

GRACE TRANSFORMS

WEEK 6

WIN

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

SERMON NOTES – WIN :: 2

TOPIC _____

SPEAKER _____ DATE _____

TESTAMENT OLD NEW SONGS/HYMNS _____

MOOD 😄 😊 😐 😞 😓 😴 _____

TODAY I AM GRATEFUL FOR _____

KEY POINTS _____ SCRIPTURES _____

NOTES _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What stuck out to you as you read this weekend's Scripture passages?

Did these verses raise any questions as you read?

Where do we see Jesus Christ in these verses?

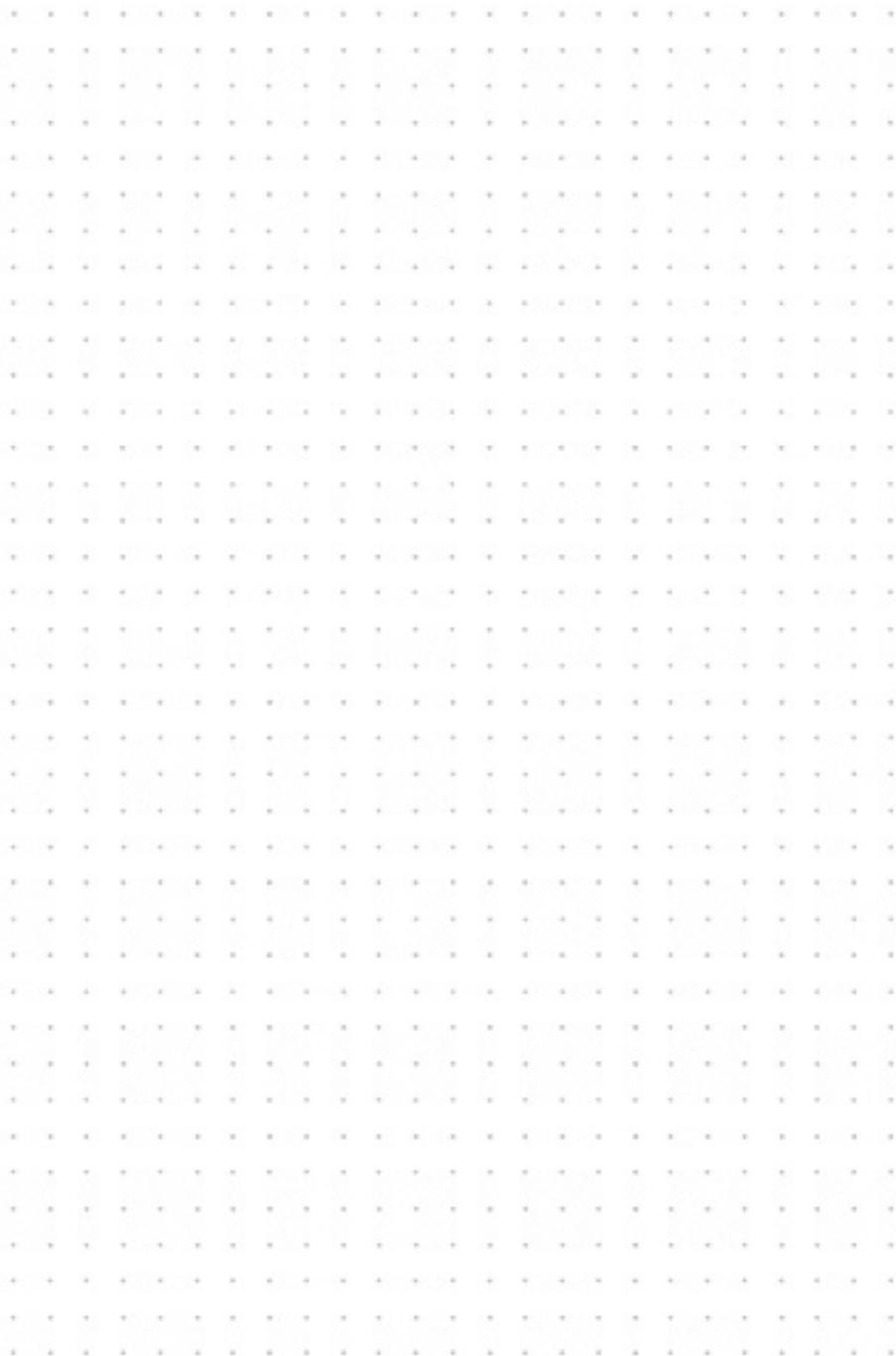
As you read this weekend's Scripture, ask yourself, "Are these verses...

1. teaching me something?"
2. telling me to stop doing something I am doing?"
3. correcting some wrong thinking or behavior?"
4. preparing me to live more effectively for him?"

Write down the name of someone who might benefit from hearing what you've seen in the Bible.

Why is this passage in this particular book of the Bible? What might the Bible lose if this passage was left out? What's the author's main point? (*Try to sum up your answer in one sentence.*)

JOURNAL



DAY 26 — WIN

Checklist For The Christian

2 Timothy 4:1-5

If you take even a cursory look at present-day politics or news media reports, you will notice the idea of absolute truth has vanished. The current climate calls for any means to justify any end, even when it means lies of both commission and omission, misleading statements, or changing or deflecting the subject. Everyone has become Pontius Pilate by declaring “what is truth?” (John 18:38). Pilate meant there is no absolute truth.

Every Christian knows that the words and teachings of Jesus Christ are the absolute truth. Timothy tells us the time is coming “when they will not tolerate sound doctrine” so we should prepare ourselves with Timothy’s checklist in verse 2--preach the Word and be ready all the time to correct, rebuke, and exhort but with patience. We must know the Word so we can tell others, correct, and even rebuke those who are not obeying the Word. However, we must do it with patience, never in anger or with irritation.

The road to growing as a believer is often a long one. Every step we walk towards Him brings a new measure of change within us. John 3:30 says, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” As we become closer to Christ, we change and become less of our old nature and more of the new.

NEXT STEP :: *Have you observed people around you that have given up the truth in order to “have their ears tickled?” Have you been preparing for this by becoming an expert in the Word and are you willing to tell, correct, and rebuke others, if necessary?*

Dear God, I want to know Your Word so I can share it with others. I want to have the courage to exhort, correct, and rebuke others who are in error, but in patience and with love. Please help prepare me by giving me the desire to study Your Word in order to preach it to those who need You.

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 27 — WIN

You Heard It From Me, Go!

Matthew 10:5-15

As you read this passage in Matthew, we see that Christ immediately put restrictions on the disciples. Why? Because He was establishing priorities for them, saying, “This is where you start, in your home country.” Jesus was saying, “Cross the street before you cross the ocean.” The Lord was sending His boys to the Jews first. We, too, need to be grounded in the Word of God first, and then let the Lord open the doors to other geographical areas as the Holy Spirit moves.

In Romans, we read that the gospel went to the Jews first, and then to the Gentiles, not because of priority, but because of precedence. The Jews were prepared by the prophets, by the covenants, and by the promises. If Jesus would have sent them to the Gentiles first, no one would have received them when they came home, because the Jews despised the Gentiles.

In fact, it was the common people that heard Jesus gladly (Mark 12:37). It was the outcast and the shunned who were more open and ready to receive the gospel.

The Lord wants us to share the Word with others for He knows that the Word is alive and powerful. It can speak to any person at any time, in any place, during any age!

The work of salvation was only accomplished by Jesus Christ, and He did it alone. But the witness of this salvation can only be accomplished by us, His people, who have been saved. It is not enough that we pray for laborers, but we, too, must be available to GO! Yes, there will be opposition, but with the opposition will come great opportunities! Keep GOING!

NEXT STEP :: *Father in heaven, help me to be a part of the process by which others come to know You and grow in their relationship with You. Help me to be keenly aware of the leading and the prompting of the Holy Spirit in my life today. I want to be obedient to You in whatever You call me to do today.*

Contributed by Gordon Rumble, Pastor of Senior Adults

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 28 — WIN

Light The Way (To The Light Of The World)

Matthew 5:14-16

Our life on the mission field was spent in Baguio, Philippines, over a mile above sea level. Traveling to Baguio at night, city lights are visible for more than an hour before you arrive. Lights light the way to Baguio!

There is a little mystery here. Although Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world, in John (1:4-9, 3:18-19, 12:35, 46) we are told that Jesus is the light of the world. Confusing? Only if we fail to realize that the Church is the Body of Christ and we are His instruments of transmitting light, the reflectors. Jesus directed his followers (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 1:8) to reflect His light to the world so people can be saved. Remember, God has no second-generation children, only sons and daughters (John 1:12-13).

Our lights shine in two ways. Our daily response to the Lordship of Jesus, our conduct, manners, and conversation stand out as others see and hear us. Secondly, we should always be ready to share the way to Jesus, to tell of the wages of sin (Romans 3:23, 6:23), God's answer to sin (John 3:16-17) and how to respond in repentance, confession, and baptism (Acts 2:38-29, Romans 10:9-10).

If God calls us across the ocean, the country, the state, or the county, we should go! But if not, we can carry the light to our neighbors across the street. People must be able to see our good works and hear the good news so they can glorify God. We "light the way" to His Son, Jesus Christ.

NEXT STEP :: *God, light us up with Your presence, both in our actions and words, that we might point people to You and Your grace.*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 29 — WIN

Influencing The Heart

Matthew 28:16-20

In these verses we learn that all authority is given to Jesus, and He tells us what we need to do and how to do it. We are to go to all the nations (Acts 1:8-11), teaching them about the Good News and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are to teach them to love God and love each other, even our enemies.

As Christians, in this country, we see hate and evil growing. These are the result of the conditions of man's heart. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

There is only one solution: share the Word of God and the Good News of the Gospel to those that are lost. We must do some or all of these things to be doing God's will. We must go, preach (share the Word), and/or help to send others just as Jesus did (Luke 4:43).

This always involves sacrifice, and the love of God working through us. Only God can soften a hard heart, and only the light of God (John 8:12) can take away the darkness of a lost soul.

NEXT STEP :: *How bright is your light shining and are you trusting enough in His power to make a sacrifice for the lost? It is easy to say, "I believe," but is hard to trust enough to walk where God wants us to go. Follow Him and support His church in its mission and see what God will do.*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 30 — WIN

A Transformed Elijah

1 Kings 17:1-24 / 1 Kings 18:1-45 / 1 Kings 19:1-18

Have you ever felt alone? Really alone? Elijah did. He told King Ahab that because of Israel's unfaithfulness, there would not be neither dew nor rain for the next few years, except by Elijah's word. And just like that, Elijah became a very unpopular person! God told him to hide in the Kerith Ravine. There God met all Elijah's needs. He drank water from the brook and was fed by ravens! How would you like that assignment? Elijah was totally dependent on God for absolutely everything. If he was going to eat, the Lord was going to have to provide. Yet, God had a plan and purpose for sending Elijah to Kerith. He was transforming Elijah into a man who knew he could depend on God. If time allows, read 1 Kings 17-19. When Elijah felt alone, God provided over and over.

In 2016, God showed me time and time again that He was my provider. When I faced chemo treatments that were over \$7,000 each, God provided! When I needed comfort, God provided. When I was sick, God brought me through. He encouraged me in His Word on a daily basis. He showed me that He had a purpose and a plan and that all things really do work out for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). He gave peace that really did transcend all human comprehension (Philippians 4:7).

When we go through trials and we experience first-hand that God is able to provide, our faith grows, and we are transformed! If we never had a problem, a trial, a challenge, we would never know that God is our provider. We would not experience His faithfulness and His love in a personal and very real way.

NEXT STEP :: *What are you going through today? God wants to be your provider! Father in heaven, I give You my _____ . You know all that I need. Help me to keep my eyes upon You and to wait upon You. As You met Elijah's needs, Lord, please meet mine for Your glory!*

Contributed by Nancy Skiles

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____
