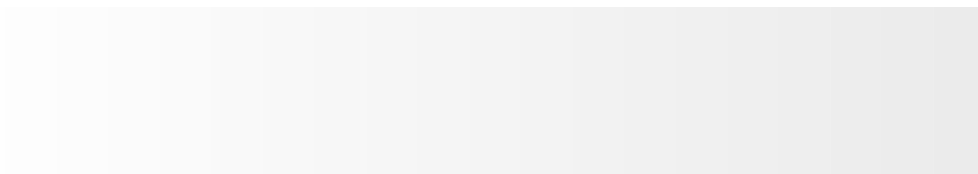
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 13:1–19:21? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 9

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DEFEATED

by Life

The following letter was sent to a Christian leader in Croatia by a former Muslim who came to Christ and began pastoring a small church in then war-torn Sarajevo. A missionary translated it into English, and I have left it, punctuation and all, exactly as it was written. It reveals one who would be totally defeated by life, except for his hope in Christ.

“Dear Respected Brother,

I would like to inform you that yesterday on Sunday we held services in our dear church. For the first service there were eight of us, all new Christians. . . . I am worried how we can survive over this third cold winter. We are naked and barefoot! Our wardrobes are empty, there is no electricity or water. May God help us!

My dear Brother, to me it is the greatest joy that our faith in Jesus can grow and that people get saved and turn to the Lord. These are great riches. Everything else is unimportant and passing away. My life is Christ. . . .”

As our hearts are moved in grief and compassion by the eloquence of this Christian brother describing the utter hopelessness of his daily life, we also rejoice! Praise God! There *is real hope* for those defeated by life! One day, the glory of Christ will no longer be just a vision! One day, this dear pastor—and you and I—will see and experience the glory of Christ!

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 20:1–3

1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. **2** He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. **3** He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 20:4–6

4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



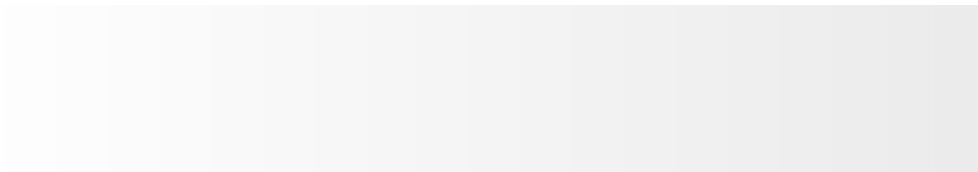
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 20:7–10

7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



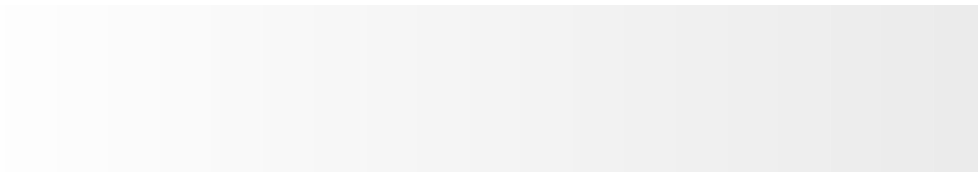
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 20:11–13

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



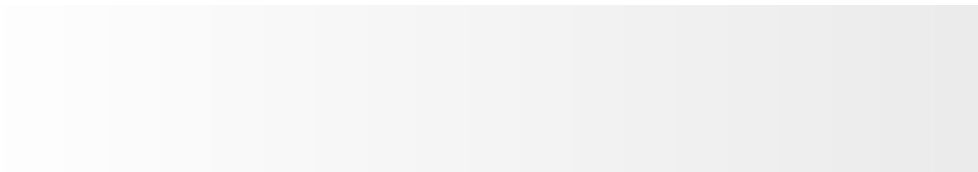
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 20:14–15

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. **15** If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



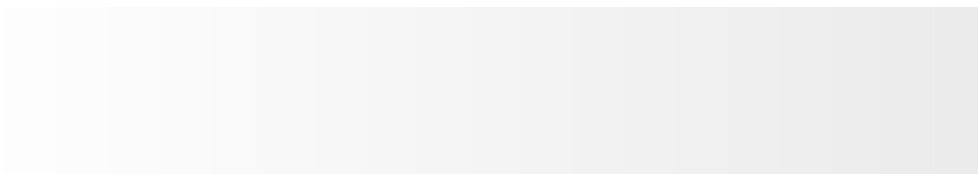
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 20:1–15? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

CHAPTER 10

HOPE WHEN YOU ARE DEFEATED

by Death

Has your entire life been a series of struggles?
Have you been more sick than well?

More defeated than successful?

More tired than rested?

More alone than accompanied?

More empty than satisfied?

More hungry than filled?

More sad than happy?

Do you feel defeated because after a lifetime of struggle, all you have to look forward to is death and a cold grave? Look up! The Lord Jesus Christ is preparing a heavenly home that “no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived . . . for those who love him.”

The vision of His glory gives hope to you and me and all those who are ultimately defeated by death as we glimpse the heavenly home our Bridegroom is preparing for those who love Him!

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 21:1–4

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 21:5–8

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



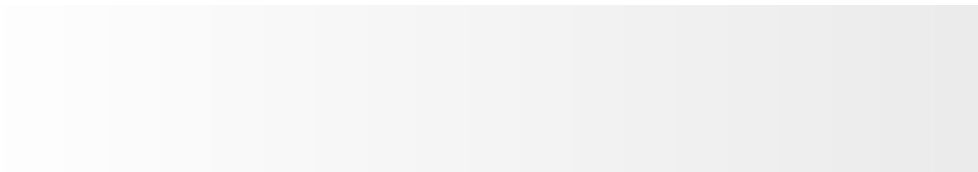
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 21:9–14

9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” **10** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. **11** It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **12** It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. **13** There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. **14** The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

5

LIVE IT OUT:

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 21:15–20

15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. **16** The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. **17** He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. **18** The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. **19** The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, **20** the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



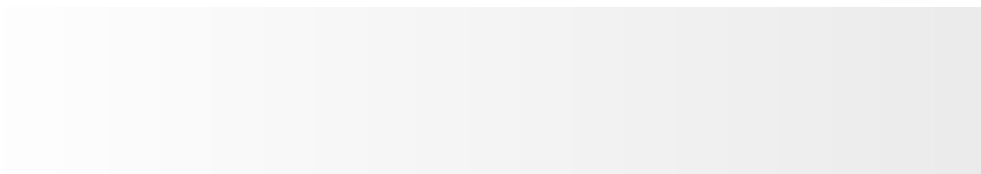
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 21:22–27

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



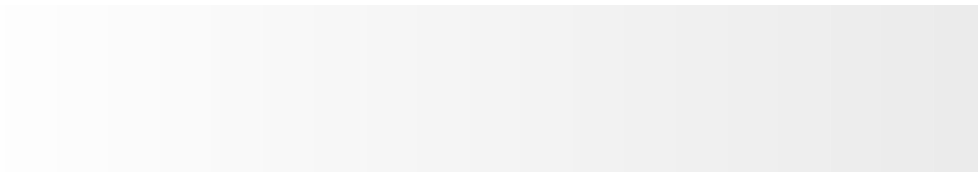
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 21:1–22:5? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!

HOPE THAT IGNITES OUR HEARTS

The church in Liberia, Africa, was cut off from the rest of the world during that country's bloody civil war. The pastor of a church in the capital city of Monrovia, writing his Christmas letter by candlelight to the leaders of his denomination, expressed the hope of his heart: "My candle is soon to go out, but the sun is rising. And who needs a candle when you have the Son?"

What has caused you to feel that the candle of hope in your life is soon to go out? Bloody civil war in your home? Discord in your marriage? Turmoil in your business? Is the source of your hopelessness nothing you can really pinpoint, just a general feeling of depression, of disillusionment, or discouragement, of distress, and of defeat? After reading Revelation, are you convinced Jesus Christ will reign in the world at some future time, but you don't know what difference that makes in your life today?

The vision of His glory concludes with a challenge to us to experience the difference hope does make today. We are challenged not to place our hope in the things of this world but to keep our focus on the rising Son in every aspect of our lives.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

Feel free to underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. What does the passage say? Do not paraphrase.

REVELATION 22:6–7

6 The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

7 “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:

What lessons can be learned from these facts? What do the facts mean? Is there an example to follow? Warning to heed? Promise to claim? Command to obey?

4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from Step 3 in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.

5

LIVE IT OUT:

Pinpoint what God is saying to you from the passage. How will you respond? Write down today's date and what you will do now to live it out.

1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 22:8–9

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. 9 But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



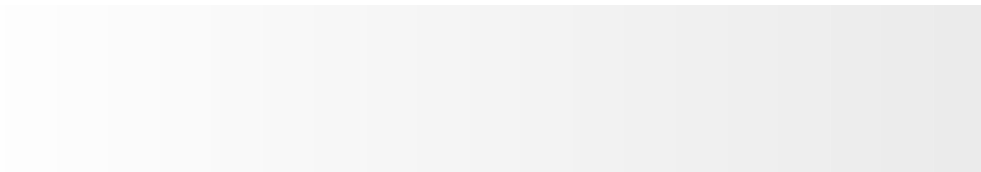
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LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 22:10–13

10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. **11** Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy. **12** Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



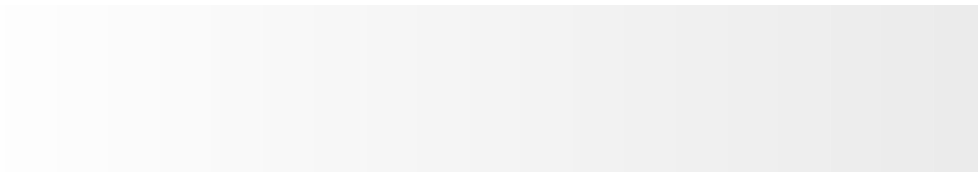
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 22:14–15

14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. **15** Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



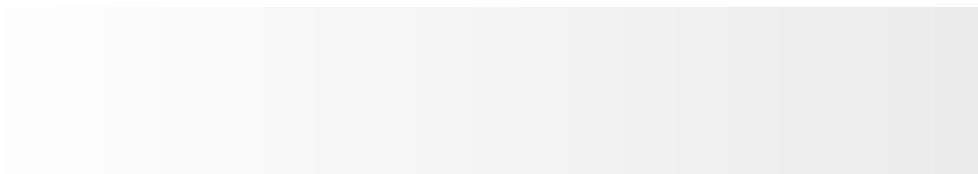
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



1

LOOK IN GOD'S WORD:

REVELATION 22:16–19

16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. **19** And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

2

LIST THE FACTS:

3

LEARN THE LESSONS:



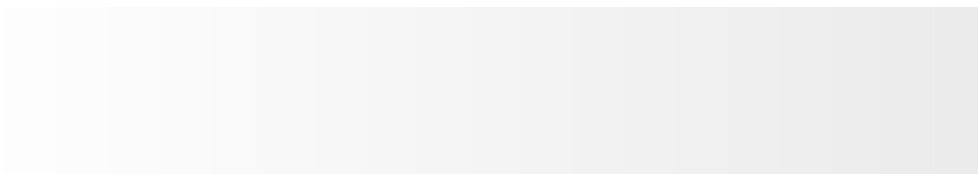
4

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:



5

LIVE IT OUT:



COMMITMENT:

What was the most meaningful lesson to you from each day's study this week?

Study #1

Study #2

Study #3

Study #4

Study #5

As you reflect on all the lessons, what one thing has God seemed to say to you from Revelation 22:6–21? Take a moment now to write out what He has said.

What has been your response?

Is there anything else you need to do in order to follow through completely?

Date your answer—then do it. Be committed!