

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



Blessed Be the Name

Hymn 352



It Is Well

Hymn 495



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Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



Praise and Prayer Request

All Prayer request can be e-mail to:

plbiblechurch@gmail.com

***We would love to pray for God's will to be done
your life and for His Name to be glorified in and
through you, as you seek His Holy Face!***

An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text 'Call to Worship' is centered over the pages in a large, bold, black font.

Call to Worship

Psalm 27:1-5

Psalm 27:1-5 Of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Hymn 616



Be Thou My Vision

Hymn 468



Receiving of the Offering



2 Corinthians 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Receiving of the Offering



**An offering for the Church can be mailed to:
Promise Land Bible Church
PO Box 1437
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

Famous Quote:

“Receive every inward and outward trouble, every disappointment, pain, uneasiness, temptation, darkness and desolation with both hands, as to a true opportunity and blessed occasion of dying to self and entering into a fuller fellowship with thy self-denying, suffering Savior.”

JOHN WESLEY



Today's Message

“Call to Persevere, Part 2”

Scripture text: Jude 1:17-25

A Call to Persevere!

In this closing paragraph, Jude addressed his beloved readers and gave them four instructions to follow if they would stand firm and resist the apostates.

**Remember God's Word, Build Your Christian Life,
Exercise Spiritual Discernment, Surrender Your Life
to Jesus Christ**

Remember God's Word (Jude 17–19)

Remember who gave the Word (v. 17).

Remember what they said (v. 18).

Remember why they said it (v. 19).

It takes the Spirit of God to minister to our spirits and to make us more like Jesus Christ.

Build Your Christian Life (Jude 20–21)

The Christian life must never stand still; if it does, it will go backward. A house left to itself falls apart. The apostates are in the business of tearing down, but **each Christian must be involved in building up**—first, his own spiritual life and then his local assembly.

The foundation for our Christian life is our “most holy faith” (Jude 20), which is the same as **“the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”** (Jude 3).

There is a sense, of course, in which our faith in Jesus Christ is the basis for our growth, but even that faith depends on what God has revealed to us in His Word. Subjective faith depends on objective revelation of truth.

The Word of God is certainly central in spiritual growth. *I have yet to meet a strong, fruitful Christian who ignores his Bible.*

We must daily spend devotional time in the Word, seeking the mind of God. We must also study the Word regularly, in a disciplined way, so that we better understand what it teaches.

The gifted Chinese preacher, Watchman Nee, used to read through the New Testament once a month. This becomes apparent when you read his books, for you are struck with his wonderful insights into God's Word. The members of the Chinese church used to have a saying, "**No Bible—no breakfast!**" If we followed that motto in America, I wonder how many Christians would go hungry.

The power for building the Christian life comes from prayer: "**praying in the Holy Spirit**" (Jude 20). **The Word of God and prayer go together in spiritual growth.**

If all we do is read and study the Bible, we will have a great deal of light, **but not much power**. However, if we concentrate on prayer and ignore the Bible, **we may be guilty of zeal without knowledge**. We read the Word to grow in faith (Rom. 10:17), **then we use that faith to ask God for what we need and what His Word tells us we may have**.

The Word of God and prayer certainly go together (Acts 6:4). **Evangelist Billy Sunday used to give his converts three rules for success in the Christian life. Each day they were to read the Bible and let God talk to them. They were to pray; in other words, they were to talk to God.**

And they were **to witness** and **talk to others about God**. It would be difficult to improve on those rules.

What does it mean to “pray in the Holy Spirit”? (Note the contrast with Jude 19—“having not the Spirit.”) It means **to pray according to the leading of the Spirit**. It has well been said, “Prayer is not getting man’s will done in heaven—it is **getting God’s will done on earth**.” This agrees with 1 John 5:14–15.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that **if we ask anything according to his will he hears us**. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, **we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him**.

As Christians, we may pray in solitude (Matt. 6:6), but **we never pray alone**; the Spirit of God joins with us as we pray (Rom. 8:26–28) because He knows the mind of God and can direct us. **He can give us wisdom and knowledge from the Word** (Eph. 1:15ff). He can also help us approach the Father through the access we have in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:18). **We worship God “in the Spirit”** (Phil. 3:3), and **the Spirit motivates us to pray**, for He is **“the Spirit of grace and of supplications”** (Zech. 12:10).

When the believer is yielded to the Spirit, **then the Spirit will assist him in his prayer life, and God will answer prayer.**

This “**building process**” in the Christian life **involves the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and prayer**. But these things, as precious as they are, can become somewhat routine; so Jude added another factor: **abiding in God’s love** (Jude 21).

He did not write, “Keep yourselves saved!” because he had already assured them that they were “**preserved in Jesus Christ**” (Jude 1). He wrote, “**Keep yourselves in the love of God.**” Our Lord made a similar statement recounted in John 15:9—“Abide in My love.”

To love God means much more than to enjoy a special kind of feeling.

Of course, as we grow in grace, we do experience deeper fellowship with the Father (John 14:21–24), and **we do have times when He seems very near**. The Bible compares this to the love of a husband and wife (Eph. 5:22ff). Any happily married couple can tell you that **love deepens over the years**.

But it takes more than ecstatic feelings to make a successful marriage—or a successful Christian life! There must also **be obedience and mutual concern**.

1 John 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

John 15:10 If you keep my commandments, **you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

We grow in our love for God **as we listen to His Word, obey it, and delight in doing what pleases Him.** That is how we keep ourselves in God's love.

God's love is a holy love; it is not shallow sentiment.

Psalm 97:10 O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; **he delivers** them from the hand of the wicked.

To love God is to love what He loves and hate what He hates! **We please Him by doing those things that He commands.** It is the dedicated, separated Christian who enjoys the deepest fellowship with the Father in the family (2 Cor. 6:14–18).

We build our Christian life on the foundation of faith and **through the motivation of love.** But we also need **hope: “looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”** The **believer’s eyes must be lifted heavenward.**

Titus 2:13 waiting for **our blessed hope,** the appearing of the glory of **our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For **we are the temple of the living God;** as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and **be separate from them,** says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and **you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."**

2Peter 3:12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

The word translated “looking [waiting]” (Jude 21) means “**earnestly expecting.**” It describes **an attitude of life that is motivated by the promise of our Lord’s return.** The apostates can only look for judgment, but **God’s people are looking for mercy.** Not only is our salvation from sin the gift of God’s mercy, but so also is **the deliverance of His church from this evil world.** In His mercy, He will come for us and take us to Himself.

We have already noted that looking for the coming of the Lord is a great encouragement to Christian living. **It makes us want to keep pure** (1 John 3:3) and to **avoid the things of the flesh and the world** (Phil. 3:17–21). **Our hope in Christ is like an anchor** (Heb. 6:19) **that holds us in the storms of life, and like a helmet that protects us in the battles of life** (1 Thes. 5:8).

The three “Christian graces” of faith, hope, and love **enable us to grow in our spiritual walk**. We are able to build on a solid foundation with materials that will not decay.

Mere profession with the lips will not suffice. “Not everyone that saith unto Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).

The Parable of the Two Builders (Matt. 7:24–27) makes it clear that to obey the will of God **means to build on a foundation that cannot fail.**

Exercise Spiritual Discernment (Jude 22–23)

What should be the attitude of the growing Christian toward those who are being influenced by the apostates?

Just A Closer Walk with Thee

Hymn 591

