EXAMPLES OF YOUNG BELIEVERS

Text: 1 Tim. 4:12

Intro. These are the words of admonition to a young preacher. Paul wants Timothy to so live that others will not despise his youth. The word "despise" means to show contempt for or to think down upon. Paul wanted Timothy to be a sample or exhibition of the christian way of life. The truth of the text should not be limited to young preachers. It should be received by all young people. Those of you who have finished High School and starting out on your life could have no greater challenge than what is found in our text.

I. AN EXAMPLE IN COMMUNICATION.

A. Use godly words.
   1. No corrupt words should come forth from the mouth of the redeemed. Eph. 4:29
   2. Corrupt words are ungodly words. Vulgar, profane, and ungodly words are corrupt.
   3. Words of gossip, slander, critical, complaint, etc., are corrupt words also.

B. Use gracious words.
   1. Your words should be gracious words that minister to those who listen. Eph. 4:29
   2. Gracious words will minister and help others.
   3. Use words that will encourage, strengthen, build up, and give hope.

C. Use good words.
   1. Jesus said the Jews honored Him with their lips, but were far away in the heart. Matt. 15:8,9
   2. We are to use words that are good in contrast to evil.
   3. The heart's condition decides the kind of words that come from the mouth.

D. Use guarded words.
   1. We are instructed to be slow to speak and wrath, but swift to listen. James 1:19
   2. Weigh your words. Be careful of the words you use.
   3. Words can be deadly weapons that cannot be forgotten.

II. AN EXAMPLE IN CONVERSATION.

A. A respectful behaviour.
   1. The word conversation means conduct or behaviour.
   2. Our conversation is to become the gospel of Christ. Phil. 1:27
   3. We are to so live as to respect the Lord and mankind.

B. A righteous behaviour.
   1. We are to refrain from ungodliness and worldly lust. Tit. 2:12
   2. We are to behave and conduct our lives soberly, righteously, and godly. Tit. 2:12
   3. The Lord wants us to be a peculiar people zealous of good works. Tit. 2:14

C. A right behaviour.
   1. Right and wrong still exists.
   2. Good and evil are still true.
3. The only right behaviour is a conduct controlled by the Lord.

D. A responsible behaviour.
   1. We are responsible for the words, deeds, actions, and decisions we make.
   2. Our whole duty is to fear God and keep His commandments. Eccl. 12:13
   3. This demands that we live responsibly.

III. AN EXAMPLE IN CHARITY.

A. Love for the saints.
   1. The word charity means love. This kind of love doesn't expect anything in return.
   2. This is a commandment the Lord has given unto us. John 13:34,35
   3. Love gives evidence that we are born of God. I John 3:14

B. Love for sinners.
   1. Paul had a great heaviness and continual sorrow for them. Rom. 9:3
   2. Paul had a heart's desire and prayer for them. Rom. 10:1
   3. As a saved person Paul loved those who were lost and sought to lead them to the Lord.

C. Love for the sinful.
   1. Jesus displayed an untiring love for those who were sinful.
   2. He didn't love their sins, but He loved them. The thief, adulterous woman, and self righteous.
   3. He was ready and willing to forgive of sin, He was working with the sinful.

D. Love for the sick.
   1. Most of Jesus' ministry involved the sick, and diseased people.
   2. He was the great Healer and compassionate Healer of all.
   3. Our christian lives will involve dealing with those affected by sickness.

IV. AN EXAMPLE IN CHARACTER.

A. Attitude of spirit.
   1. You are or become what you think about.
   2. Read Prov. 23:7 for this great truth.
   3. Inward thoughts produce outward actions.

B. Ambition of spirit.
   1. We are not to think too highly of ourselves. Rom. 12:7
   2. May we aspire to be what the Lord wants us to be.
   3. The Lord rewards us for being obedient unto Him.

C. Accord of spirit.
   1. We are to be in agreement with God.
   2. We are to be an agreeable kind of person.
   3. We are to live peaceably with all people, as much is as possible.

D. Admonition of spirit.
   1. Admonishing and exhorting in life is a ministry.
   2. This is a wonderful gift of God to be able to want to encourage others.
   3. It is better to meet a person who is able to build you up than to meet one who tears you down.

E. Affectionate of spirit.

V. AN EXAMPLE IN CONFIDENCE. (Faith)

A. In the Saviour.
   1. We are to trust Him with all of the heart. Prov. 3:5,6
   2. Without faith we can't please God. Hebs. 11:6
   3. Faith in the Lord is the key to our understanding. Hebs. 11:3,4
   4. Listen to Paul in Phil. 4:13,19

B. In the scriptures.
   1. God's word is inspired and very important. II Tim. 3:16,17
   2. God's word is necessary in the christian life. Psa. 119:9-11
   3. Knowledge of the Holy gives us understanding. Prov. 9:10
   4. The Word of God is the very expression of truth from God. John 17:17

C. In the Spirit.
   1. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, judgment, and righteousness. John 16:7-11
   2. The Holy Spirit guides to all the truth. John 16:13
   3. We are to walk in the Spirit and be led by Him. Gal. 5:16-25
   4. The Holy Spirit is the great Comforter. John 16:13

D. In self.
   1. Have a respect for yourself and confidence that God gives you.
   2. Your character is what you think, feel, and how you look at life.
   3. We can have the greatest confidence in our Lord which will cause us to walk and live in confidence.

VI. AN EXAMPLE IN CLEANLINESS.

A. In love.
   1. Our love life is to be pure.
   2. Even the affection and sexual desires we experience are to be controlled by the Lord.
   3. God's way of love is a very beautiful experience and expression.

B. In learning.
   1. It is too easy to learn things about life that are evil.
   2. We have a nature that is bent toward sin.
   3. We are to learn things about life the way they really are. Study II Pet. 3:18

C. In loathing.
WHAT MANNER OF SPIRIT ARE YE?


By Lamar Denby

Intro.

A. What did Jesus mean by "manner of spirit?"
   He was talking about their attitude, feelings, and behavior toward others.
B. This is very important. So often a wrong spirit abounds in the church. As a result the work of the Holy Spirit is hindered.

I. THE WRONG SPIRIT OF THE DISCIPLES.

   A disputing (contentious) spirit. V 46
   1. What they were arguing about.
   2. They failed to look at the greatness of Christ.
   3. We in ourselves, and by ourselves are nothing, but Christ is everything.
   4. "He must increase and I must decrease."

   A judgmental spirit. V 49
   1. The work was good.
   2. Scolded and rebuked Him.
   3. Note the reason they gave.
   4. "Are we not guilty of the same in our day?"

   A revengeful spirit. V 54
   1. Samaritans did not receive Him.
   2. Their hearts were not right.
   3. What they desired to do.
   4. How Jesus reacted. V 55

II. SUCH A SPIRIT CAN ONLY HINDER THE MOVING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH.

   A. Spiritual growth is stunted.
   B. It causes distrust and hard feelings between Christians.
   C. It causes division and contention in the body of Christ.
   D. It will rob the church of her power to win lost souls to Jesus.

III. THE REMEDY FOR A WRONG SPIRIT. Psalms 51:7-10

   A. Sins covered by the blood.
   B. Ask God to change your disposition.

   C. Ask God to give you a right spirit.
      1. A loving spirit.
      2. A forgiving spirit.
      3. A meek and understanding spirit.

   Conclusion.
   A. Examine your heart.
   B. Do you need a right spirit within?

THE QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP OR GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Psalm 52:8,9; Rom. 8:14 By L. H. Owens

Intro. A great deal of interest is constantly being manifested in the subject of leadership and a great deal of misinformation is being given out. Can I be led of the Holy Spirit? Does God have a plan for my life? Is God's will and plan available to each of His children? These are all questions that need answering with the Word.

I once read, "Through the written Word of God, and the incarnate Son of God, divine revelation has already given us an all sufficient general guidance in matters moral and spiritual; a guidance which covers, in principle, all the moral and spiritual choices, crises, issues and obligations of our earthly life; a guidance adequate to ensure our individual salvation, our fundamental well being in this present life, and our enduring felicity in the text. If only we all lived according to the precepts and principles, the admonitions and exhortations, of the Holy Word what nobility, serenity, consistence, and solid consolations would be ours."

I. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LORD IS PROMISED.

   A. It was promised to Israel as they obeyed the commands of God.
   B. It is promised to every child of God. Rom. 8:14; Prov. 3:6; Eph. 2:10
   C. It is promised because it is needed.
      1. God knows our nature. Jer. 1:5
      2. God knows the future. With all the advance of knowledge, no man can adequatly predict the future.
      3. God has a purpose for each one. Therefore, we need to know His will to follow it.

II. THE MANNER IN WHICH THE LEADERSHIP COMES.

   A. It does not come contrary to the revealed Word. Isa. 8:19 If there is a statement as to duty and walk, no other leadership is needed.
   B. It is conditional. I Thess. 4:3-7
      1. God leads only in things that are right. Prov. 11:3; Psa. 66:18
      2. He leads as one seeks to do His will. Prov. 3:6; Jer. 29:15; Gen. 24:27
      3. He does not sanction our plan or desire when it is not His.
III. THE MANNER IN WHICH ONE MAY KNOW THE WILL AND LEADERSHIP OF THE LORD. Col. 1:9

A. Through the Word of God. Psa. 119:105; John 17:17; John 5:39
B. Through the inner working of the Spirit. God has a way of bringing our spiritual consciousness into an awareness of His will.
C. Through outward circumstances.
  1. Causing one to be where God wants him.
  2. The opening and shutting of doors. Acts 16:6,7; 1 Cor. 16:9; II Cor. 2:12
  3. In it all there must be that desire to do God's will and a complete submission to it.

A. Pre-eminent because it has DIVINE QUALITIES.
   1. God is love - God so loved.
   2. The DISCERNMENT that is needed - understanding the variety of ways that love is used.
      a. I love my wife, boys, church, seafood, golf, preaching, and dog.
      b. Does this mean that I love seafood like my wife?
      c. Does this mean that I love my church family like I love my dog?
   3. The DIFFERENT varieties of love.
      a. Eros - erotic - egotistic love (A desire to possess so that I might be satisfied.)
      b. Philo - mutualistic love - brotherly love - family. (We love because they love.)
      c. Agape - spiritualistic love - God's love - (Committed to the well being of the other regardless of it's attitude or reaction.)
   4. The DIVINE reality - God is agape.
      a. This does not mean that God likes our ways.
      b. John 3:16
         (1) Disliked the attitude of the world.
         (2) Disliked the actions of the world.
      c. However - He was committed to our well being.

B. Pre-eminent because of it's PRACTICAL QUALITIES.
   1. John 13:35 "BY THIS SHALL ALL MEN KNOW THAT YE ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YE HAVE LOVE ONE TO ANOTHER."
   2. I Cor. 13:4-7

C. Pre-eminent because of it's ETERNAL QUALITIES.
   1. In eternity, love is supreme - pre-eminent. I Cor. 13:13
   2. Heaven will operate on the basis of love - committed to each others well being.

II. THE PRACTICE OF LOVE.

A. The PROBLEM - How can we do this? How can I manifest this agape love?
   1. It's one thing to recognize our need.
   2. It's quite another thing to relentlessly pursue this goal.
B. The PROCESS.
   1. Truths to recognize. Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:22; John 13:34
   2. Two ingredients are necessary.
      a. OBEDIENCE - Do what He said - This is not passive, but active. (Some people are waiting around for some experience.)
      b. DEPENDENCE - concentrate on those you're suppose to love - concentra-
te on being controlled by the Spirit. 
Set out to love and pray that the Lord will meet your need.

C. The PROPOSAL.
1. EVALUATION - In our immediate relationships, are we really concerned about the well being of our wife, husband, children, parent, church, brothers & sisters in Christ, and LOST SOULS?
2. RECONCILIATION.
   a. Take steps to do something about something which is actually wrong.
   b. This is a step you must take.
   c. Aren't you glad that God didn't wait for us to take the step?
   d. We always want the other person to take the first step. We say, "I haven't done anything - haven't spoke to them in a months."

3. CONSOLIDATION.
   a. There must be work in loving relationships.
   b. There must be action in loving relationships.
   c. Love is something you do whether you feel like it or not.

Conclusion: Identify love as a goal and pursue it relentlessly. THIS IS THE WAY TO BLESSEDNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS!

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KILLING COWS AND BURNING PLOUGHS

Text: I Kings 19:19-21

By Kenneth McInnis

Intro.
A. Elijah cast his mantle on Elisha. V19
B. Elisha was now the new prophet.
C. Note. Elisha's decision to follow Elijah.
D. We need to observe some ideas that will help keep us from turning back on our commitment to God.

1. LET US MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO GO BACK.
   A. Let's also make a firm commitment. Josh. 24:15
      1. Note Elisha's actions. V21
      2. Let's remind ourselves often of it. II Tim. 1:5,6
      3. We should seek to always strengthen it. I Pet. 2:2; II Pet. 3:17,18
  
   times this involves breaking away from the OLD CROWD.
   4. Seek to be more like the one who we're committed to. Rom. 12:2 No new promises needed, just fulfill our old ones.

B. Let's make public confession to God of our decision.
   1. Note again Elisha's farewell feast. V20
   2. Note again Joshua's public confession. V15
   3. A public confession commits us to God and man.
      a. God's word says that one day we will be called to give account. Rom. 14:12
      b. Others will help remind us of it. Gal. 6:1,2
      c. Shame will haunt our minds if I even think of going back.

II. REMEMBER THAT TURNING BACK IS A SIN.

A. It is lying.
   1. As is seen in our disobedience. I John 2:4
   2. As is seen in our unfaithfulness. Prov. 14:5
   3. We are commanded not to lie. Col. 3:9
   4. Turning back makes liars out of us. I John 2:22

B. It is going back on our word.
   1. God is displeased. Eccl. 5:4
   2. It openly reveals sin in our lives. Deut. 23:21
   3. It makes us look like a fool. Eccl. 5:3

C. It's just as bad as adultery, stealing, murdering, or any other sin.
   1. Sin is sin to God. I John 5:17
   2. Our sin will eventually catch up with us. Num. 32:23

III. HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM GOING BACK?

A. By remembering that it's harmful to the cause of Christ.
   1. David is an example. II Sam. 12:14
   2. It hardens our hearts. Prov. 18:19

B. By remembering that turning back sends souls to hell!!
   1. No one will have any confidence in us. Prov. 14:25
   2. Our fear of the Lord shows our confidence in the Lord. Prov. 14:26

Con.
   1. The Holy Spirit will help us stay true to our commitment.
   2. Committing our ways to the Lord will bring our commitments to pass. Psa. 37:5; Prov.16:3

"THE TITHE IS THE LORD'S"
WILLING SOLDIERS OF JESUS CHRIST
By D. B. Wright

Intro.
A. Christian soldiers mentioned in the Scripture.
   1. Abraham was God's warrior on behalf of Lot. Gen. 14:10-16
   2. David was God's warrior against the Philistines while he was yet a young man. I Sam. 17
   3. Joshua was God's warrior after the death of Moses...selected to lead the Israelites into the promised land. Josh. 1:2
   4. Paul wrote to young pastor Timothy to: Fight as a GOOD SOLDIER of Jesus V3, Fight to please the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. V4, War a GOOD WARFARE. I Tim. 1:18
   5. Paul wrote the Church of God at Corinth about FIGHTING TO WIN. I Cor. 9:26
B. Each child of God faces PERSONAL PRIVATE BATTLES.
   1. Gal. 5:17
   2. Romans 7:16-19
   3. There are BATTLES OF ATTITUDES AND APPETITES to be fought. I Cor. 9:17; I Cor.8:12,13; I Peter 2:11,12
C. There are also PUBLIC BATTLES!
   1. Paul said that he was set to defend. Phil. 1:17
   2. Paul appeals to Timothy. I Tim. 6:12
   3. Jude's appeal. V3
D. Some SECRETS TO BEING A WINNING SOLDIER.
   1. The INDOwELLING, EMPOWERING of the GREATER ONE, JESUS CHRIST. I John 4:4; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 4:13
   2. Faith ANCHORED IN THE CHAMPION, the COMMANDER IN CHIEF. I John 5:4

I. WINNING SOLDIERS ARE WILLING SOLDIERS.
A. Willing to both DO and LEARN. Receive and carry out orders. John 7:17
B. Example. Ezra 7:10
C. The Lord's churches are MAINTAINED BY SUCH. II Tim. 2:2

II. WINNING SOLDIERS ARE OF NECESSITY WALKING SOLDIERS.
A. Walking in harmony with the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, I John 2:6; Matt. 12:30
B. Walking in the leadership of the Spirit. Gal. 5:25,5:16
C. Walking in the LIGHT OF CHRIST. John 8:12; I John 1:7
D. Walking in love: TOWARD THEM THAT ARE WITHIN AND WITHOUT. Eph. 5:1,2

III. WINNING SOLDIERS ARE WORKING SOLDIERS.
A. Nehemiah. 4:16-18
B. Christian living is not all negative. There are things to say, be, and do!
C. Christian and CHURCH WORK is not all FIGHTING. There are those to win, train, and minister to. There are things to BUILD and MAINTAIN.
D. Consider the words of Eph. 2:10, Tit. 3:8 in light of Christ's STATED PURPOSE! Matt. 5:16
E. A soldier without works is a DEAD SOLDIER, NOT A WINNING SOLDIER! James 2:26

IV. WINNING SOLDIERS ARE WAILING, WEEPING SOLDIERS.
(To wail: To mourn or lament aloud---to utter a loud cry---a lamentation or mournful cry... like the wail of the wind-Winston.)
C. Jeremiah...THE WEEPING PROPHET. Lam.1:16
D. Romans 12:15 "Weep With them that weep." E. James 4:9
F. Paul..."Much weeping." II Cor. 2:4

V. WINNING SOLDIERS OF JESUS CHRIST ARE OFTEN WOUNDED SOLDIERS.
A. I bear in my body the MARKS of the...Gal. 6:17
B. Elijah had Jezebel.
C. Paul had Alexander. II Tim. 4:14,15
   1. knew forsaking. II Tim. 4:10
   2. All men. II Tim. 4:16
   3. Paul knew MESSENGER OF SATAN TO BUFFET ME. II Cor. 12:7
D. Loving Apostle John knew Diotrephes. III John 9

VI. THERE ARE WINNING SOLDIERS OF JESUS CHRIST.
A. Abraham brought back Lot, his nephew, and all the spoil.
B. David was victorious over Goliath. I Sam. 17:47
C. Moses was victorious over the Amalekites because AARON AND HUR UPHeld HIS HANDS. Exod. 17:10
   1. Paul desired FRUIT THAT MAY ABOUND TO YOUR ACCOUNT. Phil. 4:17
   2. John appeals for us to be FELLOW-HELPERS.
   3. The Scriptures suggest certain ones are to be SPECIAL PASTOR HELPERS. II Tim. 2:2 Those we call deacons are TO RELIEVE THE PASTOR'S HANDS.
FROM THE THINGS OF LESSER IMPORTANCE
THAT THEY MAY MAJOR ON THE MAJOR.
Acts 6:5-4
4. King Saul enjoyed the help of men
whose hearts the Lord had touched.
Psa. 126:5,6; 1 Thess. 2:19

DON'T GIVE UP

Text: Num. 11:10-15

By Wesley Waldrum

Intro.
A. Notice the complaint of discontent.
   V11
B. Notice the comment of disbelief. V11-13
C. Notice the cry of discouragement. V14
D. Notice the crazy demand. V15

I. CIRCUMSTANCES HINDER YOUR THINKING!
A. Don't focus on circumstances.
   1. Moses began to focus on the circum-
      stances surrounding him.
   2. Many times we're guilty of the same
      thing. We start majoring on the minors,
      and minoring on the majors.
   3. Many focus on problems within the home.
      a. Money
      b. Marriage.
   4. Many focus on health problems.
   5. Many focus on problems in the house of
      God.
   6. The Bible tells us that there is no
      problem that is too big for God to
      handle.
   7. When unwanted circumstances come in
      your life, focus your eyes upon Jesus.
B. Don't fear circumstances.
   1. Remember the apostles in the stormy
      sea. Matt. 8:23
   2. When we start focusing on our circum-
      stances we began to fear.
   3. Our thinking is influenced.
   4. Jesus tells us that we're going to
      have troubles in our life. We're going
      to have trials in our life. We're going
      to have heartaches in our life.
      Don't fear them, but face them with
      Jesus.
C. Don't feel circumstances.
   1. Moses began focusing and fearing the
      circumstances and soon began feeling
      them.
   2. He cried out to the Lord to take his
      life.
   3. Many times we start feeling the same
      as Moses.
      a. Problems, situations start build-
         ing up. We feel that we can't
         bear it anymore. We want to give
         up.
   5. People feel depression. They deal
      with it by taking alcohol, drugs,
      or suicide.

5. People feel discouragement. They
   feel that everything they try, they
   fail.
6. God doesn't want circumstances to
   hinder our thinking.

II. COMMITMENT HELPS YOUR TRUST!
When you feel like giving up in life,
commit yourself to something.
A. Job committed himself.
   1. He committed himself to trust in God.
   2. His wife and friends tried to get
      him to curse God, but he wouldn't.
      He trusted in God.
   3. He was willing to sacrifice his fam-
      ily, wealth, and health to prove
      his trust in God.
B. Jacob committed himself.
   1. He committed himself to the love of
      Rachel.
   2. He committed 20 years of his life
      to Laban to win Rachel.
C. Joshua committed himself.
   1. Joshua committed his life and family
      for the service of God.
   2. Joshua 24:15
D. John the Baptist committed himself.
   1. He committed himself to the loyalty of
      Jesus.
   2. He went around preaching repentance no
      matter what the cost.
   3. When you feel like giving up, commit
      yourself to something.

III. CLAIM TO HOLY THOUGHTS!
A. Claim the scriptures.
   1. Psa. 119:11
   2. It is the Word of God that gives us
      peace, joy, and comfort when we're at
      our lowest in life.
   3. It's God's Word that tells us how to
      deal with our problems.
B. Claim the saviour.
   1. When you feel like you can't turn to
      anyone else, you can turn to God.
   2. 1 Peter 5:7
   3. Hebs. 13:5
   4. Jesus will always be there for you.
C. Claim the security.
   1. As a child of God you have security.
   2. You have security in your salvation.
   The salvation God gave you, he'll
   never take back, nor will you ever
   lose it.

IV. CLING TO HEAVENLY TOUCHES.
A. Cling to godly people.
   1. I believe God touches the hearts of
      His people to help others when their
      down.
   2. When we're in need of encouragement,
      or lifting up, it seems that God has
V. CRY OUT FOR HELP TODAY!

A. A godly companion is there to help.
   1. Many a husband and wife have shed tears together when faced with troubles in their lives.

B. A glorious Christ is there to help.
   1. Blind Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus. "Have mercy on me." Mark 10:47
   2. The publican cried out "God be merciful unto me a sinner." Luke 18:13

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THE MOCKERY OF THE MEN
By Wesley Waldrum
TEXT John 1: 19-26

I. THE PRIEST’S SEEKING, V19-22
   A. Troublemaker from Jerusalem, V19
   B. Testimony of John, V20
   C. Temptations of Jews, V21,22

II. THE PROPHET’S SAYING, V23
   A. Prophecy reiterated, V23
   B. Plead of repentence, V25
   C. Paths to get ready, V23

III. THE PHARISEE’S SARCASM, V24-26
   A. Answer they desired, V25
   B. Activity they disputed, V25
   C. Authority they discovered, V26

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GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH GOD
By Muncy Harris

Text: Job 22:21
Intro.
A. What really makes a difference in a person's life is not how much he knows about the Lord, but how well he knows the Lord.
B. There are two essential steps in getting acquainted with God - knowing God as opposed to knowing about God.

I. WE MUST RETURN TO GOD.
   A. Initially, we must return from our natural state. Isa. 53:6
   B. Frequently, we must return from our rebellious state. Luke 15:18

II. WE MUST RECEIVE FROM GOD.
   A. Receive His salvation. Hebs.7:25
   B. Receive His schooling.
      1. By the Word. II Tim. 2:15
      2. By the work. II Cor. 5:20
      3. By the world. John 16:33
   C. Receive His sweet friendship. John 15:14
   D. Receive His supply. Phil. 4:19
   E. Receive His strength. Phil. 4:13
   F. Receive His security. Jude 24
   G. Receive His sufficiency. Col. 3:11

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