



SPIRITUAL DIGEST

Vol. 70

July 19 - July 24

SERVING A LIVING
AND TRUE GOD

page 3

HOW IS YOUR GOD
LIVING?

page 4

WORSHIP IN THE
EARLY CHURCH: DID
YOU KNOW?

page 6

WEEKLY BIBLE
CHAPTER READS

page 9



**EVERY TIME WE DENY
OURSELVES IN ORDER
TO SERVE SOMEONE
ELSE, WE GROW IN
CHRIST.**

- DAVID JEREMIAH



SERVING A LIVING AND TRUE GOD

1 Thes 1:9 ...how you turned to God from the idols to serve a living and true God.

1 Tim 3:15 ...I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

Our present living is a testimony that the God whom we serve is living. He is living in us, and He controls us, directs us, and deals with us. He will not let us go. Rather, in many matters He corrects us and adjusts us. The fact that God controls us and directs us, even in small things such as our thoughts and motives, is a proof that He is living. Furthermore, it is by our daily walk that we can prove to our relatives, neighbors, and friends that our God is living. An idol, however, does not direct or correct anyone. In the presence of an idol someone can gamble or steal

without being corrected at all. But we cannot do such things before a living God. Years ago I learned that certain people could steal and then immediately go into a cathedral to worship. Some repented of their thefts and then immediately went out to steal once again. Surely such people do not worship a living God. On the contrary, the god they worship has no life. What about your God? Is He a living God to you? The proper Christian life should bear a testimony that God is living. The reason we do not do or say certain things should be that God is living in us. The God whom we worship and serve is living not only in the heavens, but also in us. We have turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.



HOW IS YOUR GOD LIVING?

Col 1:27 ...the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Gal 2:20 ...it is Christ who lives in me...

In the Old Testament the children of Israel served a God who was in the heavens. But now, after the cross and the resurrection, the God whom we serve is no longer merely in the heavens, for He is now living in us. When Paul says that we serve a living God, he means the God who is living within us and who is one with us. Suppose a brother is about to quarrel with his wife. However, the living God in him does not want to quarrel. Therefore, the brother does not proceed to argue with his wife. In this way he serves a God who is living, a God who not only lives in him, but who also lives with him. By this illustration we see that the living God is living not only objectively but also

subjectively. We should be able to testify that the God we are serving today is living within us. We need subjective testimonies concerning the living God in our daily life. For instance, a sister may testify of how she was tempted to look at her husband in a very unpleasant way. But because the living God in her did not agree, she did not show such an unpleasant expression toward her husband. This proves that her God is living and that He is living within her. An idol does not interfere with anyone who is about to lose his temper. But the God whom we serve is living, and He inwardly adjusts us and corrects us.

F U N B I B L E F A C T S

1. The shortest verse in the bible is John 11:35.
2. Even though you can get the Bible for free did you know the Bible is the worlds most shoplifted book?
3. The Bible has more sold copies than any other book in history.
4. There are over 2000 prophecies in the bible that have already been fulfilled.
5. There are approximately 2500 prophecies in the Bible.

WORSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH: DID YOU KNOW?



Early church love feast

THE FIRST PART of an early Christian worship assembly was open to all, including strangers, who might be converted by the preaching. The second part of the service involved the Lord's Supper, which only the baptized were allowed to partake, so the unbaptized departed then.

By the early 200s, baptism often included renouncing Satan and all his works, making a statement of faith, being baptized (naked) in water, being clothed in a white robe, receiving anointing with oil, and immediately celebrating the Lord's Supper.

Christians prepared for Easter, the festival of the Resurrection, by fasting. At first, the fasting lasted one day; later it was extended to 40 hours, to symbolize the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and praying in the wilderness.

Sunday, the "little Easter," was also a festival of joy. To prepare for it, many Christians fasted on Wednesday and Friday.

Repentance was an involved process in the early church. Sin was seen not as a personal matter but as something that destroyed the unity of the church.

Penitents fasted and prayed for the forgiveness of their sins, appeared before the church to make public confession, and were barred from the Lord's Supper until they gave evidence of a change of heart and were absolved. (The only exception was for people facing persecution. They were readmitted to the Lord's Supper so they could receive strength.)

In the first century, the Lord's Supper included not only the bread and the cup but an entire meal. As part of the meal, neighbors who had quarreled made peace again.

Early Christians continued to observe the Jewish Passover. But they did not celebrate the Passover in memory of deliverance from Egypt. Instead, they fasted to commemorate the sufferings of Jesus, the true Passover Lamb.

Christians fiercely disagreed over when to celebrate Easter. Believers in Asia (modern Turkey) celebrated Easter, the "Christian Passover," on Passover (the 14th day of the Jewish month of Nisan). Victor, the bishop of Rome from 189 to 198, insisted all churches had to celebrate Easter on a Sunday (the first

Sunday following the 14th of Nisan). Victor threatened to excommunicate those Christians who observed Easter differently, but the Asian custom continued. The Council of Nicaea in 325 finally decreed that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring, the practice today.

In Africa, newly baptized believers were given a drink of milk and honey, symbols of their being children of Christ and citizens in heaven, a land of milk and honey.

The first Christian feast (other than Easter and Pentecost) was a feast in memory of the baptism of Jesus. It was first celebrated on January 6 or sometimes January 10; this became the feast of the Epiphany, which means "manifestation" in Greek. Christmas was not widely celebrated until the late 300s.

When worship was ended, Christians took home the consecrated bread so that those who couldn't attend worship could partake of the Lord's Supper. In North Africa, Christians took home the bread so they could celebrate the sacrament every day with their families. Thus, "Give us today our daily bread" carried a deeper meaning.

A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



Lord, keep my heart open and soft toward You

Lord, keep my heart open and soft toward You.
Lord, draw my eyes to see nothing else but You.

Whatever may happen,
I know You want to gain my heart.
Though I may not understand,
Just keep dispensing into my every part.

Make me a believer
By looking at You.
Standing on Your Word,
Faithful and true.



MARK 6

WEEKLY BIBLE CHAPTER READS

Mk 6:1 And He went out from there and came into His own country, and His disciples followed Him.

Mk 6:2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and many hearing were astounded, saying, Where did this man get these things? And what is this wisdom given to this man, and how is it that such works of power take place through His hands?

Mk 6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us? And they were stumbled because of Him.

Mk 6:4 And Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and among his own relatives and in his own house.

Mk 6:5 And He could not do any work of power there, except to lay His hands upon a few of the sick and heal them.

Mk 6:6 And He marveled because of their unbelief; and He went around the villages in a circuit, teaching.

Mk 6:7 And He called the twelve to Him and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits;

Mk 6:8 And He charged them not to take anything for the journey except only a staff: no bread, no bag, no money in their belt;

Mk 6:9 But to have sandals tied on; and said, Do not put on two tunics.

Mk 6:10 And He said to them, Wherever you enter into a house, there remain until you depart from that place.

Mk 6:11 And whatever place does not receive you nor hear you, as you go out from there, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them.

Mk 6:12 And they went forth and proclaimed that men should repent,

Mk 6:13 And they cast out many demons and anointed many of the sick with oil and healed them.

Mk 6:14 And King Herod heard of it, for His name had become known, and they said, John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and because of this these works of power are operating through him.

Mk 6:15 But others said, He is Elijah; and others said, He is a prophet, like one of the prophets.

Mk 6:16 But Herod, hearing of it, said, He whom I beheaded, John, this one was raised!

Mk 6:17 For Herod himself had sent men and seized John and bound him in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of Philip his brother, because he had married her.

Mk 6:18 For John had been saying to Herod, It is not lawful for you to have the wife of your brother.

Mk 6:19 Thus, Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him and could not,

Mk 6:20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed yet heard him gladly.

Mk 6:21 And an opportune day came, when Herod on his birthday made a banquet for his courtiers and the commanders and the leading men of Galilee.

Mk 6:22 And when the daughter of Herodias herself entered and danced, she pleased Herod and those reclining *at table* with him. The king said to the girl, Ask of me whatever you want, and I will give *it* to you.

Mk 6:23 And he swore to her earnestly, Whatever you ask of me, I will give to you, up to half of my kingdom.

Mk 6:24 And she went out and said to her mother, What should I ask for? And she said, ¹⁰The head of John the baptizer.

Mk 6:25 And coming in immediately with haste to the king, she asked, saying, I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.

Mk 6:26 And the king was very grieved, yet because of the oaths and those reclining at table, he did not want to refuse her.

Mk 6:27 And immediately the king sent a guard and ordered him to bring his head. And he went out and beheaded him in the prison,

Mk 6:28 And brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.

Mk 6:29 And when his disciples heard about it, they came and took his corpse and put it in a tomb.

Mk 6:30 And the apostles gathered together to Jesus and reported to Him all that they did and all that they taught.

Mk 6:31 And He said to them, Come by yourselves privately to a deserted place and rest a while. For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have opportunity to eat.

Mk 6:32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place privately.

Mk 6:33 And many saw them going away and recognized them, and they ran together there on foot from all the cities and got there before them.

Mk 6:34 And getting out, He saw a great crowd, and He was moved with compassion for them because they were like sheep not having a shepherd, and He began to teach them many things.

Mk 6:35 And when the hour had already become late, His disciples came to Him and said, This place is deserted, and the hour is already late;

Mk 6:36 Send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy for themselves something to eat.

Mk 6:37 But He answered and said to them, You give them something to eat. And they said to Him, Shall we go away and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?

Mk 6:38 And He said to them, How many loaves do you have? Go and see. And when they found out, they said, Five, and two fish.

Mk 6:39 And He ordered them to have all recline by companies on the green grass.

Mk 6:40 And they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.

Mk 6:41 And He took the five loaves and the two fish and, looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among all.

Mk 6:42 And they all ate and were satisfied.

Mk 6:43 And they took up twelve full handbaskets of the broken pieces of bread and of the fish.

Mk 6:44 And those who had eaten the loaves were five thousand men.

Mk 6:45 And immediately He compelled His disciples to step into the boat and go before to the other side, toward Bethsaida, while He sent the crowd away.

Mk 6:46 And after He said farewell to them, He went away to the mountain to pray.

Mk 6:47 And when evening fell, the boat was in the midst of the sea and He was alone on the land.

Mk 6:48 And seeing them distressed as they rowed, for the wind was contrary to them, He came toward them about the fourth watch of the night, walking on the sea, and He intended to pass by them.

Mk 6:49 But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost, and they cried out,

Mk 6:50 For they all saw Him and were startled. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid.

Mk 6:51 And He went up unto them into the boat, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly astonished in themselves beyond measure,

Mk 6:52 For they did not understand concerning the loaves, but rather their heart was hardened.

Mk 6:53 And they crossed over to the land and came to Gennesaret and moored there.

Mk 6:54 And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him,

Mk 6:55 And they ran about that whole region and began to carry around on mats those who were ill to any place where they heard that He was.

Mk 6:56 And wherever He entered into villages or into cities or into the countryside, they laid those who were sick in the marketplaces and begged Him that they might touch if even the fringe of His garment; and as many as touched Him were healed.

