

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 34

“Great Victory”

Study: 2 Chronicles 32:20-23, 2 Kings 19:32-37, Isaiah 37:33-38

Reading: Philippians 3:1-21

Memory: Romans 8:16

When I was first going into the ministry, I was under the impression that I had to constantly do more for God. Whatever I was able to do was not good enough and I always had the pressure to do more. In Philippians 3, Paul does describe he “pressed on” for Christ, but uses this in the illustration of running. When running a longer race, you can not sprint the whole time. In fact there are times in a race where you run slower and sometimes you run faster. God does not want you to be lazy, but at the same time, God does not want you to trust in your own power and strength. As I matured, I realized that I simply need to follow the leading of God and work hard when He calls me to work hard, but also trust Him when He calls me to wait.

Today, we are going to be reminded about what God can do when we trust in His power and strength rather than our own.

What Does the Bible Say?

God answered the prayer of Hezekiah and told him that the king would not be allowed to enter into the city or to even shoot an arrow into Jerusalem. There would be no siege ramps built and the people of Jerusalem would not have to raise a shield. Sennacherib would return back to his home country without coming into the city. He came without the treasures of Jerusalem and he would leave without the treasures of Jerusalem. God was going to protect His name from all the blasphemy of the Assyrian army and was going to stand up for the promise that He had made to David (2 Ki 19:32-34, Is 37:33-35).

2 Chronicles 32:20-21 summarizes what 2 Kings and Isaiah recorded by saying that Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed and God sent an angel to the camp of Assyria and killed many of their warriors and commanders. 2 Kings and Isaiah described how the angel killed 185,000 soldiers of the Assyrians overnight. When the people of Jerusalem awoke in the morning all they saw were dead bodies scattered everywhere. Sennacherib and his mighty army were defeated in one night, by one

angel. God allowed him to go back to Assyria in disgrace, but did not allow him to live. It was not coincidence that Sennacherib was killed in the temple of his false god and he was killed by his very own sons. The king that exalted his gods by describing how they were greater than the God of Israel was put to shame. God showed His power extended far beyond the land of the Jews. Just as God had declared, Sennacherib was killed by his own people (2 Chr 32:20-21, 2 Ki 19:35-37, Is 37:36-38).

God had delivered Hezekiah from impending doom and did it in a miraculous way. Because the Assyrians had destroyed most of the other nations around Judah, they did not face any more wars or battles for a while because God delivered them on “every side.” As a result of this deliverance, many of the people brought gifts to Jerusalem to give as an offering as well as gifts for Hezekiah to say “thank you” for delivering them from Assyria. After this, all the people were devoted to Hezekiah and he was revered for many years to come (2 Chr 32:22-23).

How Does this Apply to Me?

There were times in the history of Israel where God called His armies to fight and there were other times where God chose that they wouldn't have to fight and He would take care of the situation. There were times where God gave the soldiers weapons and the strength they needed and there were other times where they were completely helpless. The same is true in your life today. There are times where God will call you to physically work hard to accomplish His plan and there are other times where God wants you to sit back and watch Him work. Seeking God for daily wisdom will often help direct you in how much He wants you to do and how much He wants you to simply watch Him work. It is often much easier during the times that He has called you to do something because you feel like you are accomplishing something. Though it is often much more difficult when you simply have to wait on Him to work, when He does the work that He does without you it is often much more amazing.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you follow His leading in your life.*

Thought for the day

2 Chronicles 32

Why did Hezekiah and Isaiah pray (vs 20)?

What did the angel of the Lord do (v 21)?

How did Sennacherib return to Assyria (vs 21)?

What happened to him when he returned home (vs 21)?

What did God do for Judah (vs 22)?

What did the people do in response (vs 23)?

How did Hezekiah benefit from this (vs 23)?

****Hezekiah was not a mighty warrior in battle, but was mighty in prayer and faith. He reaped great rewards on this earth for being a leader when it came to prayer and faith.*

Isaiah 37

What did Isaiah say that Sennacherib would not do (vs 33)?

Why was this a powerful prediction (vs 33)?

How was Sennacherib going to go back to Assyria (vs 34)?

Why did God say He was going to defend the city (vs 35)?

What can you learn from this?

How did God defeat the Assyrians (vs 36)?

What did the Israelites see (v 36)?

Where did Sennacherib return to (vs 37)?

Where did Sennacherib die (vs 38)?

Why do you think God allowed it to happen this way?

“Great Freedom”

Study: Isaiah 42:1-9

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Memory: Romans 8:16

I read an article once about a woman who found herself sexually trafficked. She came from an affluent home, graduated from college and was studying to be a lawyer. This all changed one night when she was asked to try some drugs. That one night changed her life because she was hooked. She ended up dropping out of college and through a series of events was constantly forced to have sex, being high on drugs most of the time. Some of this was her fault, though much of it was the wicked world around her. Eventually she was rescued from that and has attempted to turn her life around, but still bears many of the scars from those years.

As I think about that story, I think about how dangerous unrighteousness is. For this woman it was drugs, but there are so many other things out there that the enemy wants to use to enslave people in their sin. This is not what God wants. He wants you to live in righteousness knowing that righteousness will produce freedom.

What Does the Bible Say?

In our chronological study we have hopped around in the book of Isaiah based on numerous factors. We will not spend the next several days finishing out the book of Isaiah in the order the chapters are in the book.

The beginning of chapter 42 is about the “servant” and God’s “chosen.” This is a reference to the Messiah and the picture of God’s Spirit being placed upon Him was fulfilled during the baptism of Jesus. Though Jesus would teach and preach, He would not seek to draw great attention to Himself by crying out loud in the streets. Jesus fulfilled this as the Gospels recorded how he told many he healed not to tell anyone about it. The Messiah would not be some bombastic leader leaving destruction and misery, but instead would be gentle. He was compared to a single wick that slowly and continually burned giving light to those around Him and faithfully carrying out the work for God. Though He

would be rejected and scorned by many, He would not become discouraged and would continue on in the path that God had called Him to as He carried out His work on the cross. This picture seems a clear picture of His first coming, since in His second coming he will come in a completely different way, manner and demeanor (vs 1-4).

Verse 5 begins a section where God is giving a message to the people of the earth (specifically the Israelites). Before this message was declared, God reminded them who He was. He was the God who created all things in the heavens and the earth. He was the one who gave life to mankind and gave them a spirit making them different from the animals of the world. It was that God who was calling His people to live in righteousness. He would guide His people by holding their hands and keeping them safe. He wanted His people to be a light to the nations and help open the eyes of the blind. Those who were in the the prisons of their sin and darkness could be set free and find the freedom that comes from following God’s ways. God alone was the One who could do this since He was greater than any of the idols that the world desired to worship. He was willing to forgive Israel of the “former things” they had done and to make them a new nation, springing forth with life. This is what God had always desired for all the people of the earth. The abundant life that only He can give (vs 5-9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you living in abundant life? Just as the Israelites often did, you as a New Testament believer can find yourself stuck in religious actions that seem to produce misery. God’s plan is far from that. This is what many people get wrong. God did not make rules and regulations to hold you back from being all you can be or to keep you from pleasure that you were otherwise unable to obtain. God desires for you to live in righteousness knowing that following His way will give you the most peace and joy. It will keep you from the slavery that your sin entraps people in. The enemy wants you to think that God is out to rob you of pleasure, but his deception will only result in problems. This does not mean that all unbelievers are miserable, but they will always be missing something without God.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you live in righteousness.*

What does God call the Messiah (vs 1)?

Why do you think He calls Him this?

How did God feel about the Messiah (vs 1)?

What will the Messiah bring (vs 1)?

What will He not do (vs 2)?

What do you think the beginning of verse 3 means?

****It is a picture of great gentleness. A reed that was already bruised would be easily broken.*

What will the Messiah faithfully do (vs 3)?

What do you think is meant by “justice” (vs 3 - ESV)?

What will He not do (vs 4)?

Why is this important?

What did God do (v 5)?

Why is so important to realize this?

Why do you think the enemy has a full out assault on the idea of creation?

What has God called you to live in (vs 6)?

What will God do for you (vs 6)?

What does God want to do for the people of the earth (vs 7)?

Why do you think God declares what He did in verse 8?

What do you think verse 9 meant?

“Learning From Others”

Study: Isaiah 42:10-25

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1, Romans 16:17-20

Memory: Romans 8:16

My heart was broken when I heard how one of the girls in my daughter’s classes had declared she was a lesbian. What made this so heartbreaking is that at one time her parents were youth group leaders in their church. Though the parents were active followers of Christ at one time, something happened in their relationship and it ended in divorce. I didn’t know all the details of the whole family situation, but a general overview of the situation greatly saddened my heart. As I talked to my daughters about this, I took time to point out some of the things that led to the situation this family found themselves in. I wanted my daughters to see the great importance of learning from the heartbreaks and wrong choices of others.

Today, we are going to see how the Israelites had a great God, but they often failed to follow Him. When He brought judgment on them, they often failed to learn from past mistakes. We will be reminded about the importance of learning from others so we can experience their blessings and avoid their heartaches.

What Does the Bible Say?

The beginning of chapter 42 talks about the coming of the Messiah. Following this is a declaration to sing a new song and to praise God. This song calls for all the inhabitants of earth to lift up their voices in praise. This is a poetic call describing how people from the cities, deserts and islands lift up their voices in praise. They were to sing for joy and shout from the mountain tops, giving glory to God and telling of His greatness. This is because the Messiah would come like a mighty warrior with excitement and fervor. He would come with confidence knowing that He could overcome all of His enemies (vs 10-13).

The final return of the Messiah will be a culminating event that has been waited for a long time. It was compared to a woman in labor who patiently carried her child, but was about to give birth. The coming of the Messiah will change everything. Hills and mountains will be transformed. Rivers and lakes will be changed. This will be bad for the

enemies of the Messiah, but will bring ultimate good to the earth. The Messiah will lead the blind men through the rough places and direct them in the path they should go. This is probably not directly picturing just the blind man, but the general idea of how a blind man would often stumble over the rocks and difficult terrain. The Messiah will remove those obstacles for His people, but for those who are against Him and trust in the things of this world, things will not go so well (vs 14-17).

Though God had showed Himself might to His people over and over again and would show Himself powerful through the Messiah, the Israelites had a hard time following God. There were points in their history where they acted worse than the pagan nations around them. They were blind to the things that God did for them and deaf to the messages that God had spoken to them (vs 18-20).

Even though His people were like this, God was not going to change. He is righteous and will always act in a way that brings glory to Himself. Because of His righteousness, he was going to allow His own children to be plundered and enslaved and would choose not to protect them. Letting His people face the wrath for their sin fit in with His character of righteousness (vs 21-22).

This message of prophecy was given for the people to learn from. They were to look back on their past and see what God did when they chose to stray, they were to look at the future to see the ruin that awaited if they failed to follow His way. He wanted them to learn their lesson, but sadly, He had to bring punishment on them over and over again because they had failed to learn from their past mistakes (v 23-25).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you learn from past mistakes? Do you take time to evaluate your life according to God's Word and learn from the mistakes of others? Sadly, many people fail to evaluate their lives or the lives of others. This is not about judging others, but observing from others. This could be people or situations in the past or could be things that you or others are going through right now. One of the best things you can do on a regular basis is observe the life of others and watch what happens as a result of their choices. Realize that the same will often happen to you. Find those around you now or those in the past who have lived a life that you want and seek to observe how they obtained that. Follow their example. At the same time, observe the mistakes of others and choose to avoid those same things.

What type of song were they to sing (vs 10)? What do you think this meant?

Who was called to join this chorus (vs 10-12)?

What was the whole world to do (vs 12)?

What would God do (vs 13)?

How does God have the ability to do this (vs 13)?

What did God compare His actions to (vs 14)?

What was God going to do (vs 15)? Why?

****Before great glory will come, the Messiah will bring great judgment on those who chose not to believe in Him.*

What will God do for Israel (vs 16)?

Why did He describe them as blind (vs 16)?

Who will be put to shame (vs 17)?

What are the deaf and blind challenged to do (vs 18)? What did this mean?

How did God describe the actions of the Israelites (vs 19-20)?

What was God in His righteousness going to do (vs 21-22)?

What was verse 23 calling the people to do?

What did God say He had done to Israel (vs 24)?

Why did God cause this to happen?

What does the end of verse 25 say about the failure of Israel?

“Don’t Be Afraid”

Study: Isaiah 43:1-12

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:3-14

Memory: Romans 8:16

Weather forecasters have often gotten a bad rap over the years for being wrong on a regular basis, but in my observation, they are right much more than they are wrong. I am sure as technology increases, so does their ability to accurately predict the weather. Though they are right most of the time, they are not right all the time. There are times where I look at a forecast in the morning which calls for a sunny day and then a few hours later that forecast changes to a cloudy day. The weather patterns are semi-predictable, but never fully predictable.

Today, we are going to see that the only one who can predict the future accurately in every case is God Himself. This knowledge should be a great comfort and assurance to you because you can and should live your life without fear.

What Does the Bible Say?

The phrases “Fear not” or “do not be afraid” are repeated over and over in Scripture. We see that theme presented once again here in chapter 43 as the Israelites were reminded by God that He made them and that He called them to be His own. God emphasized the fact that He called them by name. This presents the idea of an extremely personal God who cares for His own. They did not need to fear because God would be with them wherever they went. This was pictured in verse 2 by a traveler having to cross a deep river or large ocean. The verse also referenced having to travel through an area where fires had broken out. These represented extremely dangerous situations and how God would be there to protect and guide them each step of the way (vs 1-2).

God reminded them that He was their Lord and Savior. He pictured how He traded the nations of Egypt and Cush and many other people for the nation of Israel so that He could have the people of Israel as His own. This was a picture of someone who traded great valuables for the one item they treasured above all else (vs 3-4).

Once again Israel is told not to be afraid. It is one thing to tell a person not to be afraid when you don’t care about them or you don’t have the ability to protect them, but after describing His love and power to them He made it clear that they had no reason to fear. God was not going to give them up, but would be with His children no matter where they went. Even when they were scattered all over the known world, one day He will gather them all back together again (probably a picture of the millennial kingdom) because He created and formed them for His glory (vs 5-7).

The people of Israel who had been deaf to the commandments of God and blind to His working are challenged to gather together with the rest of the people of the world and have their eyes opened and ears unclogged. Idols were challenged to declare prophecy that will come true as God’s came true. The point was that there was no other god like the God of Israel who knew the end from the beginning (vs 8-9).

Over the years, the Israelites had witnessed the power of God over and over. He proved to them that He was greater than any god made up by men. He was the Lord and there were no other gods that they should follow. It was God alone who always had the power to deliver them and be their Savior. One of the differences between God and the false gods was that He predicted the rescue of His people and then He went and did just as He said. The evidence was clear that He was the only God who they should worship (10-12).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Though this is a message to the Israelites, the powerful truths can be applied to you as a child of God today. You do not have to live in fear because God has called you to be His dear child. With this call comes all of His power and strength to guard and protect you. No matter what you face in life and are going through, you can always count on God to keep His Word. Over and over He proved His faithfulness to His people. No object of the world or power of the world has been able to do this time and time again like God. He was with Israel in deep waters and the flames of fire. Those are pictures of difficult and challenging times. God wants to be with you and will walk you through each difficulty in life, giving you the grace you need to bear through it. Choose to follow the command given here and many other places in Scripture and don’t be afraid because God is on your side.

Why do you think God reminds the Israelites that He created them (vs 1)?

What did God tell them not to do (vs 1)?

Why is it important to realize that God has called you as His own (vs 1)?

What situations were presented in verse 2?

What point was God making in verse 2?

How have you seen God powerfully help you through difficult times?

What does it mean that God gave a ransom for His people (vs 3)?

Why was God willing to trade for the Israelites (vs 4)?

Why is it so important to realize that you are precious in the eyes of God?

What were the Israelites told not to do (vs 5)?

What did God have the ability to do (vs 5-6)?

Who does God care for (vs 7)?

What does this show about the extent of God's love and care?

Who did God call to assemble together (vs 8-9)?

What did God challenge the people of the world to do (vs 9)?

What did God want people to do (vs 10)?

What did God declare about Himself in verse 11?

Why did God emphasize that He was God (vs 12)?

What do the things of the world not have the power to do (vs 13)?

What point was made at the end of verse 13?

“I Am He”

Study: Isaiah 43:13-28

Reading: John 10:22-39

Memory: Romans 8:16

Over the years, there have been a few times where my wife and I have sat down to watch a movie and we debate throughout the movie whether we have seen it before or not. Often one of us will be convinced we watched it together before and one of us will not remember it at all. Sometimes we even switch sides as the movie goes along where one of us will decide we didn't watch it and the other starts to be convinced that we did. It is at these times we are reminded how limited our memories are.

Today, we are going to see how God remembers everything. This is a powerful thought and understanding. He will never forget, though at times, when it comes to our sins, He chooses not to remember them.

What Does the Bible Say?

Just as God declared to Moses “I AM that I AM,” in verse 13 He declared that He was the eternal God that had been around since the beginning and will always be around by simply saying, “I am He.” He then declared that no one would be able to free a person from His protecting hand. No one could stop or undo the work which He planned or desired to do. Jesus quoted this verse in John 10:28 when He talked about offering men eternal life and that no man would be able to take that eternal life away (vs 13).

Verse 14 is a prophecy of a time almost 200 years down the road describing how God was going to redeem them from the captivity of Babylon that He had caused. The mighty army of the Babylonians would be destroyed along with their powerful navy ships as God would use the Persians to conquer the Babylonians allowing the Jews to return to Israel. God reminded them that He was the “Holy One,” the One who always would do what was right for His people (vs 14-15).

In verse 16, God reverts back to the past, reminding the Israelites how He was the One who parted the Red Sea allowing the people to cross on dry land. He also delivered them by allowing the sea to close back up

and swallow the Egyptians with all of their chariots and horses. Though He was a God who did work in the past, He was not going to dwell on that as a type of “had been.” Though they forgot what He had done, He was not going to stop working. He was actually working new works among them, though they did not often see it. He will continue to do new things all the way into the millennial kingdom. During that time He will do amazing new works by causing the desert to be full of water and taming the wild beasts of the land. It will be a time where the people will not rebel, but would truly recognize He is God and honor Him (vs 16-21).

God had helped Israel in the past, was currently helping them and had great plans for the future, yet they failed to call on God to help them. The Israelites would often stop giving their offerings to Him and would start to fall in to the sins of the pagan nations around them. Even though they did this over and over again God was willing to forgive their sins and choose to remember their sins no more (vs 22-25).

He closes this chapter by challenging Israel to evaluate the situation and discuss what was happening. He asked them to present their case as a person would before a judge. The indication was that they would be found guilty because their forefathers sinned against god and that sin continued. As a result, judgment was going to come and the judgement for the sin would be just and fair (vs 26-28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

This is a very interesting passage because it appears to go all over the place. God talked about His forgiveness and redemption, but also described His justice and judgment. He described great deliverance, but also predicted great catastrophe. One of the great lessons we can learn from this is that God is in control in this world. He knows everything that has ever taken place and knows everything that will ever take place. In love, He reaches out and redeems His people even though He knows His people will often rebel against Him. The character of God is greatly on display in this passage as God reveals Himself to be a mighty and powerful God who was and is and will always be.

Thought for the day

Who does God declare He is (v 13)?

What statements does He make about Himself in verse 13?

How did God describe Himself in verse 14? Why?

What does God declare about Himself in verse 15?

What had God done for Israel in the past (vs 16-17)?

Why do you think this historical account is used over and over again in Scripture to remind Israel of His mighty power?

Why did God tell them to forget what He had done in the past (vs 18)?

****The NLT says in verse 18, “But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.”*

What did God say He would do (vs 19-20)?

Why did God say He made Israel (vs 21)?

What did He want Israel to do (vs 21)?

What had Israel chosen not to do (v 22)?

What did Israel fail to do (vs 23-24)?

What had Israel done instead (vs 24)?

What was God going to choose to do (vs 25)?

Why did God want Israel to carefully examine their actions (vs 26)?

What had Israel been doing from the very beginning (vs 27)?

How does this reveal the love and patience of God?

What had God done as a result of Israel’s actions (vs 28)?

“Do Not Be Afraid”

Study: Isaiah 44:1-8

Reading: Genesis 26:23-25, Matthew 14:22-33,

Memory: Romans 8:16

One of the phrases that I heard my children say when they were teens and young adults is “Be better.” They would often say this in a joking manner when one of their siblings was talking about something that they were not good at. The phrase “Be better” is really not a helpful phrase in and of itself. To be better at something, you have to first find out why you are not doing that thing right and make a plan for improvement. By itself, it is just an empty command, but with the proper context it can be a powerful statement.

Today, we are going to once again see how God commanded His children not to fear. By itself, this would be a somewhat empty command, but God surrounded it with descriptions of His power and greatness. When we understand the character of God, and choose to trust in Him, the command to not be afraid becomes a powerful reminder.

What Does the Bible Say?

Chapter 44 begins with God trying to get the attention of the people of Israel. He reminded them that they were His chosen people who He made into a great nation and had helped them in so many ways. The message He gave was a familiar one that was repeated over and over. He told them not to be afraid. He would provide water for them to drink and to irrigate their fields. On top of this, He would also give them His Spirit to help bring great blessings to their descendants. God would bless their children and cause them to thrive like watered grass and trees on the banks of a river. This was a vivid illustration because much of Judah was quite brown and dry. The areas where rivers and streams flowed would stand out since these would be patches of green in the middle of a brown landscape. Those who would be blessed by God are those who would see God’s care for them and claim that they belonged to the Lord and were His children. The fact that they would write His name on their hand seems to indicate a bold proclamation to all these around them that they were children of God. While many body parts would be covered, the

hands could be seen by everyone. If something was written on the hand it was a declaration that was observed by everyone that person met (vs 1-5).

Once again, God declared Himself to be the Redeemer of Israel. Declaring that He was the first and the last. This is mentioned a handful of times in Scripture and describes how He was around before time and will be around at the end of time. All the other gods of this world would come and go, but He would outlast them all. There was no one like the God of Israel. He was the One who created men and guided and directed men before the nation of Israel existed. He also had the ability to declare what would happen in the future (vs 6-7).

The declaration to “Fear not, nor be afraid” was not based on empty promises. There were no other gods like God and no other one who could be the Rock for them to trust in. The more they understood the character of God and the more they trusted in God, the less they had to fear (vs 8).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Over and over you are told to live your life without fear. This is not just an empty commandment that has no reasoning behind it, but the command is often surrounded by proclamations about the character of God. The more you look into Scripture, read about the character of God, meditated on His power and trust that what He says is true, the less fear you will have. Fear often comes when you focus on the circumstances and “what if’s” in your life. Confidence comes when you choose to trust that He had all the thing happening today and that all will happen in the future under control. What a joy it is to know that no matter what is happening all around you today that you can live this day without fear because of your trust in God.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you live without fear.*

* *Thank God for revealing His power and greatness through His Word.*

Thought for the day

Why do you think God mentions that He chose Israel (vs 1)?

What do you think God mentions that He was the One who made and formed them (vs 2)?

What did God say He would do for them (vs 2)?

What did God tell them not to do (vs 2)?

What does He call them at the end of verse 2?

****This is an honored name for Israel which indicates the idea of being right or straight. He called them and chose to straighten their paths.*

What did God say He was going to do for Israel (vs 3)?

****This was probably a picture of great restoration of the land in the millennial kingdom, but was also a picture of the blessings that God wanted to give His people.*

What illustration did He use to describe His blessings on them (vs 4)?

What would the people declare (vs 5)?

What three things would some of the people do (vs 5)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did God describe Himself in verse 6?

What question did God ask in verse 7?

What point was He making by asking this question?

What commands were given in verse 8?

What did God call Himself (vs 8)? Why?

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. 12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,