

THESE THINGS

JESUS CHRIST'S LAST CLASS

with HIS DISCIPLES

*"If you know these things,
you will be blessed
if you do them."
John 13:17*

RICK HUGHES



Rick Hughes
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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PREFACE

Jesus Christ taught more than fourteen important doctrines to His disciples the night of the Last Supper. *These Things* were essential lessons the disciples needed. They faced incredible adversity and opportunities in the years ahead and *These Things* prepared them. This must have been an amazing class!

The disciples were stabilized not only by understanding *These Things*, but by remembering and doing them. This is also true for us. Application is the key.

If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:17)

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (John 14:26)

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. (John 15:11)

These promises must have encouraged the disciples. They could be happy and have Christ's joy by *knowing* and *doing These Things*. Even more encouraging, they learned they would receive God the Holy Spirit for help and guidance.

God promises us the same. In this book I will discuss some of *These Things*, an antecedent referring to the lessons Jesus taught between John 13:1 and John 15:11.

It is important to note that Jesus Christ was teaching people who believed in Him. *These Things* are useless for non-Christians. Salvation is the difference.

Life is about decisions. The decisions you make determine your life. The most important decision you will make is:

What think you of Christ? (Matthew 22:42)

You become a Christian when you put your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. In silent prayer simply say, "Father, I believe in Jesus Christ and I accept Him as my Savior."

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. (Acts 16:31)

Salvation is God's grace gift to all mankind. Grace is God's policy. In grace, everything depends on God. We don't deserve it and we can't earn it. "*For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast*" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

If you choose for Jesus Christ, you will spend eternity in heaven with God. Otherwise, you will live forever separated from God and enveloped in the agony of the Lake of Fire.

The only way to be saved is by faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus emphasized this to Thomas and the other disciples:

**I am the way and the truth and the life;
no one comes to the Father but through Me.**
(John 14:6)

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
<i>John 13:17</i>	
Use Rebound	3
<i>John 13:2-10</i>	
Forgive Others	7
<i>John 13:14-15</i>	
Pay Attention	11
<i>John 13:21-29</i>	
Love One Another	13
<i>John 13:33-35</i>	
Acquire Humility	17
<i>John 13:36-38</i>	
Saved Through Jesus Christ	21
<i>John 14:1-9</i>	
Be Extraordinary	25
<i>John 14:12</i>	
Use the Power of Prayer	29
<i>John 14:13-14</i>	

Obey God's Mandates	.....	31
<i>John 14:15</i>		
Recall by Means of the Holy Spirit	.....	33
<i>John 14:16-17, 25-26</i>		
Be Confident - Christ is Alive	.....	37
and Will Return		
<i>John 14:2-3, 18-20</i>		
Have God's Peace	.....	41
<i>John 14:27</i>		
Be Prepared - Satan is Coming	.....	43
<i>John 14:30-31</i>		
Go Forth	.....	45
<i>John 14:31</i>		
Epilogue: My Joy in You	.....	47
<i>John 15:11</i>		
Scripture Index	.....	49

INTRODUCTION

John 13:17

These Things refer to what Jesus Christ taught His disciples after the Last Supper. This was His last chance to instruct them before He went to the cross. He gave them vital information they were not even aware they would need, and He encouraged them.

If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:17)

Notice the Lord used *if* and this means volition is involved. The disciples' lives would depend on how they used their free will, as do ours.

In the Greek original language of the New Testament, the word for blessed is *makarios* meaning blessed or happy. So *if* you choose to *know These Things* and *if* you choose to *do them*, you will be happy.

This demands you change the way you think from human viewpoint to divine viewpoint. "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). We develop divine viewpoint as we acquire the thinking of Jesus Christ.

For example, thinking people or circumstances will make you happy is human viewpoint. Thinking with divine viewpoint is "***Happy are those who hear the word of God and keep it***" (Luke 11:28).

Stop being conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind ... Think with sound judgment, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His word. (Romans 12:2-3)

Renew means to renovate, to change. God mandates Christians change their thinking from human viewpoint to divine viewpoint. We do this through consistent study and application of God's Word - *Know* and *Do*.

Jesus Christ left us the pattern for this unique way of thinking and it is recorded in the New Testament. "*We have the thinking of Christ*" (1 Corinthians 2:16). God talks to us through the Bible. This is why studying it is so important.

Simply put, the Christian life is about making good decisions every day based on what the Bible says. God promises and provides divine resources. If we use them, we can be happy and have the joy of Jesus Christ.

Hopefully this study will be as exciting to you as it is to me. *These Things* are the essence of the Christian way of life! It's staggering how much the Lord packed into His last class with His disciples.

This book only touches the wave-tops of the class. To get the depth of understanding you need to grow to spiritual maturity, you must study under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor. This is a lifetime process which requires right priorities and diligence.

Throughout this book there are added principles relevant to each *These Things* being discussed. The first of these is LAG, to remember the process by which we glorify God. **LAG**: Learn God's Word. Apply it. **Grow** to spiritual maturity. **Glorify God**.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

Know These Things and Do Them
It's a lifetime process

Let's join Jesus Christ's last class with His disciples.

USE REBOUND

John 13:2-10

As recorded in John chapter 13, Jesus used foot washing to teach the disciples the need to be cleansed from sins committed after salvation. Rebound is the term we use for the divine provision to do this.

The Lord knew He was about to be betrayed by Judas, *“During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him”* (John 13:2). We don’t know why Judas bought into Satan’s lure that he should betray the Lord. Perhaps he was tempted by money since he was the keeper of their treasury. Whatever the reason, Judas succumbed to Satan’s temptation and sinned.

Satan is the master deceiver. Remember, we live in his world, surrounded by the lies and lures of his cosmic system. It’s easy for any of us to sell out to his strategies when we don’t change our thinking from human viewpoint to divine viewpoint.

Divine viewpoint thinking resists the lures of the cosmic system

After they finished eating, Jesus began to wash the disciples’ feet. They never expected Him to do such a menial task. *“Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded”* (John 13:5). Peter was taken back by this gesture, “Lord, You’re not going to wash my feet.”

The Lord is teaching by illustration. ***“What I do, you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter”*** (John 13:7). Peter’s arrogance showed when

he balked, *“Never shall You wash my feet!”* ***“Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.’”*** Then Peter changed his tune and said he’d take a complete bath.

The lesson of the foot washing becomes clear when in John 13:10, ***“Jesus said to him, ‘He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.’”*** The Lord is telling Peter, “You are saved, you had a bath, and now you need Me to wash your feet to be cleansed of personal sin.”

There was never a mandate to establish foot washing as a ritual. Christ was making the distinction between being bathed (being saved) and having feet washed (being cleansed from personal sin). All personal sin was judged on the cross and isn’t an issue for salvation.

However, personal sin committed after salvation is a problem that needs to be handled through the divine provision of rebound. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

When you sin, God expects you to cite or name your sin to Him. As soon as you recognize you have sinned, go to God the Father in silent prayer. Say something such as, “Heavenly Father, I name my sin of arrogance. Thank You for Your forgiveness. In Jesus Christ’s name I pray, Amen.” That is rebound.

People may say, “It’s impossible for me to remember every sin I do.” True, but listen to 1 John 1:9 again:

If we confess our [known] sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [known, unknown and forgotten sins].

**Rebound is the divine resource
to recover from personal sin**

Rebound (confession of sin) is a grace provision. God does all the work in forgiving sin and returning you to fellowship with Him. He not only forgives the named sin; He forgives the sins you forgot or didn't recognize.

You don't need to feel sorry or guilty, do penance, or confess your sins to any person. You just need to get your "feet washed" by using God's provision of 1 John 1:9. Then move on in your spiritual life. God doesn't remember your sins, and neither should you.

I am He who wipes out your transgressions
for My own sake, and I will not remember
your sins. (Isaiah 43:25)

Keep a short account of sin. "*Do not let sin reign in your body so that you obey its lusts*" (Romans 6:12). This is the way to prevent the sin nature from controlling your life. It's really important you use rebound as soon as you recognize you have sinned. Don't wait until you go to bed at night.

When you sin, you get out of fellowship with God and under the control of the sin nature. You are in carnality. Rebound is the means to restore the filling of God the Holy Spirit. It's impossible for you to *Know These Things* and *Do Them* if you're not filled with the Holy Spirit. We are mandated in Ephesians 5:18 to "*Be filled with the Holy Spirit.*"

You quench the Holy Spirit when you sin. This means you shut off the power of the Holy Spirit. It is as if you took a water hose while it was running, crimped it and the flow ceased. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 says, "*Do not quench the Spirit.*" You also grieve or sadden the Holy Spirit when you sin. Ephesians 4:30 says, "*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.*" These are two mandates from God.

Spirituality is an absolute
You are either spiritual or carnal at any moment

Look at our human problem this way. Personal sin and the solution are like being in a room without any windows when the power goes off. There is pitch darkness. Carnality is similar. You sin and the power goes off in your spiritual life. You are out of fellowship with God and under the control of the sin nature. The Holy Spirit can no longer empower you. But when you use rebound, the power for your spiritual life comes back on because you are back in fellowship.

That God would grant you to be made strong
by means of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16)

Jesus Christ teaches confession of sin as the first of *These Things*. This is significant. Divine resources will not work without the filling of the Holy Spirit. The disciples' spiritual growth and impact depended on them using rebound. The same is true for us.

When we confess our sins, those sins are forgiven by God. His forgiveness is another example of the way we are to live.

FORGIVE OTHERS

John 13:14-15

Jesus teaches forgiveness as the next *These Things*. This is one of the attributes that sets us apart as Christians. While teaching this lesson, the Lord knew He would be betrayed by Judas. The disciples placed their trust in Judas who managed their money. Judas was part of the inner circle but he let them all down.

This will happen to you also. You will be let down or wronged by someone close to you and that is why it's essential you learn to forgive others.

Jesus Christ washed Judas' feet. The other disciples saw this act of grace. After they find out Judas will betray the Lord, they will remember what the Lord did. This was no coincidence.

By observing Jesus forgiving Judas, the disciples were being taught to forgive those who sinned against them. They weren't to judge Judas for what he did or seek revenge against him. The disciples needed to follow Christ's example and forgive.

The Lord used foot washing to reinforce the need to be cleansed from personal sin through the use of rebound and to teach the importance of forgiving others.

If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. (John 13:14-15)

Sometimes those you most trust will let you down. It could be a close friend, your spouse or someone in church leadership. This shouldn't surprise you. Remember, we all have a sin nature.

It is better to take refuge [trust] in the Lord
than to trust in man. (Psalm 118:8)

When someone lets you down, you have two choices. You can respond with humility and forgiveness, keeping your focus on Jesus Christ, or you can react with hypersensitivity, leading to emotional sins such as vindictiveness, self-pity and bitterness. These are against God's grace policy.

See to it that no one comes short of the grace
of God; that no root of bitterness springing up
causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.
(Hebrews 12:15)

Bitterness is one of the worst forms of arrogance. It feeds on self-justification. A bitter person's thinking becomes distorted and attempts to justify maligning, gossiping or retaliating. Bitter people aren't happy; they aren't fun to be around. Proverbs 14:10, *"The heart knows its own bitterness, and a stranger does not share its joy."*

Hypersensitivity causes stinkin' thinkin'

Developing the capacity to respond with forgiveness rather than react with emotionalism is a spiritual skill you are wise to acquire sooner than later.

Christians should never seek revenge. *"Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord"* (Romans 12:19).

Rest assured, God knows all the facts. Justice belongs to Him, not you. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24/7. If you have a grievance, take it there and leave it.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

(Ephesians 4:31-32)

Learning to forgive is necessary for a tranquil soul. If you can't forgive and forget, you will be constrained by the past. You will be unable to fulfill the unique plan God designed for you. Don't allow the sins of others to generate mental attitude sinning in you. Holding grudges, bitterness, vindictive thinking, animosity, all waste the precious and finite time God has given you.

The process for forgiveness is:

Forgive the person

Forget the deed

Move on in your spiritual life

Do you see how forgiveness and forgetting go together? If you can't forgive and forget, you're going to have a hard time growing spiritually. The reason is you will be chain sinning, one mental attitude sin after another. You are stuck in carnality with your spiritual life stalled or regressing.

Forgiveness is only real if you forget what was done to you. Don't say you forgive someone and bring it up again. That isn't true forgiveness. Forget what was done against you. Don't recall it or hold it against the person. Forgiveness is a learned attribute that sets the Christian apart from the unbeliever. It's an essential aspect of thinking with divine viewpoint.

We are mandated to forgive others, always! In other words, an infinite number of times. *“Then Peter came and said to Him, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven’”* (Matthew 18:21-22).

Forgiveness is unlimited

The Lord is emphasizing there is never an exception. This is illustrated when He taught the parable of the king and the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:23-35). The principle is, always forgive.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ developed the template for living the Christian way of life. No one in the history of mankind experienced more injustice, more hatred, more lies, more vilification, more opposition and more unfair treatment than our Lord Jesus Christ.

When you are wronged, immediately think of your Savior. Respond with forgiveness. Impress this Scripture in the mentality of your soul:

**Father, forgive them
for they know not what they do.**
(Luke 23:34)

Forgiving others isn't always easy. It may even seem acquiescent or reprehensible, but it's not. Acquiring the mind of Christ gives you the divine viewpoint to forgive others, always.

He showed us the way if we will only pay attention.

PAY ATTENTION

John 13:21-29

In His next lesson, the Lord identifies the traitor who will sell Him out for thirty pieces of silver and teaches the importance of paying attention when God's Word is taught. Jesus knows exactly what is in Judas' heart because, as God, He is omniscient. He is all knowing. ***“One of you will betray Me ... That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him.” ... He took and gave it to Judas*** (John 13:21,26).

The disciples aren't paying attention so they haven't caught on yet. *“For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, ‘Buy the things we have need of for the feast;’ or else that he should give something to the poor”* (John 13:29). Some thought Jesus was telling Judas to go buy merchandise for the Passover feast or give money to the poor. That is not what He is telling them.

After eating a fine meal the disciples are probably relaxing, talking back and forth among themselves, not listening to Jesus. By this time, they should be saying, “What? Who would betray You, Lord?” How can the disciples be chit-chatting among themselves when their very lives depend on assimilating *These Things*?

Here's the key to this lesson. God speaks to us through the Bible. This is why it is so important to pay attention when the Word of God is being taught.

Stop being conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind ... Think with sound judgment, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His word. (Romans 12:2-3)

The Bible contains our instructions for executing the Christian life. We are to learn them from a pastor who accurately teaches God's Word.

**Happy are those who hear the word of God
and keep it. (Luke 11:28)**

Concentration is a developed skill required for paying attention. The average adult can't concentrate on a topic more than fifteen minutes before he drifts. You may do the same thing. You dutifully go to church and start listening to what the pastor has prepared for you. But then you start nodding off or thinking about your lunch plans. This is disrespectful to God.

Prior to listening to the Word of God being taught, be sure you are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help you concentrate and not be distracted by the details of life.

There will be times when you think you've heard it before and naturally want to tune out, but don't. Pay attention. God's Word is layered. Even if you think what you're hearing is redundant, the Holy Spirit will give you a deeper understanding and use it to guide you.

For this reason we must pay much closer
attention to what we have heard, so that we do
not drift away from it. (Hebrews 2:1)

The disciples will come to understand how forgiving others is necessary to comply with God's mandate to love one another.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

John 13:33-35

The Lord reveals to the disciples He will be with them just a bit longer and introduces a very significant divine resource with this new mandate to love one another.

I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
(John 13:33-35)

Jesus had washed the disciples’ feet based on who He was, not based on who they were. Why was this fitting? To reflect God’s policy of grace. The imperfections of the disciples were evident. Devoted and yet full of envy, they bickered about who was the greatest. This is shown in Luke 22:24, *“There arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.”*

Seeking approbation, inordinately striving for success, competing with friends or using others to get ahead are stumbling blocks for many Christians.

I implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love. (Ephesians 4:1-2)

The disciples had issues with one another. This was understandable since they were fishermen with Type-A personalities. They were competitive, each vying for the Lord's attention. They needed to learn to forgive each other and to love one another.

Jesus Christ knew that one of the tactics of Satan and his cosmic system is to render the disciples ineffective because of their personalities, to divide and conquer. This frequently happens in churches today. Some get their eyes on people rather than on the message. It was urgent for the disciples to learn to use impersonal love when dealing with each other. The Lord wasn't going to be around much longer to act as referee.

Impersonal love is an attitude

Impersonal love is not based on the character of the object of the love. It is based on the integrity of the one who is doing the loving. The object can be lovable or unlovable, nice or mean, beautiful or ugly. It doesn't matter. You are to love others based on who you are, not based on who they are. This includes loving individuals you might not like. Impersonal love is a divine resource given to you by God. Use it.

Love for one another resolves all sorts of problems

The book of Philemon is about Onesimus, the slave of Philemon, who faced the death penalty for running away and stealing. *"Consider him no longer as a slave but a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. If you count me as a partner, receive him as you would receive me"* (Philemon 1:16-17). This is an example of love for one another. Paul is encouraging Philemon to use impersonal love with Onesimus and forgive him.

This commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. (1 John 4:21)

The two greatest virtues in life are personal love for God and impersonal love for others. Personal love for God is your motivational virtue in life. *“Whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him; the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked”* (1 John 2:5-6). Impersonal love for others is your functional virtue in life. ***“Love your neighbor as yourself”*** (Matthew 22:39).

The only way we can comply with these mandates is if we are motivated by God’s love of us and our reciprocal love for Him.

We love, because He first loved us.
(1 John 4:19)

For God so loved the world [impersonal love], that He gave His uniquely born Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Did Jesus Christ die for the person you don’t like? Yes. Did He die for you? Yes. So what makes you different from that guy? He did something you don’t like, so what? Love him. You don’t have to spend time with him but you must have love for him using impersonal love. Remember, it’s an attitude.

God did the same with you. In John 3:16, the Bible says that God loved the world. The world was full of sin. God cannot love sin. So how did He do this? With impersonal love. He loved us based on who He is, not who we are.

Personal love for others is never commanded in the Bible

For many of us, interaction with others becomes people testing and gives us the potential to stress. If we react with human viewpoint thinking rather than respond with impersonal love it will cause anxiety.

Think about the most obnoxious people you know. I call these people WOJs (Weird Obnoxious Jerks). God says you must love the WOJs in your life. This is hard. It requires your use of impersonal love, not personal love. You love them based on your personal love for God and obedience to Him, not based on the merit of the WOJs.

People are imperfect and don't meet our expectations. Love is not designed to work only when we are on good terms with them. We are to express impersonal love moment by moment, even to the worst of humanity. This is based on who we are, not on who they are.

God says you must love the WOJs and those with OPDs (obnoxious personality disorders)

Getting angry or reacting with some other sin, mental or verbal, is the wrong thing to do. You will be out of fellowship and chain sinning. These emotional sins will get you preoccupied with yourself. Don't do this. Instead, respond with divine viewpoint and switch from personal love to impersonal love.

Impersonal love demonstrates humility

As with all of *These Things*, love for one another is only possible by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit. Impersonal love is linked to the next lesson where Jesus teaches the disciples the importance of acquiring humility.

ACQUIRE HUMILITY

John 13:36-38

The disciples should have known this one. After all, they had just spent the last three years observing the Lord Jesus Christ who had a humility profile. But they hadn't grasped the importance of this attribute, so the Lord adds a lesson on humility using Peter as the illustration.

Humility is a Christian's greatest asset. It provides capacity to have patience and withstand extreme pressure, and it gives perspective to understand reality. A humble person sees himself as he really is. He doesn't have unrealistic expectations of himself or of others.

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think with humility. (Romans 12:3)

The Lord just told the disciples He would be leaving them and then "*Peter said to Him, 'Lord, where are You going?' Jesus answered, 'Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.'*" Peter asks why he can't follow the Lord and in arrogance says, "*I will lay down my life for You.*" Our Lord gives him a reality check. "*Truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times*" (John 13:36-38).

Between the time of this exchange and daylight, Peter will let fear overrun his thinking and he will deny the Lord three times. Peter's dedication was based on emotionalism and therefore he succumbed to pressure.

Emotionalism leads to faulty thinking

This is something we must all understand. The Christian way of life is not based on emotion. It is based on what is in the mentality of the soul.

In the days ahead Peter would acquire humility and move on from his failure. The Lord's grace lifted him up.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord
and He will lift you up. (James 4:10)

Humility allows teachability

Humility is respect for God devoid of rebellion and arrogance, and is complete freedom from pride. It is not inherent, it must be acquired. Having some humility is necessary to be receptive to learning from God.

God instructs sinners in the way. He leads the
humble in justice, and He teaches the humble
His way. (Psalm 25:8-9)

The Bible says in Philippians 2:5-7, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus ... He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation, taking upon Himself the form of a servant.”*

Humility is strength, not weakness. Humility gives you the perspective to respond to any situation. You realize you need God and are helpless to succeed apart from using His grace provisions.

Patience and humility go together. Both are learned attributes necessary for your relationship with God and for dealing with people and circumstances. This includes having patience with God and His unique plan. We don't know the direction God's plan will take us, the disciples certainly didn't know what was ahead for them, but by having patience we benefit as it unfolds.

You can't live the Christian life on your own

In teaching *These Things*, Christ gives the disciples and us objective optimism. This is optimism for today and for the future. It's a characteristic of resiliency that comes from confidence in God and His daily grace provisions.

He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says,
'God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace
to the humble.' (James 4:6)

As a member of His family, God expects you to have humility. Genuine humility is related to taking on the mind of Jesus Christ, His mentality and intentionality. God promises to promote you through your humility.

God makes war against the arrogant but gives
grace to the humble. Therefore humble
yourselves under the powerful hand of God in
order that He may promote you at the proper
time. (1 Peter 5:5-6)

The opposite of humility is arrogance. In contrast to humility, arrogance fosters an unstable soul and will lead to trouble. Arrogance is the pitfall of many Christians. Without humility, your life will be difficult, and it shouldn't be. If you don't develop the spiritual skills to acquire humility, you'll get into arrogance and your life will become complicated.

Arrogance is a progression of mental attitude sins. Often it is manifested in self-justification. You'll justify why it's okay to do things your way and not God's way. You have a better, easier path than changing the way you think through the daily study of God's Word. Your self-justification will lead to self-deception, lying to yourself, followed by self-absorption. This is doing whatever you want regardless of the rules or consequences. Arrogant people will eventually destroy themselves through their own bad decisions.

Humility Responds - Arrogance Reacts

Similar to this lesson involving Peter, you are the one who can make your life difficult. There is nothing difficult in the mandate to acquire humility. However, if you do not develop this attribute, you will not be teachable. You will allow arrogance to fester and will head down what I call the My Way Highway. If this happens, reorient with *These Things*.

Humility is an attitude, just as forgiveness, paying attention and love for one another are attitudes. Are you seeing the correlation of *These Things* with your thoughts, where you live your spiritual life? “*For as he thinks within himself, so he is*” (Proverbs 23:7).

Acquiring humility as a spiritual skill starts with focusing on your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and what He did for you and all mankind.

He humbled Himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death, even death on a cross.
(Philippians 2:8)

SAVED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

John 14:1-9

Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me. (John 14:1)

Our Lord speaks directly to each one of the disciples in this lesson. *Do not let your heart be troubled.* In other words, do not be afraid. Do not allow the sin of fear to take control of your thoughts, as happens with Peter. Do they believe in God? Yes. Then Jesus says, “*Believe also in Me* [because I am the Son of God the Father]. In other words, get ahold of yourselves. Believe in Me for your physical safety and eternal security.”

You can imagine the disciples are shaken. They have just been told there was a traitor in their midst and Peter will deny the Lord three times before sunrise. Jesus has their attention now. He is telling them not to have troubled souls, not to worry about anything.

Fear and your spiritual life are not compatible

Here is a principle I want you to remember. There's never a time in your life when you are to be afraid for your safety or have anxiety about dying. Don't put a premium on your physical security. Your confidence in God's promise and provision of eternal security should sustain you. Memorize this Scripture:

In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?
(Psalm 56:11)

‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’ (Jeremiah 29:11)

Believing in God is not salvation. The Bible says in James 2:19, *“The demons also believe, and tremble.”* It is belief in Jesus Christ’s finished work on the cross that guarantees eternal security. *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved”* (Acts 16:31).

The Lord announces to the disciples He is leaving them but He is not abandoning them. He tells them He is coming back for them.

I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:3)

God loves you. Never never forget this. He always has loved you and He always will. God will never abandon you. God’s love is protective, proven and persistent.

I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. (John 10:28)

Once you become a part of God’s family through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, there is nothing you can do to lose your salvation. Once saved, always saved. There is ultimate comfort in this truth.

Your heritage and your destiny are secure

The disciples are still confused. “*Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?’*” (John 14:5).

In response, our Lord Jesus Christ dogmatically states the means to salvation is only through Him:

**I am the way, and the truth, and the life;
no one comes to the Father but through
Me. (John 14:6)**

**If you had known Me, you would have
known My Father also; from now on you
know Him, and have seen Him. (John 14:7)**

What is the Lord getting at here? The issue is to what degree, if any, the disciples understand Who it is they know as the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ **Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, Show us the Father?’**
(John 14:8-9)

It’s evident they don’t realize He is the God-man, undiminished deity and true humanity in one body. This is called the hypostatic union. Colossians 2:9 says, “*For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.*” Jesus Christ is no less God because of His humanity and He is no less human because of His deity.

When Jesus tells the disciples, *If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also*, He is saying to them, “I am God!”

The disciples couldn't see God the Father and neither can we. No human can. ***“The word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me”*** (John 14:24). Jesus is telling the disciples that *These Things* are coming directly from God the Father. God the Father reveals Himself to the world through His Son.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Jesus Christ is God's appointed Redeemer. This means that no man or woman can approach God the Father unless he or she comes through the Lord Jesus Christ.

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.
(1 John 5:12-13)

Now that Jesus has stabilized the disciples' souls with the assurance of eternal security, it is time to motivate them. The disciples, ordinary fishermen, are about to learn they will be extraordinary.

BE EXTRAORDINARY

John 14:12

Truly, truly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. (John 14:12)

The Lord now reveals to the disciples that their impact will be greater than His earthly ministry. He tells them He is leaving them, *because I go to the Father*, and soon they will have the mission to go forth and represent Him.

The disciples will travel thousands of miles as they spread the gospel across the known world re-presenting Jesus Christ. Peter had approximately 3,000 converts at one meeting alone (Acts 2:41) and this was without advertising or a PA system. Today pastors and evangelists can use the internet and social media to reach millions. Over the years the entire world has been evangelized, possible only by means of God the Holy Spirit.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

As a Christian, you are an ambassador of Jesus Christ. You are His personal representative. This is an incredible responsibility. Have you ever thought about this? He is counting on you to represent Him through your mentality and intentionality, and to re-present Him to those who are lost and dying.

**If I am lifted up
I will draw all men to Myself.
(John 12:32)**

Jesus Christ is a magnet. You must lift Him up. Those with positive volition will be attracted to Him and pulled in by His truth. This requires you to clearly present the gospel. Evangelism isn't a mission just for pastors and evangelists. It's yours, also.

Always be ready to answer anyone who asks you the reason you are confident in your eternal security and live with hope in the devil's world. Be receptive to talking about Jesus Christ. And when you re-present Him, be accurate.

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. (1 Peter 3:15)

Every person you meet is an opportunity and I don't mean, "Well, I witness with my lifestyle." Your mission from God is to literally talk about Jesus Christ. God the Holy Spirit will take your words and act on them. But He only uses what is accurate. You need to know what you're talking about.

How does God transform an ordinary person living an unremarkable life into an extraordinary individual? He does this by an encounter with Christ. God prepares His people in obscurity. Our Lord took a group of ordinary fishermen, the disciples, and changed the world with them. He did it through *These Things*. They had extraordinary impact by means of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and applying what Jesus Christ taught them.

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15)

The distinction of being extraordinary is what's in the mentality of your soul.

Being extraordinary is being a transmitter of God's grace through thought and action. The Apostle Paul, an extraordinary believer, wrote his final epistle while under arrest in a Roman prison. Even though he was facing death, he was not preoccupied with his circumstances. He never complained. His last recorded words were "*Grace be with you.*"

Paul was thinking God's grace and transmitting God's grace. "*Nor do I consider my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify of the gospel of the grace of God*" (Acts 20:24).

To be extraordinary think **GRACE**:

Grow "*in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18), having a hunger for acquiring the mind of Christ.

Remain filled with the Holy Spirit. "*That God would grant you to be made strong by means of the Holy Spirit*" (Ephesians 3:16).

Acquired, not inherited. There is no short-cut to learning God's Word and advancing to spiritual maturity. "*For wisdom will enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will guard you, understanding will watch over you*" (Proverbs 2:10-11).

Careful how you regulate your life, redeeming the time wisely. "*Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is*" (Eph 5:15-17).

Expectancy fulfilling your personal sense of destiny. Knowing what God expects of you and doing it. "*There are many plans in a man's heart but it is the Lord's purpose that will prevail*" (Proverbs 19:21).

As a grace transmitter, God entrusts you to know and manifest *These Things*. They are for you to live and proclaim, not hide.

You are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13)

The salt of the earth is a metaphor for the extraordinary Christian. As you know, salt is a preservative and an enhancement. God wants you, your spiritual life, to be the preservative that holds this nation together. Create a thirst for Jesus Christ among those in your sphere of influence. Each individual you meet is an opportunity for you to transmit God's grace.

Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. (Colossians 4:6)

Be extraordinary and don't expect any fanfare. You are in full-time Christian service.

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

One of the ways to be *the salt of the earth* and help preserve our beloved nation is to pray for it.

USE THE POWER OF PRAYER

John 14:13-14

We often hear the term “power of prayer” and yet it’s not effectively used by many Christians. Notice the power of prayer is connected to the name of Jesus Christ in the next lesson taught to the disciples.

Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (John 14:13)

Prayer is the divine resource to communicate with our Father. We are mandated to use it. Prayer is for Christians only. An unbeliever is not a child of God and therefore can’t use prayer. The only prayer that God will hear from an unbeliever is a prayer for salvation. Romans 10:13 says, *“For whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

God designed the correct way to come to Him in prayer. We call this His prayer protocol. Protocol is doing a right thing in a right way.

God’s prayer protocol:

Address all prayer to God the Father,

In the power of the Holy Spirit, and

Close in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Matthew 6:6, Ephesians 6:18, Ephesians 5:20)

In John 14:14, Jesus reinforces His role in prayer, ***“If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”*** This doesn’t mean we can ask for whatever we want, and like a magic genie, God will grant our wish. That’s ridiculous. With wrong motivation your prayer will not be answered.

The first step in prayer is to be filled with God the Holy Spirit so use rebound as necessary. Your prayer will go no higher than the ceiling if you have unconfessed sin in your life. *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear”* (Psalm 66:18).

Make your public prayers short and to the point. *“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray ... so that they may be seen by men”* (Matthew 6:5).

This is the sequence of God’s prayer protocol:

Gratitude and Thanksgiving. Give adoration and thanksgiving to God for His daily grace provisions. *“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Intercession. Pray for others including your nation and its leadership. Pray for those who seek to do you harm. *“I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity”* (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Petition and Supplication. Pray for yourself and always request sanctification of food. *“Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me and I will listen to you”* (Jeremiah 29:12).

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

Effective prayer increases your impact as a spiritual influencer. Prayer is incredibly powerful. God tells you to use it correctly and boldly.

Let us draw near with confidence to the
throne of grace so we may receive mercy and
find grace to help in time of need.
(Hebrews 4:16)

OBEY GOD'S MANDATES

John 14:15

In His next lesson, Jesus explains that God expects the disciples and us to obey Him. This obedience can only happen with a personal love for God. ***“If you love Me, you will keep My mandates”*** (John 14:15). In the original Greek language of the New Testament, this verse says to ***keep on obeying My mandates.***

Consistency of obedience is expected by God. The Lord is telling the disciples to obey what He is teaching them and not slack off when He is gone. Obedience of *These Things* is for their benefit. The same is true for us.

God intends the very best for you and the plan He designed provides for this. *These Things* will protect you in the devil's world and give you capacity for a happy and content prolonged life.

How blessed is the man who fears the Lord,
who greatly delights in His commandments.
(Psalm 112:1)

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let
your heart keep my commandments; for
length of days and years of life and peace
they will add to you. (Proverbs 3:1-2)

Your personal love for God is your motivation to obey and serve Him. God loves you, unconditionally, and this motivates you to obey Him.

We love, because He first loved us.
(1 John 4:19)

Your love for God develops as you grow spiritually. This is what drives you to keep His mandates and to practice your Christianity. As you learn more about God through His Word, your desire to obey Him increases. *“Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17).

Knowledge, love, obedience and happiness are linked

Our Father is looking for us to be faithful. Faithful to grow in grace and knowledge. Faithful in submitting to His authority and in loving and obeying Him.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments and His commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)

God’s mandates are not hard. He doesn’t require you to do anything you can’t, and He gives you all the resources you need. Plus, He promises you happiness for obeying.

**Happy are those
who hear the word of God and keep it.**
(Luke 11:28)

See how the Lord is teaching in increments what the disciples will need to prevail in the tough times ahead? *These Things* build on one another. Be saved through Jesus Christ. Use rebound to handle personal sin and stay filled with the Holy Spirit. Acquire humility. Pay attention to God’s Word. Forgive others. Love one another using impersonal love. Use the power of prayer. Obey God’s mandates. Be happy.

**If you know these things
you will be happy if you do them.**
(John 13:17)

RECALL BY MEANS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:16-17, 25-26

Now the Lord promises the disciples personal divine help and the ability to recall the information He has taught them over the last three years. “I’m going away but don’t worry because you will get a Helper who will abide with you forever. He will be your source of power and instant recall.” The disciples just became aware of their power source. It is the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit.

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is unique to Christians in the Church Age. It occurs at the moment of salvation and is permanent. ***“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”*** (Acts 1:8). To tap into this divine power, you must be filled with the Holy Spirit. This means having no unconfessed sin in your life. It is the power to execute your spiritual life.

One of the most important aspects of the ministry of God the Holy Spirit is instant recall of metabolized Biblical principles relevant to circumstances.

**The recall ministry of God the Holy Spirit
guides your mentality and intentionality**

These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you, but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (John 14:25-26)

The disciples aren't taking notes during this amazing class. They don't have tape recorders or smart phones to record what Jesus Christ is teaching. I'm sure this promise from our Lord, *He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you*, is a huge relief! What a tremendous divine resource this is for the disciples, and us.

The last sections of the New Testament weren't written until many years after our Lord's departure, and yet John and the others had perfect recall of events, principles and divine viewpoint taught by the Lord, as if it had all just happened. This was only possible because of recall by means of God the Holy Spirit.

Let's focus on the concepts of *teach you* and *bring to remembrance*. You can't learn spiritual matters unless you are filled with the Holy Spirit and have acquired some humility. Remember, humility is teachability. The ministry of the Holy Spirit enables you to understand what you are being taught and to recall it for future use.

Aspects of the ministry of the Holy Spirit include His role in convicting and convincing.

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. (John 16:7-8)

I use the **Four C's** as a way to describe how you learn the Word of God and the importance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the process. This is how you develop knowledge and understanding of God.

Communicate - God's Word is designed to be communicated by certain men who have the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher. The pastor-teacher's job is to study and teach the Word of God to you. Your pastor is mandated by God to shepherd your soul.

Capture - In order to capture the Biblical principles taught by your pastor, you must be filled with the Holy Spirit. You can't learn and retain what you are hearing without the empowerment and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Comprehend - The Holy Spirit enables you to understand and remember what the pastor teaches. The Holy Spirit converts the academic knowledge into full spiritual knowledge and recalls it when you need it.

Comply - God mandates you comply with and apply what you learn. When you believe by faith what you are taught, it transfers from your mind, where you have academically understood it, to your soul where it now becomes wisdom - phenomenal spiritual wisdom.

You begin the learning process by hearing the Word of God taught accurately by a pastor. The Holy Spirit picks up the information and sends it to your human spirit. At this stage, you have a basic, academic-only understanding of the information, called *gnosis* in the Greek.

All come to the same understanding of the faith, and of the complete knowledge of the Son of God, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)

The Holy Spirit then transfers this academic information from your human spirit to your soul and enables you to understand it. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and your positive volition and faith perception (“I believe it”), you metabolize it in your soul.

God’s Word Metabolized = Soul Food

Let me illustrate. When you eat food, it needs to be digested and metabolized for you to be physically nourished. Likewise, the Word of God needs to be metabolized in your soul for your spiritual nourishment. Just as food on the shelf does someone with hunger no good, so information in the mind is useless without understanding it and applying it.

Once you comprehend and metabolize this information in your soul, it becomes full knowledge, called *epignosis* in the Greek. Full knowledge is God’s Word that is understood, believed and ready to be applied as you execute your spiritual life.

The recall ministry of the Holy Spirit brings this full knowledge you have stored in the mentality of your soul to the forefront of your thoughts as relevant to your circumstances.

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10)

The disciples are now reassured they have the means to remember what Jesus Christ has been teaching them. Next, our Lord reveals why they can have certainty about their future.

BE CONFIDENT - CHRIST IS ALIVE AND WILL RETURN

John 14:2-3, 18-20

The Lord gives the disciples absolute confidence and objective optimism for the future with this promise:

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. (John 14:18-20)

This refers to the power of the resurrection. ***Because I live, you will live also.*** Jesus Christ is alive! This is our guarantee of everlasting life after physical death. The death, burial, resurrection, ascension and future return of our Lord Jesus Christ is proof, and we will have a resurrection body just like His.

After Jesus Christ's crucifixion and His resurrection, and prior to His ascension, He appears to the disciples on a few occasions. I'm sure they are shocked seeing Him even though He had told them He would walk out of the grave alive.

And He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve.
After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren. (1 Corinthians 15:5-6)

One of these appearances is recorded by John when the disciples are given their Helper, God the Holy Spirit.

So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’** And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace [be confident] be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’** (John 20:19-22)

Jesus promises the disciples, *I will not leave you as orphans*. He certainly didn’t. They will receive God the Holy Spirit to live within them and Jesus Christ will return for them.

You know there’s nothing worse than seeing a dog that was abandoned on the side of the road. It is so sad, and I see it all the time. I live in a rural area and I see a lot of dogs that have been dumped by their owners. These poor dogs don’t understand why they’ve been abandoned and they will sit for hours and hours looking at cars go by waiting on their owners to return.

God will never abandon you. He can’t. *“If we are faithless, God remains faithful because He cannot deny Himself”* (2 Timothy 2:13). Once you have accepted Christ as your Savior, you are a permanent member of God’s Royal Family.

For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ (Hebrews 13:5)

The Lord’s encouragement to the disciples, and to us, gets even grander. *“I will come again and receive you to Myself”* (John 14:3).

**Jesus Christ is alive
He promises to return for us
This is cause for confident expectation!**

When will He return? Only God the Father knows. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 saying, *“We do not want you to be uninformed about those who are asleep, so you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so also God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”*

This is called the Rapture of the Church. This could happen today or tomorrow, or years from now. There is no prophecy left to be fulfilled before it occurs.

The return of Jesus Christ is often misunderstood. Many preachers and theologians have this all mixed up. Let me explain. Jesus Christ's coming is divided into two events. The first event is for the Church and is known as the Exit Resurrection or the Rapture. After the Rapture, there is a seven year period known as the Tribulation. At the end of the Tribulation our Lord will return in the second event known as the Second Advent and at this point He will set up His Millennial Kingdom.

When we talk about the return of Jesus Christ we are talking about His return for the Church, that's you and me. We will not be here for the Tribulation. We will have transitioned, either by physical death or at the Rapture, to our heavenly home prepared by the Lord.

Let's go back and look at this proclamation by Jesus to His disciples. He tells them He is a real estate developer and will make room for them (and us).

In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

(John 14:2-3)

Don't get a picture in your mind of some giant mansion in heaven. This is a descriptive analogy to reassure us there is a place for each person who has accepted God's grace gift of salvation.

Heaven is beyond description. 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, *"The eye has not seen, the ear has not heard, and the heart has not known the amazing things that God has prepared for those who love Him."*

This lesson is so encouraging! The Lord just told the disciples: "I am not abandoning you. You will have the Holy Spirit living in you to help, mentor and guide you. I am leaving to prepare your heavenly home. I will return for you."

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. (2 Timothy 4:18)

Absolute confidence in knowing they will live forever with their Lord and Savior must have brought the disciples great peace of mind.

HAVE GOD'S PEACE

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. (John 14:27)

Jesus Christ knew the tremendous adversity the disciples would face. All of them, but one, would be martyred. They would be challenged as they went forth proclaiming the gospel. Persecution, personal discomfort, ridicule, intimidation, death threats and sickness would all be distractors to their ministries. So our Lord Jesus Christ implores them to have tranquil souls by relying on God's peace and care. *Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*

Many people attempt to find peace in possessions and sanctuary, thinking if they have enough money and protection, they will have peace. King Solomon said that was not true. He was the richest man in the world in his time. He did everything known in the world that people do for happiness. He tried every detail of life, but peace and happiness eluded him.

I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 2:11)

The peace that Jesus Christ offers is different. It's not the kind of peace money can buy or experiences will bring. Having God's peace is having a relaxed mental

attitude and tranquility of soul, no matter what is happening around you.

God's peace is a lifestyle of contentment, contentment in God's plan and His divine resources. "*God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:19). You have God's peace when you trust Him, for everything.

Stop worrying but in everything by prayer with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:6-7)

The *peace of God* is this contentment and it *surpasses all understanding*, meaning the world can't comprehend this. Having God's peace is an advantage, and only for Christians.

Notice grace always precedes peace, beginning with God's provision of saving grace. Peter emphasizes this:

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

(2 Peter 1:2)

The peace of God *will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*. The world will wonder why you can be so calm and cool in the midst of extreme circumstances. It's because you are thinking with divine viewpoint, the mind of Christ.

It is no longer I but Christ in me.

(Galatians 2:20)

The disciples will need to rely on having God's peace to be stabilized and to persevere in the devil's world.

BE PREPARED - SATAN IS COMING

John 14:30-31

Jesus has been talking with the disciples for quite a while. Their heads must have been spinning. And now He tells them His opportunity to teach them is about over.

I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world [Satan] is coming, and he has nothing [no claim] on Me;

But so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. (John 14:30-31)

You can imagine the disciples thinking to themselves, “Oh, this is going to be bad. Satan is coming. No wonder our Lord is using the firehose method to teach us. We are going to need *These Things*.”

Satan wants his sentence of condemnation to the Lake of Fire to be made null and void. He believes his plot to do this is coming to fruition. This is only possible if he can stop Jesus Christ from obeying and completing the mission on which His Father sent Him.

Jesus Christ obeyed God the Father’s command for His life. *The ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing on Me.* Christ makes a noteworthy statement here. He is saying that throughout His earthly ministry, Satan has had no accusations against Him. As the God-man, Jesus remained sinless, perfect.

Jesus said to him, ‘Go, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’ (Matthew 4:10)

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Satan had no claim on Jesus Christ because Jesus was obedient to God the Father. His obedience was motivated by His love for His Father. *So that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.* Remember the lesson we had on the importance of obeying God's mandates? This is how we resist the lures of the cosmic system.

Knowledge, love, obedience and happiness are linked

The Lord Jesus Christ reinforces that personal love for God is your motivation to execute the spiritual life. *Knowing and Doing These Things* is how you can be happy and resist your three enemies: the world (cosmic system), the flesh (sin nature) and the devil.

As you advance in your Christian life, you can expect Satan's cosmic system will try to distract you, discourage you and defeat you. Resist.

Be on the alert!
Your adversary, the devil
prowls around like a roaring lion
seeking whom he can devour.

But resist him, firm in your faith.
(1 Peter 5:8-9)

GO FORTH

John 14:31

As this amazing class comes to an end, Jesus Christ rallies His disciples:

Get up, let us go forth from here.

(John 14:31)

Our Lord is saying, “Dinner is over, boys. Let’s roll!”

Are you ready to roll for Jesus Christ?

Are you willing to go forth and re-present Him?

Are you wanting His happiness and joy?

Then *Know* and *Do These Things*!

Therefore, be all the more diligent
to make certain about His calling and choosing you
for as long as you practice *These Things*
you will never stumble.
(2 Peter 1:10)

EPILOGUE

MY JOY IN YOU

John 15:11

**These things I have spoken to you so that
My joy may be in you, and that your joy
may be made full. (John 15:11)**

Throughout this incredible class, we have seen Christ encouraging while teaching. The disciples will not fully appreciate this until later when the Holy Spirit recalls it for them. We've had the benefit of soaking it in as we focused on each *These Things* being taught.

Of all the encouragement the disciples heard, this one, ***My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full***, must have resonated. Having Jesus Christ's joy will bring them an overflowing capacity for life. Note the Lord uses the word *may* meaning maybe they will and maybe they won't. It all depends on:

**If you know these things, you will be happy
if you do them. (John 13:17)**

Jesus Christ took His joy to the cross.

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

His joy in you starts at the moment you accept Him as your Savior. It remains in you if you choose to advance to spiritual maturity.

And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8-9)

For the disciples, their joy was made full as they went forth manifesting *These Things* across the known world. John describes this best in 1 John 1:1-4:

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the Word of Life,

And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us.

What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

The same can be true for you - Your choice

Know and Do These Things
Go Forth. Be Happy and Joy-Full

Scripture Index

Acts

1:8	25,33
2:41	25
16:31	P,22
20:24	27

Colossians

2:9	23
4:6	28

1 Corinthians

2:9	40
2:10	36
2:16	2
10:31	28
15:5-6	37

Ecclesiastes

2:11	41
------	----

Ephesians

2:8-9	P
3:16	6,27
4:1-2	13
4:13	35
4:30	5
4:31-32	9
5:15-17	27
5:18	5
5:20	29
6:18	29

Galatians

2:20	42
------	----

Hebrews

2:1	12
4:16	30
12:1-2	47
12:15	8
13:5	38

Isaiah

43:25	5
-------	---

James

2:19	22
4:6	19
4:7	44
4:10	18

Jeremiah

29:11	22
29:12	30

John

3:16	15
10:28	22
12:32	25
13:2	3
13:5	3
13:7	3
13:10	4
13:14-15	7
13:17	P,1,32,47
13:21,26	11
13:29	11
13:33-35	13
13:36-38	17
14:1	21
14:2-3	22,38,40
14:5	23
14:6	P,23
14:7	23
14:8-9	23
14:12	25
14:13	29
14:14	29
14:15	31
14:16-17	33
14:18-20	37
14:24	24
14:25-26	P,34
14:27	41
14:30-31	43,45
15:11	P,47
16:7-8	34
20:19-22	38

1 John		Philippians	
1:1-4	48	2:5-7	1,18
1:9	4	2:8	20
2:5-6	15	4:6-7	42
4:19	15,31	4:19	42
4:21	15	Proverbs	
5:3	32	2:10-11	27
5:12-13	24	3:1-2	31
Luke		14:10	8
11:28	1,12,32	19:21	27
23:34	10	23:7	20
22:24	13	Psalm	
Mark		25:8-9	18
16:15	26	56:11	21
Matthew		66:18	30
4:10	43	112:1	31
5:13	28	118:8	8
6:5	30	Romans	
6:6	29	6:12	5
18:21-22	10	10:13	29
18:23-35	10	10:17	32
22:39	15	12:2-3	1,11,17
22:42	P	12:12	30
1 Peter		12:19	8
1:3-5	24	1 Thessalonians	
1:8-9	48	4:13-17	39
3:15	26	5:18	30
5:5-6	19	5:19	5
5:8-9	44	1 Timothy	
2 Peter		2:1-2	30
1:2	42	2 Timothy	
1:10	45	2:13	38
3:18	2,27	4:18	40
Philemon			
1:16-17	14		

GOD'S PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES

REBOUND

FILLING OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT

FAITH-REST DRILL

GRACE
ORIENTATION

DOCTRINAL
ORIENTATION

PERSONAL SENSE
OF DESTINY

PERSONAL LOVE
FOR GOD

IMPERSONAL
LOVE FOR ALL
MANKIND

SHARING THE
HAPPINESS
OF GOD

OCCUPATION
WITH CHRIST

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RICK HUGHES, founder and President of Rick Hughes Evangelistic Ministries, Inc., communicates clear and concise Biblical principles for hearers to choose to use in their lives. For over 50 years, Rick has presented the truth to thousands of students and spoken at hundreds of schools and churches. He authored several books and hosts a weekly radio broadcast and daily podcast, *The FLOT Line*, all available, for free, on his website, rickhughesministries.org.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Rick was raised in a modest, single-parent home. He distinguished himself through excellence in athletics being named to the High School All American football team and set state records in the shot put and discus. The University of Florida signed Rick to a full football scholarship, but his SAT scores were too low. Challenged by a coach to overcome this failure, Rick applied himself in the classroom as he had done on the field. He seized the challenge, got a second chance, entered the University of Alabama as a football player under the training of prestigious coach Paul “Bear” Bryant, and the team won a national championship that year. After just one successful year, however, Rick quit school and drifted down the *my way highway*. Rick emphasizes *bad decisions limit future options*, and *God gave you two ends: one to sit on and one to think with. Success in life depends on which end you use. Heads you win—tails you lose*. Many of Rick’s personal experiences help to vividly teach these principles.

Rick’s turning point came when he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior, by faith alone in Christ alone. This is the most important decision in your life, also. Rick’s decision opened a new path, not of football, but one personally designed for him by God. Through the ministry of Berachah Church in Houston, Texas, and its pastors, R. B. Thieme, Jr. and now R. B. Thieme III, Rick learned principles and promises of God’s Word that directed him into a life of Christian ministry. Rick’s life is proof that when you leave your own agenda behind and walk into God’s plan, you can have fulfillment and happiness beyond your imagination. “For with God, nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37).

THESE THINGS

These Things refer to what Jesus Christ taught His disciples after the Last Supper. This was His last class with them before He went to the cross. He gave them vital information and He encouraged them. “If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them” (John 13:17). It’s staggering how much He packed into this amazing class. These Things are the essence of the Christian way of life. “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full” (John 15:11). God promises you the same.



Rick Hughes
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES