Welcome to Overcoming the Overwhelming: A 40-Day Journey toward Rediscovering Faith in God. Whether your struggles are recent or on-going, may the truths in this book set you free to believe that God is as good as He says He is and that He is faithful to do what He has provided and promised to do, and may you be set free from commonly held beliefs not based in scripture that are fighting against your faith

This study guide is provided for individuals who would like to journal through the book or for group study and discussion. Feel free to print the lessons out for individual or group use, but please do not publish this guide for profit. The "lessons" are meant to be suggestions as to how much a group might study in one session. Of course, feel free to go at your own pace.

BE ADVISED: This study tends to bring up the discussion of personal information. I suggest that if you do this in a group, that the participants be well-established friends or that the group be limited by number of participants or by gender. It needs to be acceptable (perhaps even encouraged) for participants to NOT share details they prefer to keep private and that all information shared in the group remain private.

Additionally, since the book introduces concepts that might be new to the reader, participants should agree to read the material and do the study/discussion pages *prior* to discussing it together.

**Lesson One[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Prologue, Introduction, and Day 1**

**“Prologue”**

**Main Points**

1. No everyone processes information in the same way. It comes to each of us through a filter of present knowledge and our experiences, and sometimes our ability to “hear” is limited by what we don’t know and haven’t experienced.
2. The Holy Spirit is able to get through to people where we cannot. We can share good news with others and trust that He can get through to the heart when our efforts fall short.
3. So, while studying the content of this book, trust God to get through your own filters and teach you what you need to know. You might not yet be able to agree with everything written in this book, but please consider what is shared and then take from it what you find helpful.

**Discuss**

* Have you ever noticed a communication filter when trying to communicate or seen in yourself the inability to understand someone because of your own filter?
* How have you tried to overcome this aspect of communication?

**“Introduction”**

**Main Points**

1. Life is full of challenges. Most of them can be faced by simply doing what is needed for success.
2. It’s OK to research, ask for help, and try different approaches when facing difficulties. Sometimes, we find the help we need.
3. However, sometimes, we face situations (many of them involving people or circumstances beyond our personal control) that don’t seem to respond to our diligent efforts or new formulas. The author calls these situations “the overwhelming” because after all of our hard work, nothing we do seems to help.
4. Sometimes our overwhelming situations become public knowledge or are obvious to others. On top of feeling discouraged about it, we can become embarrassed or feel shame.
5. These types of situations can leave us feeling lonely, defeated, and hopeless.
6. The author states her purpose for writing this book this way: “My objective in writing this is to set you on a path better than that of endlessly trying—one that can help you to overcome the overwhelming simply by believing in Him.”

**Discuss**

* Can you relate to the author when she says that there are some situations which don’t seem to respond to our own diligent efforts?
* When you face what seem like impossible situations, do you tend to blame yourself or do you inclined to blame other things or other people? Do you have a tendency to blame God when things seem overwhelming?
* What might she mean when she says, “This book is meant to build you up, not to burden you down with yet another ‘spiritual discipline’ or formula for success.”
* What might it mean to “overcoming the overwhelming by grace through faith”?
* The author chose as her key verse for the entire book 1 John 5:4-5 (pg. xxiv). What might this verse tell us about her point of view in writing this book?

Part One: By Grace through Faith NOT Law

**“Day 1 From Frustration to Faith”**

**Main Points**

1. It is not uncommon for us to become exhausted and want to give up when situations become overwhelming.

*“Forlorn and confused, crying about situations which were completely over my head and seemingly out of my control, I’ve been tempted to throw in the towel and admit defeat—weary of the fight.”*

1. When dealing with difficult situations, we want to share with others, but sometimes get tired of not really being heard.

*“I concluded that it just was not worth the risk of exposing the most painful area of my life to anyone if it meant once again being misunderstood.”*

1. Most advice-givers mean well, but unsolicited advice can send unintended messages to the person who is struggling.
   1. You don’t know you have a problem (even though it might be obvious).

*“‘Informing’ someone with an obvious problem that he has a problem is ridiculous and offensive.”*

* 1. You are willfully ignorant.

*“It implies that they are merely meandering through life with no direction whatsoever—that they are so clueless that it hasn’t even dawned on them to educate themselves.”*

* 1. You aren’t trying hard enough and lack self-control.

*“He has tried but has experienced very few results. So, when someone offers up their words of wisdom, he listens, but often feels lectured instead of helped.*

* 1. I don’t approve of you.

*“He might interpret advice as a message the he is not good enough to be loved unconditionally—he must be fixed first.”*

1. The title of the book is OVERCOMING the overwhelming because the author believes that we don’t have to accept these situations, and that there is an answer.

*“Although I have many times felt inundated by long-term struggles, amazing victories are mine where I’d only known despair.”*

1. God is the only One who knows everything about our situations which makes Him the perfect person to understand and to help us. When we ask him for wisdom, He will give it to us.

*“The answer was not to be found in a new formula or renewed doses of diligence, but in His grace—His grace would be enough.”*

**Discuss**

* How is it that a person could begin to feel alone when facing a long-term difficulty?
* From the perspective of an “advice-giver”, what might we do to improve the way we “help” people?
* Have you ever experienced God giving you grace in a situation you thought you’d never conquer? Share, if you’d like.
* When you face these times in life, do you prefer to deal with it privately or ask for help? With either means being and acceptable way to cope, why do you prefer to do one or the other?

**Part One: By Grace through Faith NOT Law**

**Lesson Two**

**Day 2**

“Day 2 Overcoming Overwhelming Sin”

**Main Points**

1. Not all Christians are struggling with sin. Many have learned the truth that because they are under grace and not under law, sin has no dominion over them (Rom. 6:14).
2. When considering why it is that a person struggles with sin (Gal. 5:19-21, 1 Cor. 6:9-11) the first question to consider is if he/she is truly a Christian, because Paul declares in Romans 6 that Christians are dead to and free from sin.
3. A person becomes a Christian when he/she BELIEVES and confesses that Jesus is who He claims to be (God in the flesh) and that God raised Him from the dead (Rom. 10:9-10). It’s not enough to join a church, recite a prayer, try to live by the words of Jesus, or be declared a Christian by some religious organization.
4. The normal Christian way of life is NOT to be overtaken by sin, but rather to be free from it. Not only that, a Christian is to consider himself/herself as dead to sin and has the power to not yield to it.
5. However, some Christians do seem to be overcome by sin instead of overcoming it. The author gives three main reasons:

* *A Christian sometimes doesn’t resist initial temptation to sin and becomes emotionally or physically addicted to the behavior. This person still believes in Jesus, but is more akin to the Prodigal Son. Others might still be in fellowship but be engaged in a private sin or addiction.*
* *Some Christians become involved in sin as they begin to mix law with grace. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15 that “the power of sin is the law.” So, as we begin to see our right-standing with God to be based on our obedience to laws (not just the law of Moses, but other Christians laws such as the concept of “spiritual disciplines”), we begin to fall into the trap Paul described in Romans 7, that of doing what we don’t want and not doing what we think we should. This person still believes in Jesus, but gets caught up in the lie that this back and forth life of sin is the “normal” Christian life.*
* *The third reason Christians fall into sin is that they are falsely taught that not only is it normal to struggle with sin, but that they are still a sinner with a sinful nature. In other words, they do not know who they are in Christ. They do not know they are free from sin. They do not know that they are holy saints, righteous, forgiven, and blameless in His sight.*

**Discuss**

1. Did you ever consider yourself to be a Christian for some other reason than FAITH in Jesus?[[2]](#footnote-2) Explain.
2. Have you ever known someone who claimed to be a Christian, but whose life in NO WAY indicated that he/she was a Christian? How can we help those who seem sympathetic to “being a Christian” but who still might only be so culturally or religiously, find true faith?
3. **Without going into the details about the sin itself**, share how God has set you free from an overwhelming sin.[[3]](#footnote-3) Was it through learning about who you are in Christ, being changed from the inside out, by being set free from law, or some other way?
4. Was there a sentence or paragraph that stood out to you in this chapter that you’d like to share or remember? Explain why it seems important or how it affects you.

**Part One: By Grace through Faith NOT Law**

**Lesson Three**

**Day 3 and Day 4**

Day 3: “Not by Law”

**Main Points**

1. We were born again by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9). We live by grace through faith. We overcome overwhelming situations in life by grace through faith. If we try to overcome the impossible by formula and willpower, we can often end up frustrated and defeated.
2. “Law” can take on many forms. Here the ones discussed in this chapter.

* *Blame and Shame*
* *Formula Living*
* *Behavior Modification*
* *New Year’s Resolutions*
* *Self-Improvement*
* *Advice*
* *Try Harder, Do More*
* *Help Me Obey*

**Discuss**

1. What does it mean to you personally to live “by grace through faith” and not by law?
2. The methods listed above can help us solve many problems, but none of them actually bring about a change of heart, only behavior. In what ways do the above acts as laws? What are their alternatives?
3. Share a quote from this chapter that stands out to you.

Day 4: “Sin Consciousness”

**Discuss**

1. Living by grace through faith can involve God showing us certain things we are doing that we think we *should* do in order to improve, but are actually serving to keep us bound. In this chapter, the author shares that in response to her request for God to show her how to overcome by grace through faith, He pointed out to her that there was something in her life that was producing sin consciousness. In what ways might sin consciousness frustrate a person in his/her efforts to gain victory over an impossible circumstance?
2. In what ways does living free from sin consciousness (knowing that we are forgiven and that God is not holding our sins against us) guide us toward success? (Or, in what ways does being sin conscious keep us bound and defeated?)
3. Some think that being free from the consciousness of sin will cause us to sin more often. Explain why it is so important to understand that this is not true.
4. Share a favorite quote or Bible verse from this chapter.

**Part One: By Grace through Faith NOT Law**

**Lesson Four**

**Day 5 and Day 6**

Day 5: “Living by Grace through Faith”

**Main Points**

1. We are to live by grace through faith, but the message of Ephesians 2:8-9 often is distorted to something more like this.

***Efarceus 2:8-9***

*For by law you continue to be saved by obedience; it is by your diligent discipline and sacrifice, the requirement of God, 9by works, so that you may humbly boast.*

1. Basically, what we are implying is that Jesus got the ball rolling through His death and resurrection, but now that we are saved, it’s up to US to maintain our salvation through our own efforts. While we do mature and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, we are right now **complete** in Him (Col. 2:9-10).
2. Our hearts are established by grace, not through the keeping of laws and formulas (Heb. 13:9).
3. We need to be aware of and take heed to the warnings of Jesus and of Paul. There are wolves within the “Christian” world who seek to undermine the gospel of grace and take us captive for less than noble purposes.

**Discuss**

1. Those who teach that we must add law to grace often do so for less than noble reasons. Others, mix law into grace out of positive motivations. How is it that either one of these scenarios can be true? What might it sound/look like? How can we avoid this trap of mixing law into grace? Why is this so important?

Day 6: “Allowing Grace to Permeate Your Life”

**Main Points**

1. When someone has been buried in layers of law for perhaps many years, it can take a good amount of time to get free. Some have described this process as removing grave clothes. David and I saw it as being tied in hundreds of knots inside, and each time we saw a truth, that knot was released and new life began to flow in that area of our lives.
2. Sadly, mixing law into grace can leave a trail of devastation, especially when it comes to relationships. When we see the damage that has been done, it is no easy task to undo it because it involves someone else. That person might still be entrenched in law or be damaged and resentful about how our beliefs and subsequent actions hurt them.
3. Marriage, which is supposed to be an example of Christ and the Church is most greatly damaged by law and formula to the point where two people who truly love each other don’t know how to peacefully live with each other. Because this relationship is so close to the heart, change can be very painful and slow.
4. Allowing grace to permeate our lives involves RECEIVING the love and grace God extends to us with all of our shortcomings, and then EXTENDING grace to others.

**Discuss**

1. Why do you think that mixing law into grace causes such devastating effects on relationships, especially marriage?
2. How does “grace for me, but no grace for you” undermine our efforts to improve our relationships?
3. Discuss the importance and freedom of understanding that the only behavior you can change is your own. Why might it take perhaps even years of practicing this truth for it to take effect in the heart of someone else?

**Part One: By Grace through Faith NOT Law**

**Lesson Five**

**Day 7 and Day 8**

Day 7: “Needing New Faith”

**Main Points**

1. It is not uncommon for us to be experiencing success in most of the areas of our lives, but still struggle with one or two others.
2. Sometimes, a new area arises from what seems to be out of nowhere, and when we try to employ our faith to the new situation, nothing seems to work.
3. God hasn’t changed. What we know and believe hasn’t changed. So, we come to a point where our faith needs to grow.
4. Some have been exposed to teachings about faith that were not scriptural. One extreme is to make faith a work; another is to diminish its importance.
5. “Although it made me a little uncomfortable, I had to admit, that for some reason, my faith was not rising to the occasion during my health crisis. I found myself praying, ‘Lord, increase my faith. Show me what I’m missing here.’ I didn’t do this with an ounce of guilt or shame, only with the acute awareness that I needed help.” (The point here being that it is OK to ask God to increase our faith.)
6. It doesn’t take a superabundance of faith to see big things happen.
7. Our faith can grow exceedingly to meet new or greater challenges.
8. The mistake commonly made when needing new faith is to think that it’s up to us to “make” it happen. “Let the grunting and groaning begin.”
9. While we wait to learn how to see our faith grow, we can continue affirming and confessing what we already know and believe to be true.
10. The happy “ending” to this story is that the author’s faith did grow, and the multiple issues with her health were all resolved, some by natural means and others supernaturally. Glory to God!

**Discuss**

1. Did this chapter “ring a bell” in your mind—make you think of a similar situation you are facing that seems resistant or as if you are “missing something”, or perhaps that you seem to conquer one day and then another day experience defeat? Share if you’d like without going into too much detail.

Day 8: “Finding Faith”

**Main Points**

1. Romans 10:17 states that faith comes (originates) from hearing and hearing by the word of God.
2. “Word of God” in context does not refer to the Bible, rather to “glad tidings of good things”.
3. We can see natural faith demonstrated every day. We hear good news. We believe it. We act on it.
4. God’s principle/pattern for receiving faith is evident:

* The good news of His grace exists.
* The good news is preached/shared.
* We hear the good news.
* Faith comes to us—we believe the good news (faith = belief).
* We confess/speak / act upon what we believe about the good news we’ve heard.
* The answer comes for whatever we need—salvation, healing, etcetera.

1. Faith isn’t something we “try”. It comes to us when we hear the glad tidings of good things. Someone who claims that he/she “tried” to get saved, but didn’t, is missing something.
2. The example is given of the woman with the issue of blood hearing the glad tidings that Jesus was healing ALL who asked Him. This good news brought faith to her heart (she believed it). She said in her heart that if she could just touch His garment, she’d be healed. She acted upon her belief. She was healed.
3. Jesus told the woman, “YOUR faith has made you well.” We see here the principle that even though faith is a gift to us, it is OUR faith. Her faith not only included what she believed, but what she said and did. She could have refused to believe, or refused to confess, or refused to go, but she didn’t. She chose to act on her faith and was healed.

**Discuss**

1. **Thinking Ahead: How might this principle of supernatural faith apply to some of these situations? What might be the good news in these areas that will bring faith to our hearts? Or, perhaps some would like to share how faith came to them in some of these areas.**

* Dead-end employment
* Stressful time in life
* Frustrating or unhappy marriage
* Never-ending financial struggles
* Unfulfilled dreams or plans in our lives
* What seems to be a hopeless relationship with family or friends
* Inability to get control of our lives (home, yard, office, etc.)
* Health problems or goals
* Wrongs done to us (or done by us) in the past
* Depression or just that blah feeling that never seems to end

**Part One: By Grace through Faith NOT Law**

**Lesson Six**

**Day 9**

Day 9: “Good News”

**Main Points and Discussion**

**This chapter focusses on good news that can be applied to any situation we face. Discuss how each truth (good news) brings faith to our hearts and changes our lives.**

1. **God Sees You and Hears You**

*“We can rest assured that even when others cannot see or understand what it is we are experiencing, God sees us and our pain and has great compassion for us.”*

**Discuss:** Sometimes our situations are partially a result our own doing. Even when this is true, God does not abandon us. He comforts, provides, and directs. Have you ever believed differently? How does understanding this truth give us faith?

1. **God Knows the Truth**

*“It’s such a joy to just sit down with Him and know that He knows. We can be completely open before Him because we don’t need to hide or pretend.”*

**Discuss:** Why does this good news that we don’t need to try and justify ourselves before God or anyone else because God knows what the real truth is, bring us rest (set us free)?

1. **God Cares for You**

**Discuss:** Why is it that we can confidently give God the things that overwhelmingly concern us?

1. **God is for You Not Against You**

“*Hear this! God is not against you. He is for you. He is not sending evil to teach you. Yes, He really is on your side. He wants you to be successful. He wants your relationships to be enjoyable. He is right this very minute working all things together for your good, not for your downfall—no matter how you feel, no matter what it looks like, God is for you.”*

**Discuss:** Have you always believed this? If not, what errors were your previously taught that negated this truth that God is for you and NOT against you? Do you still catch yourself thinking that hardships are from God to “teach” you something? Why might it be that we should constantly remind ourselves of this truth?

1. **Nothing is Impossible for God or for You**

**Discuss:** How powerful might this truth be—that nothing is impossible to those who believe in Him? What might happen if we received these glad tidings of good thing? How might things change for us?

1. **God is Willing**

The author shares a story that perfectly illustrates this good news. How does it change everything to know that God is willing—to settle forever the doubt that he might NOT be willing? What false beliefs were keeping Cathy’s cousin from the faith that she needed to see her son healed? Can you detect from her story what changed in her mind that allowed her to receive this amazing miracle?

1. **God Wants Us to Ask**

*“We all want to please God, but seldom give thought to the truth that God wants to please us. He wants to answer our prayers.”*

**Discuss:** Do you remember ever thinking that praying for your own needs was selfishness? How difficult is it to forsake the lie that God despises our prayers for our needs and embrace the truth that He WANTS us to ask? More importantly, how can this glorious glad tiding of good things change the way we pray and relate to God as our Father?

1. **God is Right Here Right Now**

*“We don’t need to enter His presence because His presence has once and for all time entered us.”*

**Discuss:** How does knowing that we are one spirit with the Lord change **EVERYTHING**? More specifically, how can this grace bring faith and comfort to our hearts when storms rage and we feel overwhelmed?

1. **He Will Never Leave You or Forsake You**

*“When we face hard times, we need to know that everything between God and us is right, but sometimes our overwhelming circumstances are so intense that we might feel as if we are forsaken by God.”*

**Discuss:** How do the verses given in this section provide us with good news and thus strengthen our faith?

1. **Nothing Can Separate You from His Love**

*“If He loved us enough to die for us when we were His enemies, shall He not now love us all the more now that we are His children? Shall God only have compassion on the lost, but then turn His back on us? This is completely illogical.”*

**Discuss:** How important is it for us to know that NOTHING can separate us from His love? How does knowing and believing this truth produce faith in our hearts and change how we believe and behave?

**Discuss**

In the next chapter, the author encourages the reader to discover other good news specific to his/her situation, but how can the core truths listed above help us with ANYTHING we face? In what ways does understanding that God loves us change EVERYTHING?

**Part One: By Grace through Faith NOT Law**

**Lesson Seven**

**Day 10**

Day 10: “Discovering Specific Good News”

**Main Points and Discussion**

**The truths shared in the previous chapter can give us faith throughout our lives.** Just knowing that God loves us, is in us, and is for us, not against us, changes everything. Added to that, we have the honor of hearing from God about specific problems that we face. Yet, many believers are not sure how to tap into this information.

1. *“Today God speaks to believers through His Son directly. We don’t need a prophet or an angel to bring a message to us from God. Each of us has individual communication with the very God who created the universe.”*

**Discuss:** The author compares the way Christians flock to so-called prophets or seek angelic visions in order to hear from God as “idolatry”. Why is it so important to recognize the difference between how God spoke *before* Christ died and rose again to how He speaks to us now?

1. **Under the Old Covenant, God guided His people by the law. Now, he leads us by His by His Spirit.** We aren’t commanded to led by the Spirit, we ARE led by the Spirit. We don’t need to “try” to be led by the Spirit; we can have faith that we are.

**Discuss:** What difference does it make when facing an overwhelming situation to know that God is leading us by His Spirit instead of us “trying” to be led by the Spirit? What is the difference between being driven/guided by law and being led by the Spirit? Can you give an example?

1. **Many Christians can read Psalm 23 and be comforted by knowing that Jesus is their Shepherd, but at the same time have in their minds that God is also a sheepdog nipping at their heels. Discuss** the mental and spiritual confusion this can cause. How might the two opposing views of God as a Shepherd or Sheepdog interfere with us discovering specific good news to help us in our difficulties?
2. **If you have been studying the gospel of grace, you have learned that we are taught right from wrong by His grace and not by the law.** In the context of Titus 2, it is speaking of forsaking ungodliness and living godly in this life.

**Discuss:** Sometimes God corrects us by His grace. How might He use His gracious instruction to help us to begin to experience success in what is so frustrating for us? (Consider the example of what God spoke to Cathy about her marriage.)

1. **The author gives two examples, one personal, and one of a friend who faced a similar devastating situation.** They both needed grace to deal with the pain of being wounded by Christian friends, and they both sought out His grace to help them in their time of need. God spoke to each of them in completely different ways. So, it is for us all. Sometimes our experience is not evident to us in the pages of Scripture, and yet we know from Scripture that God’s grace is sufficient for us during suffering.

**Discuss:** If you’d like, share a difficult time when perhaps you thought you couldn’t go on another minute or day, but when you reached out to God, he imparted grace in your time of need. You don’t have to share specific personal information.

1. **Sometimes our circumstances are way too personal to share or we share and end up more frustrated.** We can rest knowing that we have an anointing that will teach us all things. Of course, it will not contradict the written word of God, but He will teach us what we need to know. Discuss.
2. **The written word of God has much to teach us.** God does speak to us as we read it. Sometimes we get busy, but the minute we pick it up and read, we are blessed. When needing specific help in our overwhelming situations, we can run into His word and be blessed and strengthened for our journey.

**Discuss:** Why is it important to read a good translation of the Bible verses only reading a paraphrase?

1. **Being able to receive wisdom from God when we lack it is one of the more encouraging graces we possess.**

**Discuss:** The author gives two examples of how God gave her wisdom and knowledge when she asked, both of them leading her to being healed physically. Have you ever had an experience in which God showed you something you could do or should stop doing that brought a solution to what seemed to an impossible situation?

**Discuss**

How can the information in this chapter help us receive specific good news about our situation? How might hearing this specific good news positively affect what we are facing? How can we take steps of faith after faith has come to us through hearing God speak to us?

**Part One: By Grace through Faith NOT Law**

**Lesson Eight**

**Day 11 and Day 12**

Day 11: “Faith Pitfalls”

**Discuss each pitfall. Points to consider might include:**

* Have you fallen into any of these traps?
* How does real faith come about?
* Why is it important to avoid these pitfalls?

1. **Presuming Deity**
2. **My Way or No Way**
3. **Allowing Experience to Undermine Scripture**
4. **Going at Things Backward**
5. **Trusting in Your Works**
6. **Faith without Works**
7. **Foolishness**
8. **Giving Up**

Day 12: “Good Girl, Bad Girl”

1. **Discuss the difference between “I, I, I” thinking and “He, He, He” thinking.**
2. **Talk about the significance of this quote:** “Anyone who seeks to be justified by law will fall from His grace. It is automatic. God loves us too much to allow us to feel comfortable continuing down the dead road of self-effort.” How does “I, I, I” thinking reflect the law?
3. **Often when we are successful in many areas of life, but are still struggling with one or two, it is because in those particular areas, we are buried in layers of law that are keeping us from the freedom we desire (and often don’t know it).** As we are seeking God to help us, He will

show us where law is lurking and how it is holding us down. If you’d like, share a law that the Lord pointed out to you.

1. **Having you ever caught yourself playing “Good Girl/Boy, Bad Girl/Boy”?** Or worse do you only think in terms of Bad Girl/Boy (constantly criticizing yourself)? How is this a reflection of the law? What do you think is our way of escaping this way of thinking?

**Part Two: Walking by Faith Not by Sight**

**Lesson Nine**

**Day 13, Day 14, and Day 15**

Day 13: “Supernatural Solution”

**Summary**

1. Impossible situations require supernatural solutions.
2. New faith comes from hearing good news, the good news we already know, and what we still need to hear.
3. As we receive wisdom from God about what we can do, discover what it is we might be believing or doing that is incorrect, and begin to walk in the truth He gives us, we will begin to see progress.
4. If someone else is involved in our overwhelming situation, it might take longer to see the results we desire. This section of the book will give you information on how to walk through the storms of life.
5. Faith is crucial, so it is important to understand it.

**Discuss:**

1. Comment on any of the points above.
2. In what ways can saying “faith IN GOD” rather than simply “faith” help us?
3. How would you define the word “supernatural”?

Day 14: “Supernatural Faith”

**Summary**

1. We all have natural faith, but when facing what seems to be impossible, we need supernatural faith. As we’ve said in previous chapters, faith comes when we hear of His grace—the good news of who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised.
2. Faith can’t be seen, but it is something we HAVE. It is as real as any reality. For example, most of us have not seen Jesus, yet we believe, and no one could convince us otherwise. He is as real to us as anything we can see with our eyes.
3. In this chapter, we have an example of natural faith not in action. Following are some of the reasons faith is not working. Of course, there are spiritual comparisons.

**Discuss**

1. How can these reasons for not having faith (not believing) in the natural, present themselves in the supernatural?

* We don’t ***know*** we have air conditioning.
* We don’t ***believe*** we have air conditioning
* We might be ***afraid*** to try turning it because we might make a fool of ourselves if it doesn’t work.
* This one seems wacky in the natural, but is common in the spiritual application. We think if the electric company ***wants*** us to have AC, ***they*** will turn it on for us.
* We have a friend who tried turning on his AC, but it didn’t work. We might think it’s a ***hoax*** or it would be ***unfair*** if ours “worked” and our friend’s didn’t.

1. Have you ever witnessed any of the above in your own experience when believing for a miracle?

Day 15: “The Gift and Fruit of Faith”

1. In Galatians 5:22-23, the word translated “faithfulness” in some versions is actually the word “faith”. This means that faith is a *fruit* of the Spirit. How can this bring rest in difficult times?
2. Faith is also a *gift* of the Spirit. Discuss the two-way street of the gift of faith and how it operates?
3. Identify the four ways given in the last paragraph that supernatural faith can operate in our lives. Can you remember a time when these were in operation in your life?

**Part Two: Walking by Faith Not by Sight**

**Lesson Ten**

**Day 16, and Day 17**

Day 16: “Joyful Anticipation”

**Discussion Points**

1. **Have you ever caught yourself saying, “Well, I hope so,” when in actuality you meant you sincerely doubted it?** Discuss why it is important to understand the true meaning of the word “hope”. Why does the definition of hope include joy? What is the correlation between hope and waiting? What factor does time have to do with hope? What does God’s love have to do with hope?
2. **One of the strongest Bible illustrations of faith and hope is in the life of Abraham.** Using Romans 4:16-22, discuss how faith and hope were at work in his life. How might these principles positively affect the way we/you approach the promises of God? How can understanding these help us when we face situations that are far beyond our ability to fix them?
3. **Is there something that stands out to you in this quote? How might it be applicable to your current overwhelming circumstance?**

*Allow your heart to once again believe that God loves you and that His intentions toward you are good. Allow yourself to hope in Him and His promises again—to joyfully anticipate and wait for His promises to be realized. I’m not suggesting you just jump out of your chair and shout yourself into believing. I’m not saying, “Get over it!” or “Chin up!” in the face of grief. On the contrary, simply open your heart to God who loves you, who only desires good for you, and who will do all that He has promised. Just allow your heart to hope in Him.*

1. **Isaiah 40:29-31 is a well-known passage.** How can knowing that “waiting” means to “expect” (to hope—to joyfully anticipate) positively influence our concept of what these verses mean? Why might this type of waiting renew our strength, cause us to soar like an eagle, run and not be weary, and walk and not faint?

Day 17: “Pleasing God”

1. **Perhaps you also experienced starting your Christian life with a desire to please God—being motivated in every area by your love for Him.** Then over time, those actions motivated by grace through faith became ***obligations***. Did/does your Christian experience include a long list of things that you believe you must do in order to be a “good” or “spiritual” or “sincere” Christian? In other words, are there religious practices you feel you must DO to be “right with God” or “to please Him”?
2. **In what ways does the false idea that God has our every word, thought, and deed under a magnifying glass negatively affect our relationship with Him?** Why is the concept of “enough” never realized with this way of “living”? If this is difficult for you to ponder, consider a human relationship in which one person is constantly scrutinizing the other, criticizing, demanding more and more, and never satisfied. Why is it difficult for love to flourish in this setting?
3. **All Christians supernaturally want to please God.** Discuss the grand implications of thinking that pleasing God amounts to not “sinning” and doing “good” INSTEAD of simply believing in Jesus (see John 6:26-29). Why does or in what ways does this truth disturb some and set free others? Why might pastors find this disturbing, and why should they instead find it wonderful? (In what ways might having a congregation of

people motivated by pleasing God by faith and love be different from a congregation of people fulfilling duties in order to please God?)

1. **In Hebrews 11, we read of the many mighty deeds that people of God have done throughout history.** Often, we focus on the deeds accomplished, and miss the point of Hebrews 11 that their faith is what pleased God and caused them to take action. How might this idea of our actions pleasing God verses our faith pleasing God subtly sneak into our relationship and service for God?
2. **In the book of Hebrews, the author is encouraging them to believe in Jesus and not return to the law.** Paul, in Galatians, encouraged the Gentiles not to turn to the law for righteousness, but to continue in faith. Each of us has a slightly different Christian experience, so how do these exhortations to continue living under grace through faith encourage you personally not to base your righteousness (right and favorable relationship with God) on what you do and don’t do?
3. **Hebrews 11:6 teaches us that without faith we cannot please God (at all-Wuest).** This means the faith is what pleases God. Focusing on the word “pleases”, how do you think God responds when He see us believing in Him for answers during difficult times?
4. **Explain the difference between “living by grace through faith”, and “living by law through works”.**
5. **Paul explained that he had formerly seen himself as righteous based on his diligent adherence to the law, his birthright as a Hebrew, his religious participation as a Pharisee, and his religious zeal demonstrated by persecution the church.** Have you observed a similar “righteousness” in the church or perhaps have you also seen yourself as righteous by similar points of boasting?
6. **Many have taught that the “loss” Paul suffered IN ORDER TO GAIN CHRIST was giving up sin and worldly possessions.** What did he ***actually*** give up and count as rubbish? How did he obtain the righteousness which is from God?
7. **Some significantly mean, nasty, and violent things have been done by religious people against believers in Christ.** We can see it taking place around the world even today. We also see persecution within the Christian church. Paul felt completely righteous about persecuting the church. Have you observed or perhaps participated in persecuting those who teach ***righteousness by faith*** in Jesus?
8. **In Hebrews 11:6, we see that faith involves two main features.** One, we believe that God exists. We can amplify this to include that we believe that God is who He claims Himself to be (good, love, faithful, etc.). The other aspect of faith is routinely neglected or greatly diminished, and that we must believe that God rewards those who seek Him. (Save discussing the word “diligently for the next chapter.) How can understanding that faith is not only believing that God exists but also believing that He will actually ANSWER our prayers (reward us with a result) completely changes our concept of why we pray?
9. **In what ways can you relate to the song shared in this chapter?**
10. **Discuss some of the statements made in the last two paragraphs in this chapter.**

* A reward is a *good* thing.
* Believing this pleases Him.
* God isn’t concerned about how long we pray.
* God doesn’t answer our prayers based on how well we’ve been practicing our list of spiritual disciplines.
* His grace is not accumulated.
* God doesn’t refuse to answer our prayers because we aren’t perfect in every way.
* “He who approaches God has, through faith, the assurance that his seeking God will result in good to himself.”-Vincent
* We pray because He answers.
* When we face impossible situations, how much more we need to believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him with good.

1. **In what ways does Romans 4:1-5 express these same concepts?**

**Part Two: Walking by Faith Not by Sight**

**Lesson Eleven**

**Day 18**

Day 18: “Diligently” Seeking Him

**Discussion Questions**

1. **Before you read this chapter, what was/is your conception of what it means to “diligently” seek God?**
2. **In what sense does a Christian not need to “seek” God?**
3. **The word “diligently” is not in the original Greek.** Older translations of this verse use only the word “seek”. How/why might it have been that modern translators added the adverb “diligently” (positive or negative reasons)? What does the word “seek” actually mean in the Greek? How does this proposed translation better represent the original intent of Hebrews 11:6?
4. **“God is please by those who believe that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him out expecting to be rewarded.”** It is important to always keep in mind when we pray that God delights in answering our requests. He WANTS us to ask. He WANTS us to believe He will reward us. He WILL reward us. Discuss these examples of what it means to “seek” God both in the original sense of each passage and also how we might apply these aspects of faith into any situation, but especially into those overwhelming ones.

* Seeking God means to pray and not faint (Lk. 18:1-8).
* Seeking God means to keep asking, seeking, and knocking (Lk. 11:5-10).
* Seeking God means to believe and not doubt (Mk. 11:23, Jas. 1:5-8).
* Seeking God means praying according to His will (1 Jn. 5:14-15).
* Seeking God means to live in thanksgiving after we have asked (Col. 4:2, Phil. 4:6-7).
* Great faith means seeking God until He answers (Mt. 15:21-28, Rm. 10:11).

1. **Is there a sentence or paragraph in this chapter that stood out to you? If so, share it and explain why you personally find it significant.**

**Part Two: Walking by Faith Not by Sight**

**Lesson Twelve**

**Day 19 and Day 20**

Day 19: “Confidence and Peace”

**Discussion Questions**

1. Describe the type of “confidence” we have when we ask according to His will.
2. Besides knowing what God’s specific will is, what two things are necessary to have such confidence? How does the illustration about abused children spiritual and naturally explain our confidence or lack thereof?
3. How does not knowing God’s will make us insecure when we pray?
4. Discuss the five steps of faith given in Phil. 4:6-7 that we need to take to obtain the “peace that passes understanding”?
5. What common excuses might someone use to not follow this guidance? What are some possible consequences for not receiving and acting upon these admonitions?
6. Share briefly, if you’d like, your experience in applying Philippians 4:6-7. Can you describe this peace that hyper-passes understanding?
7. In what ways does this peace guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus?
8. How is it that our lives overall are positively changed by taking these steps of faith?
9. How might have this surpassing peace be a blessing to those closest to us?

Day 20: “Living above the Fray”

1. Describe the “double life” we as Christians experience.
2. What are the negative consequences of only focusing on the plane of “sight”—our senses?
3. In what ways can living by faith (above the fray) make a supernatural difference in dealing with these situations?

* Unwanted circumstances
* Difficult/frustrating relationships
* Mood swings caused by hormones or health issues (in ourselves or others)
* Unexpected changes
* Tiredness
* Loss
* Other people’s drama that affects us

1. In difficult relationships, how can at least one of the persons involved make a difference if he/she is walking by faith and not by sight (above the fray)? How does that dynamic change when are persons concerned are walking by faith?
2. Does the final poem or Psalm speak to you personally in some way?
3. How might using these means help us to remember God’s faithfulness?

* Examples in Scripture of those who believed God in the face of adversity
* Miracles we have experienced in the past
* A specific word or calling from God

1. Visualizing doesn’t make things happen, but how might visualizing what we are believing God will do encourage our faith in God’s grace?
2. Think of other examples of walking by faith and not by sight? For example:

* I walk by faith in God’s goodness, and not by the bad I am experiencing.
* I walk by faith in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and not by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Part Two: Walking by Faith Not by Sight**

**Lesson Thirteen**

**Day 21 and Day 22**

Day 21: “While We Wait”

**Discussion Questions**

1. Other than what *we* can control, why do some miracles take longer to realize?
2. While we wait, God will work in our hearts so that we can have victory. Discuss these ways God works in our hearts to bring us to greater freedom (spoken of in this chapter). How do these transform us and bring about the miracles we need?

* Receive God’s discipline/correction.
* Believe that Jesus is your wisdom.
* Believe that God will give you wisdom when you ask.
* Respond to His Spirit leading you.
* Walk in worship.

1. At the end of the chapter is a song written at a peaceful moment during the midst of storms. Sometimes, when we are going through hard times, we will have a day or a moment when we sense God’s peace. We have a tendency not to enjoy these times because we know the storm is not over. How might these moments of peace equip us to keep believing?

Day 22: “Sudden and Great Storms”

**Discussion Questions**

1. The nature of sudden and great storms is that they take us by surprise and seem overwhelming. Share, if you’d like, about such a storm in your life.
2. Explain why Jesus’ question in Matthew 8:26 was not harsh, but rather reasonable. Why is it, do you think, that we tend to forget the miracles we’ve received in the past when new storms suddenly arise?
3. “Will we freak out and ask God why He is asleep when we need Him most or will we instead express our trust in Him?” How might our whole situation be different if we would simply remember and believe instead of forget and fear?
4. “It’s ok to *feel,* but don’t fear.” Have you had a sudden and great storm in which your feelings seemingly took over due to the perceived stress? Is this any area where you’d like to see improvement? Or have you noticed a change in how your respond to threatening situations?
5. Instead of going into panic mode, how can we pray when storm clouds rise? What good news can we preach to ourselves to boost our faith in God to help us?
6. Share your response to this quote:

*Yet even if the storm continues, we can rest in His great love for us. It is like the cartoon I saw of my husband; we ride the waves of the storm instead of being pulled under by them. When we do this, He is pleased. He is proud of us as His child simply because we trust in Him. He isn’t expecting us not to feel or to “be brave” or not to respond when more wind and waves arise. Rather He will be there for us when they do, and each time we choose faith over fear, we put a smile on His glorious face because our faith pleases Him.*

1. **In what ways can you “relate” to the story about Baby Joey?**
2. **If you’d like, personalize the passages at the end of this chapter. “God, you are MY refuge and strength…”**

**Part Two: Walking by Faith Not by Sight**

**Lesson Fourteen**

**Day 23 and Day 24**

Day 23: “Walking on Water”

**Discussion Questions**

1. How can “walking on water to Jesus” instead of freaking out “in prayer” help us to more clearly hear God speaking and guiding us?
2. How/why is it that focusing on the storm leads to fear instead of faith? How does fear “paralyze” us from moving forward?
3. Briefly record or share a situation in which you began to walk on water witnessing the miracles of God, but then began to focus on the situation/problem instead of Jesus, and then regained your focus on Him (or didn’t).
4. Looking to Jesus during a storm is just as “easy” as focusing on the storm, but brings about much better results. We have a choice to have faith or fold. Discuss.
5. The song at the end of the chapter had something to do with someone whom the author completely loved rejecting her which she found overwhelming. The song helped her keep her focus on Jesus. Have you ever experienced a rejection by someone who should have loved you but didn’t? How might the concept of walking on water to Jesus instead of focusing on the wind that blows and the waves that toss help us to navigate these sorts of “relationships”?

Day 24: “Speaking to Mountains”

**Discussion Questions**

1. The nature of sudden and great storms is that they take us by surprise and seem overwhelming. Share, if you’d like, about such a storm in your life.
2. Sometimes, when it “seems” as if God is not answering our prayers, there exists a natural solution to our situations that God will miraculous reveal to us when we ask. Have you ever experienced this type of miracle? Might a situation you are struggling with have a possible logical cause that could be discovered?
3. Often, when we are asking God for a miracle, the answer is already available if we will only speak to the problem to be removed as illustrated in Cathy’s story about her “regular” headaches. Have you ever seen mountains removed by speaking to them? Or might it be that you could ask God to give you the faith to speak to a mountain in your life?
4. Discuss the last two paragraphs of this chapter.
5. The song at the end of this chapter emphasizes the words “whatsoever” and “whosoever”. How does this promise in Mark 11:22-24 feed our faith?

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Fifteen**

**Day 25 and Day 26**

Day 25: “The Trying of Our Faith”

**Discussion Questions**

1. The author writes, “God is NOT sending evil to work good in our lives.” In light of this amazing truth, discuss what the author reveals about these three commonly misunderstood verses.

* James 1:2-3
* Romans 5:1-4
* Romans 8:28

1. How can understanding that God, rather than sending trials, is actually at work to turn our hard times for our good, produce faith for miracles in our lives?
2. According to 1 John 5:4-5, what causes us to be overcomers? Why is it important that our faith be in Jesus?

Day 26 A Defeated Foe

**Discussion Questions**

1. This chapter emphasizes the proper perspective of Satan as to his limited authority. Discuss how knowing that Satan is not the evil equivalent of God will change our perspectives and causes our faith to grow in each of these areas.

* Only God is omnipotent.
* Only God is omnipresent.
* Only God is omniscient.

1. Using the Scriptures quoted in this chapter and the quote at the end of it, what happened to Satan’s power and authority on the cross? In what ways does this free us from fear?

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Sixteen**

**Day 27 and Day 28**

Day 27: “Resist Him”

**Discussion Questions**

1. This chapter discusses our responsibility to “resist Satan”, but what does that mean? Both of these statements are FALSE, but yet are commonly held beliefs in the church today. Have you ever or do you currently hold one of these beliefs? What is a more proper perspective?

* Christians need to beware of Satan because he is so very powerful.
* Satan is of no concern to us as believers today.

1. Discuss these tactics of the enemy discussed in this chapter.

* Questioning (bringing into doubt) God’s character
* Questioning God’s directives
* Questioning God’s provisions and promises
* Accusations (against God, you, and others)
* Resist him, steadfast ones! (Discuss the immense difference in meaning between, “Resist him steadfastly in the faith,” and what the text actually says, “Resist him, steadfast ones, in the faith.”
* Intimidation by false prophets

Day 28: “The Weapons of Our Warfare”

**Discussion Questions**

1. Our warfare is not against people. According to 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, what exactly is it that we are to fight?
2. The author discusses her former confusion about the “armor of God”. How might understanding that our armor is based on what *Jesus* accomplished instead of thinking that it has more to do with *our* own determination, positively influence how we live our lives?

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Seventeen**

**Day 29**

Day 29: “Underestimating God’s Power”

**Discussion Questions**

1. As Christians, we supernaturally understand many things about God that we didn’t know before. Yet, Paul prayed that God would give the Ephesians “the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him”. How might knowing that Paul prayed this for them be an encouragement to us?
2. Discuss what each of these might imply in our lives—what they are, why we need them, the impact of having them.

* The eyes of your understanding being enlightened
* That you may know what is the hope of His calling
* That you may know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
* The exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe

1. Paul prayed a similar prayer for the Colossians. How is Colossians 1:9,11 similar, and in what ways does it add to the prayer he prayed for the Ephesians?
2. Did you ever think that you could fast and pray down God’s power? How is it actually that we have “all” might?
3. In what ways does Psalm 8:3-4 express the wonder of God’s grace toward us?
4. Can you relate to being surprised when God does a miracle—even though you ask Him?
5. Have you experienced a miracle similar to the story related in the book when it looked as if you were doomed, but God saved you? Briefly share, if you’d like.
6. We ask. God miraculously answers. We are amazed and give Him praise. A new situation arises. We freak out. How might we consciously change or eliminate this last step?
7. Many have quoted 1 Corinthians 2:9 to imply that we cannot possibly know God’s will or what He is going to do. Verse 10 declares the complete opposite. Discuss.
8. What does it say in verse 12 that the Spirit reveals to us?
9. In what ways are our minds superior to what they were before we met Jesus?
10. Pray for yourself or for others using similar prayers discussed in this chapter.

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Eighteen**

**Day 30**

Day 30: “Ignorance”

**Discussion Questions**

1. While it isn’t always true that “what we don’t know can’t hurt us”, how is it true that when we don’t know *good* things we can’t benefit from them? Give some practical and spiritual examples.
2. Why are many Christians today unaware (ignorant) of the many blessings that are theirs?
3. Why is it incorrect to say that Christians should only be concerned about what they can give and not about what they can receive?
4. How might we distinguish between a provision and a promise of God? Give examples that apply in your own life.
5. Describe how different life would be for a Christian who does not understand that he already has eternal life and the life of someone who understands that eternal life is his current possession. Was there a time in your walk with God when you weren’t convinced you possessed eternal life? How has knowing this (or, how might knowing this) made (make) a difference in your relationship with God?
6. What might a “spiritual blessing” be?
7. What does Peter add to our understanding about blessings/gifts when he says, “all things that pertain to life and godliness”? In other words, are our blessings only “spiritual”? What might those things be that pertain to “life”?
8. Who causes us to know what God has freely given us? When we hear the good news of something God has provided or promised, what automatically (supernaturally) happens in our hearts?
9. Grace is ALL of what God has given us, not just how we are saved. It’s not just the power to be free from sin. Grace isn’t only how we go through difficulties. Grace is much more. Explain.
10. We have a NEW covenant with BETTER promises. Psalm 103:1-5 lists some of the benefits of the Old Covenant. How might ours be even greater than these already AMAZING gifts?
11. How can knowing that God wants to reveal His many blessings to us so that we can partake of the divine nature motivate us in our study of Scripture?
12. In overcoming the overwhelming, we usually need to discover specific good news (grace) for our personal situation. What if it isn’t precisely expressed in the Scripture? How can we discover this specific good news?
13. This revelation of God’s grace might include lovingly showing us what we are believing or doing that are causing or contributing to our troubles. Discuss how this will help us find victory. What role can “law” play in holding us down?
14. In 2 Corinthians 8:9 it says that He became poor for our sakes, that through His poverty we might become rich. Discuss the many different things the word “rich” might include.
15. How then is “ignorance” an enemy of faith? How does being ignorant of His provisions and promises keep us “poor”? Discuss how this enemy can be defeated. How will defeating ignorance improve our ability to live victoriously in the different areas of our lives?

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Nineteen**

**Day 31**

Day 31: “Disobedience”

**Discussion Questions**

1. The first paragraph of this chapter speaks volumes. Have you ever been “rendered nearly immobile” in your relationship with God and your ability to have faith when you pray by the fear that you had “committed some unpardonable sin” or that God would not answer your prayers because you were falling short in some way? Briefly share this experience, if you’d like.
2. Why is it that a born-again Christians WANTS to obey God?
3. Read the third paragraph out loud.
4. Why is it that as Christians our sins do **not** separate us from God? Discuss how this false belief (that our sins do separate us from God) is an enemy of faith?
5. What is the Biblical understanding of “willful sin”? Discuss not only what it is but also what it is not. Except for the truly “willful sin”, why is the idea that some sins are willful and others are not willful ridiculous?
6. To what commandment was Jesus referring when He said, “You are my friends if you do whatever I command you”?
7. Why is a relationship based only on “obedience” an unstable relationship? Do you or have you had a relationship like this in your life in which someone turns his/her back on you if you don’t “behave”? **(Please don’t name this person publicly.)** Do you remember a time, perhaps, when you yourself based your friendship with others on them complying (agreeing) with you? This can hit particularly close to home, especially in marriage and family. Do you, as a spouse, base your affection for your wife/husband on whether or not they “obey” you? Do you shun them when they don’t comply? How about your children? Do you give them the impression that you don’t love them when they aren’t perfect? (I’m not speaking of discipline, but of shunning them personally.) This can occur in friendships, employer-employer relationships, and in the classroom. (**Remember not to discuss the faults of others publicly, but feel free to discuss your own challenges in this area.)** Also, discuss the difference unconditional friendship can make. How does loving one another as He loved us improve our perspectives on how we deal with each other?
8. Discuss the more likely interpretation given in this chapter of 1 Peter 3:7 and the power of unity in marriage when we pray.
9. In what ways is loving one another a direct expression of our love for God? (See “If You Love Me”.)
10. According to 1 John 3:21-23, what two things does God command us to do? What is the glorious promise connected with these commands?
11. “True love is giving ourselves for the benefit of another.” If Jesus DIED to demonstrate His love for us, how might we lay our lives down for each other?
12. After reading Day 31, what is a more accurate perspective of “obedience” when it comes to our relationship with God and others? Did you learn something that set you free from misconceptions you might have had about what our obedience actually is? How does this information give us faith when we pray? How does not understand this topic hinder our faith?

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Twenty**

**Day 32**

Day 32: “False Teachings”

🡺You may find it helpful to divide this day into two lessons.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Sometimes Christians say things that are not true about our loving and giving God to explain something that they don’t understand. This often comes in form of those attempting to comfort someone else. They are trying to help, but are not speaking the truth. Have you experienced this?
2. Why is it of utmost importance to base our beliefs on what we can see in the life of Jesus?
3. **Believing that God Does Miracles Based on Our Power of Holiness**

* Have you personally ever fallen into the trap of believing that by your “own power or godliness” God would use you in “mighty ways”?
* How is it that miracles happen?
* Why is it dangerous to think that it is by our power, holiness, or diligence that miracles happen?
* Have you witnessed “the exaltation of man” in the church today? How has it manifested itself?
* How might exalting one person as having more power than other believers lead to deception in other areas?
* Explain what this means to you. “We were saved by grace through faith. We live by grace through faith. Miracles happen by grace through faith. As soon as we insert ourselves into the equation beyond that of believing, we wander from His grace.”

1. **False Understanding of the Sovereignty of God**

* The word “sovereign” and similar words are found zero times in the KJV of the Bible, only once in the NKJV (and only relating to God’s sovereignty over Israel), but you will find it 297 times in the NIV. How obvious it is why so many Christians today are confused about the idea that “God is sovereign”. Growing up as a child in the church, I never heard sermons on God’s sovereignty, and yet it is quite common to hear this today, not only in sermons, but in discussions between Christians. Because believers have a false concept of what this means, many of them end up accepting things that God is not doing and attributing to God evil things in which He has no involvement whatsoever. Discuss.
* The idea is “God can do whatever He wants, whenever He wants, to whomever He wants.” Why might this be a grace and faith-killing concept?
* Discuss the false concept that our God is like the mythical gods.
* Because of this error, God gets blamed for the evil in the world, or at the very least, that He allowed evil to happen (the idea being that He could have stopped evil from happening “if it had been His will”). How does this go against the truth that it is not His will that any should perish?
* If 9-11 was God’s judgement on evil, why did the innocent die along with the wicked? Do you remember the account of Abraham interceding for the righteous in Sodom and Gomorrah? If God would spare America, for example, for only ten righteous persons, how could 9-11 be His judgment on the USA?
* Discuss the importance of the paragraph that begins with, “On a personal level,”.
* According to the next paragraph, what is a better biblical understand of “the sovereignty of God”?
* Why is the depravity of mankind a more accurate explanation for why evil happens?
* In this earth, there is the will of God, but there also things that happen that are clearly NOT His will. How is the fact that God gave His Son in death for us, prove His intentions toward us?

🙚***This is a logical place to divide the lesson, if you choose to do so***.🙘

1. **Dying to Sin**

* What do Christians NOT need to “die to sin”?
* How can the belief that negative things that happen in our lives are efforts by God to help us “die to sin” actually work in opposition to having faith?
* If you’d like to discuss further the truth that we are dead to and free from sins, read Romans 6.

1. **Dying Daily**

* If we already died to sin, and the false concept the church has of “dying daily” is incorrect, then in what since might a Christian “die daily” (see 1 Cor.15:30-32).

1. **Paul’s Thorn in the Flesh**

* How can understanding what Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” was, set us free to believe God for victory in areas we once thought were His doing?

1. **He Gives and Takes Away**

* Why is it inaccurate to compare our relationship with God to Job’s?
* In Hebrews 2:14-15 we read that Jesus destroyed the devil who HAD the power of death in order to free us from the haunting slavery of the fear of death. Isn’t that awesome? Yet, we are told to resist the enemy as steadfast ones in the faith. So, what power does the enemy have in our lives as believers?
* How does the life of Christ on earth confirm that He does not “give and take away”?
* None of the Bible writers spoke of the idea that God “gives and takes away”. What did they have to say about the gifts God gives us?
* Discuss the last paragraph in this section.

1. **Into Each Life a Little Rain Must Fall**

* Discuss how most people understand Matthew 5:45 in a way that is completely opposite to what is means. How does the false concept cause us to accept our negative circumstances, and how can understanding what it really means set us free?

1. **Disappointments and Set-Backs**

* Of course, disappointments and painful experiences can discourage us. How can getting our minds off the pain of the past and focusing on the goodness of Jesus enable us to be healed?
* What encouragement do you find in the song in this section?

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Twenty-one**

**Day 33**

Day 33: “Christian Superstitions”

🡺You may find it helpful to divide this day into two lessons.

**Discussion Questions**

**As you study this chapter, make note of other false teachings or superstitions that come to mind that make it difficult to believe that God is good and that He wants to answer our prayers.**

1. **“God Willing”**

* In what ways could the concept of tagging “God willing” to every plan we make be a superstition?
* How can this superstition hinder our faith in His grace?
* What are some practical and Scriptural examples of legitimate planning?
* When might planning be ill-advised?
* We know from Scripture that God’s will is knowable. If we are wise, we will seek to know His will. What resources do we have for discovering God’s will?
* How will being free from this superstition change our outlook in life and set us free?

1. **Kristian Karma**

* In what ways do some Christians believe in Kristian Karma?
* Why is this NOT a New Covenant concept? (Contrast with the blessings and curses of the law.)
* Discus how this statement totally contradicts the idea of Kristian Karma. “Grace is undeserved favor from God. If we earn His blessings as some sort of cosmic reward, then it is no longer grace. If we are punished for our sins, as we deserve, then the penalty that Jesus paid for our sins was not enough (Gal. 2:21).”

1. **Generational Curses**

* Sometimes, I ask myself, “Did Jesus ever do this?” It helps me get perspective. So, did Jesus ever set someone free from the sins of their parents? The answer is an obvious, “NO!”
* The truth is, individuals face judgment for their OWN sins, not those of their ancestors, and thankfully, our sins have been paid for by the blood of Jesus. When things go wrong, we need not delve into our past, however dark it might be. We have been set free COMPLETELY. How might this good news help you or someone you know?

1. **Morse Curses**

* Why do Christians NOT need to be delivered from any curse?
* In what way is believing we are cursed a superstition and how does it keep us bound?
* Sometimes, this concept is less obvious, revealing itself in the form of the idea that we “have a sin we have not confessed”, and that this is why it seems our prayers are not answered. This is also ridiculous when we realize that we don’t need to confess our sins to be forgiven. We are already forgiven.

1. **Basing Our Doctrines on Experience**

* It is a natural part of life to “learn from experience”. There is nothing wrong with this because it can be beneficial and keep us out of trouble. However, when it comes to biblical doctrine, basing our beliefs on our experiences of those of others can bring tragic results. Discuss.

1. **Being “Authentic”**

* Discuss how our desire to be “honest” about everything can interfere with the process of believing**.**

🙚***This is a logical place to divide the lesson, if you choose to do so***.🙘

1. **Suffering and Sacrificing to Obtain Favor**

* How is it that Christians are saved and blessed and how does this truth negate the idea of earning Brownie Points with God?

1. **Begging God and Prayer Chains**

* How does the concept of prayer chains take us off course of believing that God is on our side and wants to help us?

1. **Everything Happens for a Divine Purpose**

* In what types of circumstances do people usually use this saying?
* Why does it go against Scriptural truth to say this?
* Can you think of some specific examples of when this is obviously not true?
* Having spoken with Shelley about the story she shared in my book, she relayed to me how she might have responded differently when she used to believe that God sent or allowed calamity to “teach” her something. How might we respond differently to the difficult circumstances in our lives if we truly believed that God is for us, not against us?

1. **Attributing Everything to God**

* Have you ever caught yourself blaming God for the little things that happen that drive us crazy? Have you ever asked God “why” something happened that really was just an accident?
* Can you see how thinking God does everything can make him look like the school yard bully who tries to frustrate his classmates by tricking and tripping them?

1. **God Needs Her in Heaven**

* Have you said or heard someone say this in the face of tragedy? How does this portray God in a selfish manner? Discuss.

1. **My Time to Go**

* Discuss the difference between God knowing the future and the false idea that God has set a day and time for our death.
* How is this belief problematic in light of Scripture?
* Again, discus the difference between being “appointed to die once” and God setting an appointed day and time that we will die.
* What does it actually mean to “number our days”?
* God wants to satisfy you will long life. What does this imply?
* Why should we be thinking of living instead of dying?

1. **Why Live?**

* Have you ever gone through a situation in which it seemed easier to give up instead of fighting to survive? Or have you known someone who came to this hopeless way of thinking?
* Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8*We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; 9persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— 10always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” The truth is, life isn’t always easy or fair, and most people have times of wanting the throw in the towel. What personal reasons can you give to keep on believing and living?

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Twenty-two**

**Day 34**

Day 34: “Things We Accept”

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why is it that we, as believers in Jesus Christ, do not have to “accept” what comes our way?
2. Have you ever been tempted to somewhat “welcome” sickness just to have a “legitimate” break?
3. Do you think taking a “mental health day” is legitimate use of a sick day? How might such a day of rest result in less sick days being necessary overall?
4. God is not angry with us if we seek medical care, but most people have experienced the frustration of there being a persisting condition with no diagnosis or of there being a diagnosis, but not a cure. We start to feel like the woman who came to Jesus for healing with a very personal medical issue who spent all her money on physicians, only to grow worse. Because of this, we have to increase our faith to be healed apart from medicine (or just accept that we will always be in this condition). Of course, there is nothing wrong with simply believing that God will heal us when we get sick, but there is even a higher plain of faith. What change needs to take place in our thinking and believing so that we can increase our faith to believe that we will not get sick in the first place (or suffer financial loss, or have an awful marriage, etc.)?
5. For about three years, Cathy, watched as her daughter suffered from food allergies, accepting that this was just how it was going to be for her daughter and doing her best to avoid the foods that negatively affected her. There was nothing wrong with this, of course, but God had a better way. What was it that finally caused her to put her foot down about her daughter’s food allergies?
6. Are there areas in your life that you are just “accepting” in which “putting your foot down” spiritually could bring about a change? Think about it. Are you content in marriage, in family relationships, in friendship, in business, with your income, with your level of success in your endeavors, with your health, with the health of those under your authority? How might insisting that God’s provisions be a reality in your life, and not accepting the status-quo, bring about change? Dream a little. Open your heart to what God would love to do for you and those you love.
7. We have an enemy who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy. Why is it important to defeat his plans for us and seek God’s ultimate provisions?
8. Read again the passages at the end of this chapter. How many promises and provisions can you identify? Keep in mind that these were written by those who lived under the Old Covenant. How much greater are His provisions to us now!

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Twenty-three**

**Day 35**

Day 35: “When We Are Our Own Worst Enemies”

**🡺 Depending on how much time you have available or how long the discussion takes, this lesson could be divided into two.**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Generally speaking, and relating to having faith to overcome the overwhelming, what does it mean to be “our own worst enemy”?
2. **Dictating to God How He Will Work**

* How do we set ourselves up for failure when we disregard the ways of God’s kingdom?
* Why do you think we believe it makes sense to us to ignore God’s clear instructions to us?
* Expand on this thought: “Faith causes us to act. As we discover God’s kingdom principles and live according to them, then we can have confidence that God will do what He promised.”

1. **Gathering Sympathy Instead of Seeking Solutions**

* Why might someone be tempted to seek sympathy instead of solutions?
* How will focusing on solutions be more productive?

1. **Responding to Life Based Only on Our Five Senses**

* Our senses give us one message, and we do well to listen, but they can sometimes distract us from Jesus. Discuss.

1. **Folding Instead of Having Faith When Sudden Storms Arise**

* What are the two clear choices we have when sudden storms arise? Discus the consequences of each choice.

1. **Ignoring the Power of Our Words**

* What is the Bible principle that we should keep in mind regarding our words?
* Growing up, how did words from the adults or peers in your life build you up or tear you down?
* “Instead of raising our fists to the heavens, let us lift our voices in praise.” Can you think of some practical examples of how this advice might come into play (relationships, finances, success, health, etc.)?

1. **Sluggishness**

* How is it that we can become lazy about believing God to do miracles?
* If words of whining and words of faith take about the same amount of time, what practical steps might we take to remind ourselves to believe instead of grieve?

🙚***This is a logical place to divide the lesson, if you choose to do so***.🙘

1. **Doubting**

* What normal human emotions do we face when troubles come?
* Expand on this quote: “God is not asking us not to feel or to ignore the facts of our circumstances. He is asking us to choose to believe in Him in the midst of them.”
* How is doubting “more sinister” than our reasonable responses to difficulties?
* How does the example of Abraham illustrate this concept of choosing hope/faith over fear/doubt?
* James points out the ridiculousness of someone asking God with doubt. How does this type of thinking make us “unstable” in all our ways?
* When speaking to mountains in our life, we are to ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_ those things we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and NOT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts.

1. **Giving Up Hope**

* What types of struggles might cause someone to think they can’t “afford” to have hope?
* How did Abraham’s hope play a role in the birth of Isaac, and how will it bring a positive outcome in our lives?
* Think of a situation someone might face and consider how losing hope in God or having hope in God will negatively or positively affect a change?

1. **The Cares of This World and the Deceitfulness of Riches**

* Give a practical example of the “cares of this world”.
* How can these cares “choke the word” and make us unfruitful?
* How can “the constant pursuit of increased wealth for the purpose of self-realization” become a snare?
* Is it wrong to desire to accomplish certain things in life? How can we become imbalanced in this area?

1. **Here and Now Perspective**

* It’s easy to forget that this world in which we live is only temporary. This is not “it”. As believers in Jesus Christ we not only have everlasting life here and now, but we have the hope of His return and everlasting life beyond. Discuss how keeping this truth in focus will help us to have faith as we sojourn through “life”?

1. **Forgetting About the Bread and the Fish**

* Just like Jesus’ disciples, we have witnessed many miracles in our lives. Name some of these.
* How can remembering miracles reinforce our faith in God?
* How can our praise be pleasing to God?

**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Twenty-four**

**Day 36**

Day 36: “Fear Instead of Faith”

**Discussion Questions**

1. Many of the enemies of our faith have to do with fear. How can fear (real or imagined) cloud our judgment?
2. What can we do to stop fear from taking hold of us?
3. Have you ever had a near bear experience when fear got a grip on you even though there wasn’t anything to fear?
4. When Jesus said to Jairus, “Do not be afraid; only believe,” He was showing Jairus what to do INSTEAD of fearing. Think of everyday examples of how we could apply this truth.
5. Fear and faith are both very powerful. Why is faith in God more powerful?

**Part Four: Exceeding Great and Precious Promises**

**Lesson Twenty-five**

**Day 37**

Day 37: “Better Promises Based on a Better Covenant”

**Discussion Questions**

1. What types of promises are included as “exceeding great and precious promises”?
2. What does it mean (and what doesn’t it mean) to be a partaker of the divine nature? What implications might this mean in our daily lives? How does it affect you personally to have the living God living in you?
3. **A Covenant for Us Not by Us**

* Considering the title of this section what is one important distinction between the Old Covenant and the New?
* Expand on how “Thou shalt,” and “Thou shalt not,” contrasts with “I will,” and “I will not.”

1. **A New Covenant Not Like the Old**

* The New Covenant is **N\_\_** NOT like the Old. It is **B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. The Old Covenant is **Ob\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
* The Mediator of the New Covenant is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Angels and prophets are no longer our mediators as under the Old.
* Under the Old Covenant there was a separation between Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free. Now \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Jeremiah 31:31 appears to be addressing the Jews. What scriptural evidence do we have that non-Jewish believers are also partakers of the New Covenant?

1. **I Will Put My Laws in Their Mind and Write Them on Their Hearts**

* Give scriptural reasons to believe that when God said He’d write His law on our hearts, He was NOT referring to the Ten Commandments. Why do you think knowing this is so crucial to understanding the New Covenant AND to living free?

1. **I Will Be Their God and They Shall Be My People**

* God desires to be our God and for us to be His people, but He never wants to force this relationship upon us. He wants us to choose Him. Reflecting upon the quote in this section, what does it mean to be God’s people?
* How is this relationship of a child of God a reflection of His love for us? To what extent was God willing to go to make us His adopted children?

1. **They Shall All Know Me**

* Were you ever taught that you needed to “know God” or “know Him more”? What were you taught you needed to do to make this happen? Was this an obtainable goal? How did this teaching affect your relationship with God?
* Why was it necessary to teach each other to know God under the Old Covenant? Why is it not necessary under the New Covenant?
* Distinguish between learning about God and knowing Him personally.
* How has the church misinterpreted what Paul meant when he wrote, “that I might know Him,”? What was Paul actually saying? What does Paul show is required to know God?

1. **For/I Will Be Merciful to Their Unrighteousness**

* Why are all of these benefits of the New Covenant possible?

1. **Their Sins and Lawless Deeds I Will Remember No More**

* In our efforts to overcome the overwhelming in our lives how does knowing that our sins are forgiven make a difference in our faith? Contrast this with how we process things if we do not know that we are forgiven.

**Part Four: Exceeding Great and Precious Promises**

**Lesson Twenty-six**

**Day 38**

Day 38: “All Sufficiency in All Things”

**🡺Feel free to divide this chapter into two lessons.**

**Discussion Questions**

1. What are the warnings about money in the first paragraph that the author is assuming the reader understands?
2. What does true prosperity include? What is the focus of this chapter? What are the two extremes to be avoided in this discussion? Why is money such a difficult area for so many? In what ways is prosperity “relative”? How does our individual perspectives on life affect how we perceive “success”?
3. **The Lord is Our Provider**

* In what ways is God our Provider beyond finances?
* How does God as our Provider contrast with the description of Satan as a thief, destroyer, and murderer? In what false ways is God often accused of behaving like our enemy, and what does He actually want for us? Name some of the examples given in this section, and add others that come to mind.
* What does the author mean by, “God is not our nemesis!” Have you ever seen Him this way? What is His true desire for us and action toward us?
* What different ways might we view 2 Corinthians 8:9? How does this differ from the many negative ways God’s intentions for us are presented?

1. **Don’t Worry**

* Why do we not need to worry about food and clothing? How can the promise in Matthew 5:25-34 give us confidence when we pray?
* Read again the paragraph after the above-mentioned passage. Some have misinterpreted verse 33 because they fail to notice that Jesus was speaking before the cross. How are we who have sought and found the kingdom to interpret it?
* In what ways may we rest when we realize that we are righteous by means of a gift, and not by works?

1. **A Word about Tithing**

* Why are believers neither blessed nor cursed when it comes to tithing?
* Why does the curse spoken of in Malachi regarding tithes and offerings not apply to us?
* In what ways does knowing we are neither cursed or blessed because of tithing set us free to give?

1. **Grace Giving**

* What should characterize our giving as believers?
* How does God respond to this type of giving?
* Why do we give as believers under the New Covenant?

1. **An Abundance for Every Good Work**

* In God’s economy, what is true prosperity?
* Something to think about: We are taught in 2 Corinthians 9:6 that if we sow sparingly, we will also reap sparingly, and if we sow bountifully, we will reap bountifully. How does this differ from the Old Covenant requirement to tithe which came with a blessing or curse?

🙚***This is a logical place to divide the lesson, if you choose to do so***.🙘

1. **I Can Do All Things**

* In context, what is the actual meaning of, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,”?
* God has promised to provide, but it is a fact that sometimes life gives us an abundance and sometimes it doesn’t. This could be due to many factors, some of them out of our control. In what ways does Christ strengthen us during these times of plenty and times that are tight financially?
* How can we gain encouragement, not only through Paul’s example, but through Habakkuk’s words of praise?

1. **A Better Covenant with Better Promises**

* As New Covenant believers, we have a “better covenant based on better promises”. Carefully read Deuteronomy 28:2-14 which lists the blessings of obeying the law. How might these same blessings be “better” for us? Follow this pattern: “And all these blessings shall come upon me and overtake me, because I believe in Jesus.” Change the sections that refer to the blessings of the law to reflect the better promises that are yours by FAITH.
  + I will be superabundantly blessed when in the city, and I will be superabundantly blessed in the country because I trust in Jesus.
  + My children will be blessed exceedingly because of my faith in Him.

1. **We Are Not Under Law but Under Grace**

* Without negating the original meaning of the Psalms and Proverbs, how can we make them more relevant to us as those who live by grace through faith (the New Covenant way of life)?
* In Psalm 1, the Old Covenant believer prospers by means of obeying the law. We, on the other hand, prosper (in every way) by grace through faith. How does the sentence, “And whatever he does shall prosper,” impact you in the area of financial prosperity (employment, business, etc.)?

1. **Entitlement**

* The Christian life is expressed in generosity and care for each other. How does this NOT translate into ***expecting*** others to provide for us because they have more than we do?
* Paul, who had a right to expect that those to whom he ministered would provide for his needs, did not insist on it. Instead he worked night and day to provide for his needs and for those who labored with him. Why?
* Explain this concept, “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”
* Discuss how we as believers might balance the above with the concept of Christian’s caring for each other in practical ways?

1. **Facts of Life**

* What is the harm we do when we over-spiritualize every success and set-back?
* What is God’s attitude toward us when we make unwise choices that negatively affect us? How can knowing His perspective help us during these times?
* Why shouldn’t we take the weather personally?
* How is it that Christians can actually prosper when the financial markets don’t seem favorable?
* How does having an image of God as someone who is working against us negatively affect our faith and prosperity?
* The author shares the ins and outs of God’s provision for her and her family while in Christian ministry. What zigzags has your life taken to get you where you are today; or, what hope do you have that God is leading you to where He wants you to be?

1. **I Will Never Leave You or Forsake You**

* While it is appropriate to deduct from Hebrews 13:5-6 that God will never leave us or forsake us in every situation we face, how does this passage speak to us about not needing to covet and not being afraid of what “man” will do to us?

1. **Financial Prayer of Praise**

* It might be that many of the concepts spoken of in this chapter contradict what you’ve been taught in the past. You might need time to rethink your position. As you pray the prayer given at the end of this chapter, if you come across something that you are not sure about, take the time to look up the reference.
* You might want to bookmark this chapter to pray this prayer of praise again.
* Share how certain parts impact you.

1. Since faith comes from hearing good news, how can the good news in this chapter encourage our faith in the area of financial prosperity? How can knowing and believing these things help us avoid the mental ups and downs we face in life?

**Part Four: Exceeding Great and Precious Promises**

**Lesson Twenty-seven**

**Day 39**

Day 39: “Healing Grace”

**🡺Feel free to divide this chapter into two lessons.**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why might it be that Paul scarcely wrote explicitly about divine healing?
2. Why is it important to not only teach the truth on a topic, but also point out the error that is taught or believed?
3. Why would it be helpful to lay aside our current opinions about healing, whether pro or con, and take a fresh look at the topic?
4. **The God Who Heals You**

* How can the fact that God identifies Himself as Jehovah Rapha give us faith for healing today?
* Reread Psalm 103:1-5. What benefits listed pertain to our health?

1. **If You’ve Seen Me**

* How and why did the coming of Jesus to earth clarify our perceptions of God the Father?
* In what ways does Colossians 1:15-18 point to Jesus as being God (the Son)?
* Jesus said to Philip, “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.” How can this truth help us to see the heart of God?

1. **I Am Willing**

* How can we safely conclude that God is willing to heal?

1. **Who Heals All Our Diseases**

* How does the fact that Jesus healed ALL who came to Him in faith encourage us to believe He will heal us also?

1. **Sickness is Not God’s Punishment**

* Knowing that God does not use sickness to punish us for sin or teach us lessons can encourage us to believe to be healed. How does not knowing this hamper our faith?

🙚***This is a logical place to divide the lesson, if you choose to do so***.🙘

1. **By Whose Wounds You Were Healed**

* Why is it irresponsible doctrinally to exclude physical healing from what Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:24?
* Explain how Isaiah 53, Matthew 8, and 1 Peter 2:24 are clearly linked to give proof of divine healing as a provision for us.
* In what ways is divine healing both a provision and a promise?
* Why do we not need to plead with (persuade/beg) God to heal us, and what can we do instead?
* Why might it be easier for children to receive miracles?

1. **Gifts of Healing**

* Discuss the testimonies of healing in this section. How do they suggest faith in God and/or a gift of healing?

1. **Call for the Elders of the Church**

* How can the provision of asking the elders of the church to pray for healing be helpful to us?
* Is it a requirement or a provision?

1. **Ifs, Ands, and Buts**

* Discuss how the following objections commonly used to “refute” divine healing today, not stand the test of Scriptural analysis?
  + Paul telling Timothy to “take a little wine” for his stomach problems
  + Very sick Epaphroditus
  + Paul’s thorn in the flesh (as being his eyes)
  + Yes, believers in the early church got sick. Why is this not a valid “proof” that divine healing wasn’t always and therefore isn’t always God’s will?

1. **For Those Who Are Suffering**

* Why is this common mockery of divine healing not valid? “If divine healing is true, then let’s go into the hospitals and heal everyone there and close down the hospitals.”
* What encouragement is there for those who see their health as “overwhelming”?

1. **Only Believe**

* For some, reading this book will point the way to finding faith to believe to be healed. Others will need to become more thoroughly convinced through personal study. What does the author suggest if this is the case?

1. **HEALING CONFESSIONS**

* If in a group, take turns reading aloud this section together as a prayer. If participating in an online study, share a section of this prayer that you want to remember.
* If studying alone, sing or pray this section as a declaration of your faith in God Our Healer.
* If desired, take the time to look up the supporting verses in this prayer and their contexts. This might take a few days. Do it as an encouragement, not as a chore.

**Part Four: Exceeding Great and Precious Promises**

**Lesson Twenty-eight**

**Day 40**

Day 40: “Exceeding Great and Precious Promises”

**Discussion Questions**

1. This world can hardly be described as a peaceful place. In fact, Jesus told us that we would have tribulation while here on earth. He also promised that even so, we would have peace. How is this possible? Or how would you describe how this can be true to someone who has never experienced it?
2. What is our Savior’s view of mankind both of those who believe or refuse to believe in Him? What was it that caused Him to die even for those who despised Him?
3. Discuss how it is that we overcome this world (or in this life)? How does the definition of “overcome” affect your perspective?
4. “There is so much more left for us to discover, understand, and enjoy.” How so? (See Ephesians 1:15-23.)
5. “Believing in Him brings Him joy, and it gives us victory.” Discuss how the paragraph and passage that follows impacts you personally in your journey of faith.
6. How can Ephesians 3:20-21 raise our perspectives above “the fray”?
7. Consider the lyrics to the song, “So Much More”. How do they interact with your own life and faith in Jesus?

Epilogue

1. How does God’s **love for you** personally affect you as you overcome the overwhelming?
2. Before ending your study, make a mental or written list of areas in your life which God has helped you overcome in the past. Then list the areas in which you are still believing in Him for victory.

1. Lessons are suggested based on what goes together well and how much can be covered in a group study at one meeting. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Even true Christians can fall into this trap. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This could be the normal process of sin falling away after salvation or sin that began after someone already was a Christian. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)