



SPIRITUAL DIGEST

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PRAISING
page 3

BEING ESTABLISHED
IN THE SOUL
page 5

BEING THE RACE
(OFFSPRING) OF GOD
VS BEING THE SONS
OF GOD
page 7

WHO WAS BARNABAS
IN THE BIBLE?
page 9

BIBLE CHALLENGE
page12

A landscape photograph featuring rolling green hills in the foreground and middle ground, leading to a hazy horizon. A vibrant rainbow is visible in the sky, arching across the upper portion of the image. The overall scene is bright and serene.

**WE MUST REMEMBER WE
ARE STEWARDS OF WHAT
GOD HAS PROVIDED FOR
US, NOT OWNERS
— JOYCE MEYER**

P R A I S I N G

Acts 16:25 “And about midnight, Paul and Silas, while praying, sang hymns of praise to God; and the prisoners were listening to them

We have to see that praising is the way to overcome spiritual attacks. Many people say that Satan is afraid of the prayers of God's children; he flees whenever God's children kneel down to pray. This is why he often attacks God's children and frustrates them from praying. This is a common attack. But we will point out another fact: Satan's greatest attacks are not aimed at prayers; his greatest attacks are aimed at praise. This does not mean that Satan does not attack prayers. The moment a Christian prays, Satan begins to attack. It is very easy to talk to people, but the moment one prays, Satan comes with problems. He will make one feel that it is hard to pray. This is a fact. But Satan does not attack just prayer; he also attacks the praise of God's children. The ultimate goal of Satan is to stop all praises to God. Prayer i

a warfare, but praise is a victory. Prayer signifies spiritual warfare, but praise signifies spiritual victory. Whenever we praise, Satan flees. Therefore, Satan hates our praising the most. He will use all his strength to stop our praising. God's children are foolish if they stop praising when they suffer under adverse environments and downtrodden feelings. But as they come to know God more, they will find that even a Philippian jail can become a place of songs (Acts 16:25). Paul and Silas were praising God inside the jail cell. Their praise broke loose all the jail doors.

When you pray, you are still in the midst of your situation. But when you praise, you soar above your situation. While you are praying and pleading, you are bound by your affairs; you are not out of them. The more you plead, the more you find yourself bound and pressed. But if God takes you above the jail, the chains, the painful wounds on the body, the suffering, and the shame, you will offer praises to His name. Paul and Silas sang hymns. They sang praises to God. They were brought by God to the point where the jail, the shame, and the pain were no

longer a problem to them. They could praise God. When they praised in such a way, the doors of the jail opened, the chains fell off, and even the jailer was saved.

Many times praise works where prayer fails. This is a very basic principle. If you cannot pray, why not praise? The Lord has placed another item in your hands for your victory and for you to boast in victory.

Whenever you run out of strength to pray and you find your spirit heavily oppressed, wounded, or sagging, praise Him. If you cannot pray, try to praise. We invariably think that we should pray when the burden is heavy and praise when the burden is over. But please bear in mind that there are times when the burden is so heavy that you cannot pray. That is the time for you to praise. We do not praise when there is no burden; we praise when the burden becomes too heavy. When you encounter unusual circumstances and problems and are bewildered and feel like collapsing, just remember one thing, "Why not praise?" Here is a golden opportunity. If you offer your praise at that moment, God's Spirit will operate in you, open all the doors, and break all the chains.

Praising, WNee



BEING ESTABLISHED IN THE SOUL

Acts 14:22

Establishing the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith and saying that through many tribulations we must enter into the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 3:17

That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

The focus of Acts 14:22 is a concern for the disciples to be established in their souls. Although we should always take care of our spirits, it is also important to take care of our souls. Man's soul is composed of man's mind, emotion, and will. To establish the souls of the disciples is to establish them in their mind, that they may know and understand the Lord and the things concerning Him (1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 3:10); in their emotion, that they may love the Lord and have a heart for the Lord's interest (Mark 12:30; Rom. 16:4); and in their will, that they may be strong to remain with the Lord

and do the things that please the Lord (Acts 11:23; Col. 1:10; 1 Thes. 4:1). Therefore, to establish the souls of the disciples is to establish them in their mind, emotion, and will.

To be established in our soul, we also need to be transformed in our soul. How can we be transformed? This matter has much to do with our heart which includes all the parts of the soul—the mind, emotion, and will (Matt. 9:4; John 16:22, 6; Heb. 4:12)—plus the conscience (10:22; 1 John 3:20). Christ has to make His home in our hearts.

Ephesians 3:17 speaks of Christ making home in our hearts. Is your heart Christ's home? Does Christ really make His home in your heart? Do you love the Lord so that you offer your heart to Him to let Him occupy it fully? In other words, do you let the Lord into your every thought, motivation, and action?

Transformation can take place only when Christ occupies our heart as a home. We have to love Christ with our whole heart,

offer our heart to Him, and let Him take over our whole heart so that He may dwell in it. We should tell Him, "Lord, here is my heart. Come and occupy it fully. Come to make home in my heart."

(The Practical Way to Live in the Mingling of God with Man, Chapter 4, Section 1) (Life-Study of Acts, Chapter 40, Section 1)

BEING THE RACE (OFFSPRING) OF GOD VS BEING THE SONS OF GOD

Acts 17:28 For in Him we live and move and are, as even some poets among you have said, For we are also His race (offspring).

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,

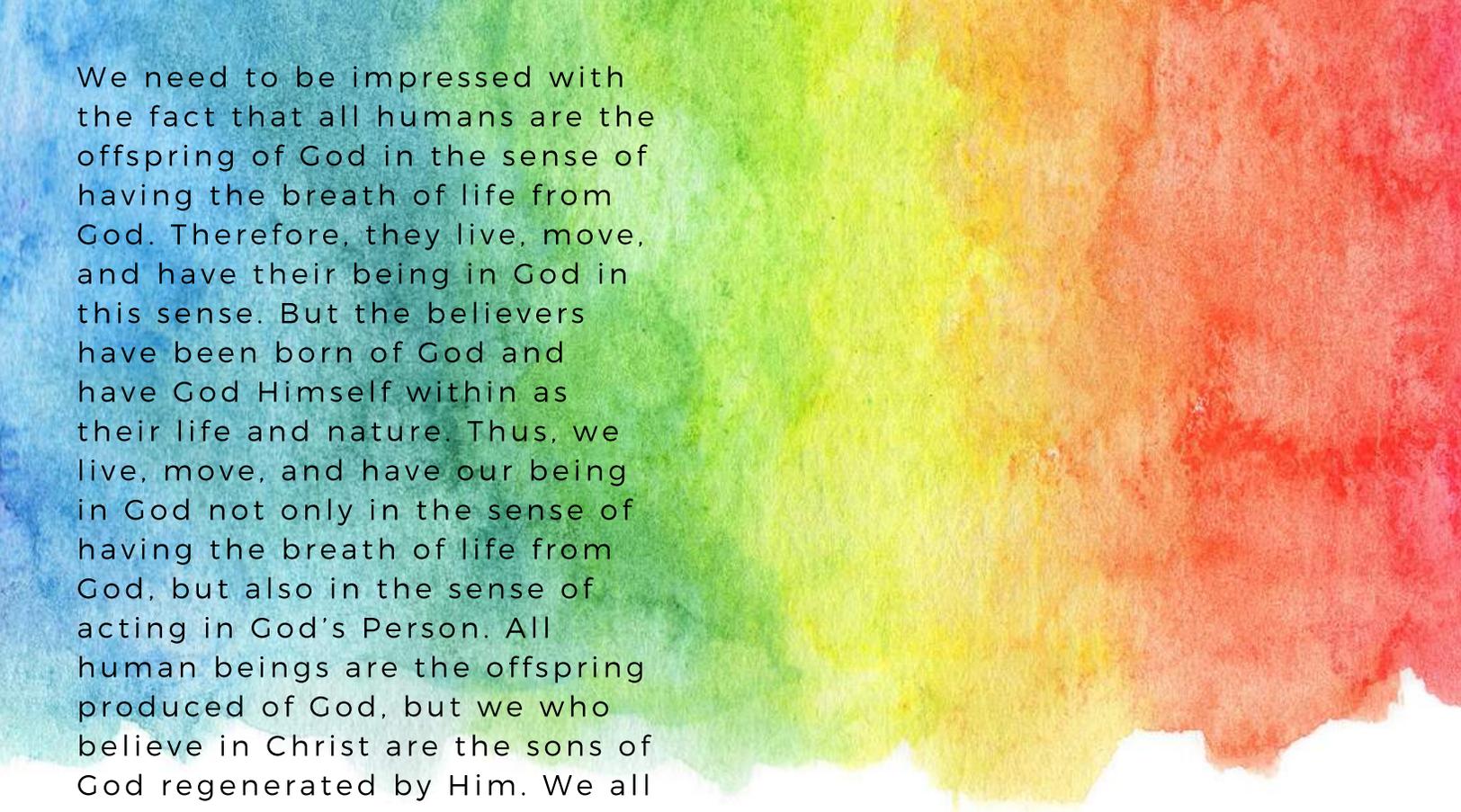
According to the Bible, God created man. As the Creator, God is the source of man.

Genesis

2:7 says, "The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." First God used the dust to form man's physical body, and then He breathed into that body the breath of life, which caused the body to become alive. As a result, man became a living soul. Here in Genesis 2:7 there is the strong indication that human life came from God. In this sense man was not only created by God but also produced by God. We are not told in the Scriptures that God

breathed the breath of life into animals. Only in creating man did He breathe into man the breath of life. Proverbs 20:27 uses for "spirit" the same Hebrew word rendered "breath" in Genesis 2:7. This reveals that the breath of life breathed into man by God is the element of man's spirit. Actually, this breath of life became man's spirit. The point we are emphasizing here is that the Bible indicates clearly that man was produced by God. We do not say that in creation man was born of God, but we do say confidently that man was produced by Him. God formed man's body, breathed into man the breath of life, and man became a living soul. In this way man was produced by God, and in this sense man is God's race, God's offspring.

The Bible also reveals that when we repent and believe in the Lord Jesus, we are born of God. To be produced of God is one thing; to be born of God is another thing. All human beings are the offspring of God in the sense of having been produced of God. But the believers are the sons of God in the sense of having been born of Him. There is no indication in the Bible that the offspring of God, the human beings produced of God, have the divine life with the divine nature. But the New Testament says that the



We need to be impressed with the fact that all humans are the offspring of God in the sense of having the breath of life from God. Therefore, they live, move, and have their being in God in this sense. But the believers have been born of God and have God Himself within as their life and nature. Thus, we live, move, and have our being in God not only in the sense of having the breath of life from God, but also in the sense of acting in God's Person. All human beings are the offspring produced of God, but we who believe in Christ are the sons of God regenerated by Him. We all need to be very clear concerning this distinction between the offspring of God and the sons of God.

References:

*Life-Study of Acts, Chapter 47,
Section 3*

WHO WAS BARNABAS?

In the book of Acts, we find a Levite from Cyprus named Joses (Acts 4:36), whom the apostles called Barnabas. That nickname, translated “Son of Encouragement” (Acts 4:36-37) or “Son of Exhortation” was probably given to him because of his inclination to serve others (Acts 4:36-37, 9:27) and his willingness to do whatever church leaders needed (Acts 11:25-30). He is referred to as a “good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith.” Through his ministry, “a great number of people were brought to the Lord” (Acts 11:24). Paul uses Barnabas as an example of one with a proper perspective on money and property. When he sold his land, he brought the proceeds to the apostles and laid it at their feet (Acts 4:36-37).

As the early church began to grow, in spite of Herod’s persecution, Barnabas was called by the Holy Spirit to go with Paul on a missionary

journey. Barnabas’ cousin, John Mark, served him and Paul as their assistant (Acts 13:5). During that first missions trip, for an unspecified reason, John Mark left them and did not complete the journey (Acts 13:13). However, Barnabas continued with Paul and was with him when Paul’s ministry was redirected to reaching the Gentiles with the gospel (Acts 13:42-52). The only negative mention of Barnabas in Scripture is in reference to an incident in which Peter’s hypocrisy influenced other Jews (including Barnabas) to shun some Gentiles at dinner (Galatians 2:13).

After that first trip, Paul and Barnabas began planning their next journey. Barnabas wanted to take his cousin, but Paul refused, and a rift grew between them to the point that they parted company (Acts 15:36-41). Barnabas, true to his nickname, took John Mark and spent time discipling him. That ministry was so effective that, years later, Paul specifically asked for John Mark to come to him, as Mark had matured to the point of becoming helpful to Paul in his ministry (2 Timothy 4:11).

Like Barnabas, as Christians 9

we are called to be encouragers, particularly of those who are weak in the faith or struggling. Acts 11:23 depicts Barnabas as a man who was delighted to see others exhibiting the grace of God in their lives, exhorting and encouraging them to remain faithful. In the same way, we should look for opportunities to praise those who bring glory and honor to God through lives that reflect their faith. In addition, Barnabas is an example of a generous spirit when it comes to giving sacrificially to the work of the Lord.



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



I HAVE AN EXCUSE!

1

I have an excuse to praise my God and Father,
I have an excuse to give thanks to my Lord.
I have an excuse to give glory to my God,
Because I know that He is and He's on the throne. Praise the
Lord! Praise the Lord!
I will bless the God and Father
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Of my Lord Jesus Christ
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
I will praise while I have breath
Because I know that He is and I have breath now.

2

I have an excuse to praise my God and Father,
I have an excuse to give thanks to my Lord.
I have an excuse to give glory to my God,
Because I know that He is and He's on the throne. Hallelujah!
Praise You God and Father!
Hallelujah!
Praise You Lord Jesus Christ!
Hallelujah!
I will praise while I have breath
Because I know that He is and He loves me so.

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK ONE (5/30-6/4)

MONDAY: ACTS 12

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_12.htm#Act12

TUESDAY: ACTS 13

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_13.htm#Act13

WEDNESDAY: ACTS 14

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_14.htm#Act14

THURSDAY: ACTS 15

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_15.htm#Act15

FRIDAY: ACTS 16

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_16.htm#Act16

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK TWO (6/5-6/11)

MONDAY: ACTS 17

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_17.htm#Act17

TUESDAY: ACTS 18

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_18.htm#Act18

WEDNESDAY: ACTS 19

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_19.htm#Act19

THURSDAY: ACTS 20

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_20.htm#Act20

FRIDAY: ACTS 21

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/44_Acts_21.htm#Act21