

Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.
Romans 12:16



Kirkspire

The Monthly Magazine of St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk), Chennai
August 2024

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Editorial Board :

**Usha George
Chitra Bennett**



Word from the Pastor

Battlefield of the Mind

"..casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.." (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Read this passage carefully: 1 Samuel 26:6-8

Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother of Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?"

And Abishai said, "I will go down with you." So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him. Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

David called Abishai to accompany him to go to the Camp where Saul was. David did not have any intention to harm Saul. However, Abishai harboured hatred and malice in his heart, to the point that he instigated David to go and kill Saul. Sometimes, satan will use people who are with us to disturb our values, distract us from our vision and become major stumbling blocks from achieving victory. In a nutshell, beware of Abishai.

Robust mind will think carefully - We cannot avoid the voices that speak loudly into our thinking but we should spend time with God so that He shapes our thoughts, thought processes and ultimately, our decisions. David spent time with God so much that he was able to

conquer not only the enemies who stood in front of him physically but also the darts flung at his mind.

Robust mind will filter efficiently - David took Abishai with him but filtered his words with God's strength to the point that he did not become a victim to Abishai's evil counsel but shunned evil with godliness. There's no point blaming others for the pressure placed on us. Choices have consequences and we have to filter what is right and wrong.

Robust mind will discern correctly - David was a winner on that day when he kept himself from killing Saul. The consequence of that act of self-control enabled him to walk in right standing with God and was hailed as a righteous king when he took the throne later without the blood of Saul on his hands. Our short-term choices will have long-term repercussions.

While we pray so much for physical strength and healing for our bodies, it is all the more imperative to pray for a robust mind that will make us be more than conquerors in Christ. Jesus.

Have a blessed month

Rev. Isaac Emmanuel Johnson

The Christian must see that bad habits are ultimately spiritual issues.

Erwin W. Lutzer



The Economy of Words

The words of Job are ended. Job 31:40

The sound of silence is beautiful.
It soothes and recreates an atmosphere
of stillness in a chaotic world.
It heightens the senses and
enlarges the heart to perceive.
A necessity for any form of learning to occur.

Classrooms thrive on a teacher's instruction.
It is unheard of to let a pupil
routinely lecture her teacher.
If that happens chaos prevails.
A good student not only attends classes but
continues her schoolwork at home.
To expect results without doing so is futile.

And yet Father
I do the same with you.
My prayers are a litany of opinions and suggestions.
Often repetitive,
bordering on the neurotic
I nag and beg instead of asking and trusting.
Expecting results without working
out Your instructions into everyday living
I doubt the power of prayer.

Then in my eagerness to impart counsel
I fail to listen with patient empathy.
Using words to manipulate and justify,
I flood the silence with noise.
Forgive me.

Teach me gentle Spirit
to not use words as weapons.
Let them be few and full of life.
Like Yours.

I am glad that You are my God for
You waited a long time (in fact 37 chapters)
before You spoke to Job.
(Would You have spoken earlier
if the words were fewer? I wonder.)

And patiently You wait for me too.
Without interruptions,
in loving gentleness-
To unburden my heart and mind.
For when my words end
You begin to speak
with beauty, clarity and power.

If the economy of words
aids this process
may I practice it every day.
All day long.

Dr. Susan Rajkumari

All we can do is nothing worth
Unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
Till God gives life to the seed.

Arthur C. Ainger

KNOW YOUR LAW

The Latin legal phrase 'actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea' means "an act does not make a person guilty unless his mind is also guilty," represents a fundamental principle in criminal law. This principle safeguards individuals from being unjustly convicted for acts committed without criminal intent.

The exceptions to this rule are found in Sections 76 to 106 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Some examples of exceptions (lack of Mens Rea) are: 'Accident' (Section 80 IPC), 'Unsoundness of Mind' (Section 84 IPC), 'Act causing slight harm' (Section 95), Act done by a person justified, or by mistake of fact believing himself, justified, by law (Section 79).

"Nothing is an offence which is done by a child under 7 years of age" (Section 80). This means that no child below the age of 7 can be held legally responsible for any criminal act- Absolute Immunity. The age of criminal responsibility is raised to 12 years.

Act done in good faith for benefit of child or insane person, by or by consent of guardian (Section 89).

Jesus when speaking of Adultery said that a person need not commit the 'act' of adultery but by his mere looking lustfully at a woman (intention) has already committed the act in his heart. Jesus in effect made the very 'Mens Rea' – intention - a sin.

Joshua Chelliah

(The above article is not an exhaustive treatise on the subject.)

The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart.

Psalm 34:18

THE PATHWAY OF MY LORD

The pathway of my Lord is dusty, narrow and winding;
But the spirit here is free, formidable and spellbinding!
"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" is my Lord's decree;
And, "If you know the truth, the truth shall set you free".

"What is truth?" asked casually the Roman Governor Pilate,
But when he might've got the answer it was simply too late!
Hence, now I swerve to the narrow humble path of my Lord;
For I've driven long far too long on the roads, wide 'n broad.

I've travelled so far much too much on all expressways,
I have focused all these days on only what really pays;
But I shall trudge hereafter the fields of thorns and thistles,
Absorbing sounds of wild and welcoming birds' whistles.

I've driven for years in comfort being sure of destinations,
I'd set my goal on success and medals, their publications;
My audiences were ambitious, hungry and often agonized,
My voice was suave, articulate, appropriately galvanized.

Now I free myself from round n round of the worldly wheel,
And set my hand steady on ploughshare's pressing steel;
The pathway of my Lord is dusty, narrow and winding;
But the spirit here is free, formidable and spellbinding!

BV Selvaraj

"The devil's snare does not catch you, unless you are first
caught by the devil's bait."

Ambrose of Milan

Quizzzzz

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Col 3:16

Oh there goes the announcement for this year's Bible quiz.

Well, that's ok.

I am NOT going to write this year.

Yes, I have done earlier. I have done quite well, enough- I am not going to take it up this year.

I need my mind to chill.

I have my work which takes up most of my waking hours.

I can just do my daily scripture reading.

I regularly take more than a year to complete the Bible ... so this year, I'll concentrate on

finishing the Word in a year. That's it. I have made my decision. I am not writing the bible quiz.

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest

of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Heb 12:11

Oh, there goes the announcement for the quiz again

Hey hey, wait a minute.!!!

How can I forget all that happens when I write the quiz????

The longing that comes in my heart for God's word.

As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God 42:1

A whole month goes in reading one or two books ...yes! Oh, but it is so worth it.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

Reading the word once is like a survey and as I read it again and again it becomes clearer.

The study of it in-depth gives me an understanding that I have NEVER EVER had.

The power of the Holy Spirit brings an understanding of the scriptures and together with it joy.
Each day with prayer I start hoping to read at least a few chapters ...but that never happens
..Easy said than done. I just manage to read a few verses, maybe a chapter here and then another one. Only a few weeks to go then the pace is quickened.
Preparing for it is one thing...
Writing the exam, the trepidation, the curious nature of how the paper would be, will
I be ready for the challenge, etc. totally adds to the excitement.
Wow! The day is come ... lovingly as I look at each question I'm satisfied that they are familiar.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil 4:13
I could not stop writing. Turning the pages back and fro I write down every answer and joyfully walk out praising my Saviour who makes All things possible.

I am always amazed at how He guides Roselin Johnson the QUIZMASTER who untiringly sets a very interesting Q paper. Well, I know it is only His grace.
What a blessing! I see more people participating each year, especially the tiny tots, kids, and the younger generation.
Yes, receiving a prize makes you happy, but knowing that particular book much more makes it more satisfying and joyful.
The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. Ps 119:130
I'm blessed to study and participate in the Kirk Bible Quiz. KBQ

Dr. Anita Chelliah

"All there is of God is available to the man who is available to all there is of God".

Major Ian Thomas

Now or Never – What's Your Decision?

- S Annette Beryl Elizabeth

The 27th of July saw no end to the night as the Kirk Youth Fellowship worked relentlessly at preparing themselves and the sanctuary to glorify God. 28th July began with the introduction of the theme for the year – Now or Never, based on Mark 1:15. The Kirk Youth Fellowship internalized this verse, making it their goal to emphasize the importance of timely repentance and rebuilding themselves for the Kingdom of God.

The day began at 7 AM for the youth as they led worship and the pleasant morning was filled with God's presence. Their energy, zeal and passion to praise God was brought to the congregation through their leading worship for all 3 services and special songs. The word of God was brought by Rev. Christian Benjamin, who also ministered to the congregation at the 9 AM service. Dr Christina Ambrose, the director of KYF, brought God's word at the 6 PM service.

Following this, the Youth presented a skit showcasing a family that was manipulated by the devil but were met by God's saving grace. The skit goes on to show how the family falls prey to the devil and moves away from God; and if they decide to follow Jesus when He knocks on their door. The devil attacks every family member in a rather interesting way - through a pill that heightened a negative characteristic trait, leading to the downfall of the character. The loss of a child brought to light the dire need of saving for the family. However, when presented with the option of saving through God, only the father was able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The skit brought out the importance of choosing; to choose right from wrong, choosing to change your life and trust in Him, raising the question of what everyone's decision is - it's now or never to make the right decision.

It wasn't just the service that was in line with their theme, the decorations that adorned the sanctuary were one of a kind too. There were vintage looking clocks hanging from the wooden columns between the pews that showed 11 o'clock, signifying the 11th hour and that it isn't too late. It indeed isn't too late – the good news is out, the ball is now in our court to choose to repent and rebuild our lives in Christ.

The report for the year that was presented by the KYF committee and the year that is to be presented by Emmanuel Paul, the secretary. Highlights of the same are exciting events like the Annual Youth Camp, Christmas events and Thanksgiving following shortly.

If we learn anything from the world around us today, it is the heightened need to stand firm and workout our faith every day. Our youth need more prayers now than ever to not be swayed by the patterns of this world but to be rooted in Christ. The Kirk Youth Fellowship brought to light exactly this through their services. Regardless of age, everyone has a very important decision to make - to choose Christ or the world, to choose eternal saving or eternal damnation.

Let us choose to repent and rebuild our lives through Christ Jesus. After all, it's now or never!

My ready tongue makes haste to sing the glories of my heavenly King.

Charles Wesley

"A Celebration of Giving: Kirk Project Karnival 2024"

As the congregation used their time, talent and treasures to raise funds for projects and ministries of the Church, God answered prayers for a rain free Kirk Project Karnival Sunday on the 14th of July.

It was a packed session with well above the usual participation. However the slightly expanded layout that stretched well into the quadrangle helped all breath easy.

The yummy delicacies, live kitchen, handiwork and other merchandise highlighted weeks of hard work, sacrifice, prayers and passion to give for God's work and glory. "It's a great giving church" said Shantha Gabriel. "It's just not about selling. It's about warmth, fellowship as encouraging one another" added Chitra Bennett

Showcasing products largely made by volunteers and communities the ministries serve, the stalls by the projects also quietly told their story - their work on the campus and with communities outside, reaching the unreached and touching lives of children, youth, elderly and the differently abled, through prayers, education, health care, counselling, women empowerment and livelihood opportunities among others.

Nalini Manuel who heads Asha Project said "We train differently abled and Autistic special children and try to make them independent". Jenny said "We as Women's Fellowship pray for the Church and country. We also help teen age girls with their health issues. David Appasamy added "The Men's Fellowship mentors men in their spiritual growth and maturity to become obedient disciples of Christ, so they would be like high priests at home".

It was an eye opener for many; an open calling and a nudge for others to join hands to serve the Lord through outreach. "I am touched by the outreach ministries. It's difficult. Soon I want to be part of one", shared Vijay Kumar. Rebecca Benjamin said "Already I am part of AKDC. After retirement I want to do more".

Possibilities are plenty for the willing - be it teachers doctors, techies, writers or just anyone. "We need Doctors for the Healing Ministry,

for camps at the outreach centers" said Dr Vimala. "We don't get Doctors. We can uplift lives of these communities with our Lord's help", said Dr Mohan.

The individual markets stretch, showcased the passion among individuals and families to contribute to God's work through their talent and creativity. The enthusiasm of super seniors - Rani Williams who sold her handiwork, Samuel who had brought plants potted through the year, Abraham Mani's collection of signature leather goods or the stall by school going Nathan inspired many. For Daisy James who launched her branded hair oil at the Karnival, "It's all about tithing my goods, time and money". Dr Anita Chelliah added "Through my paintings I am able to multiply the returns and give more for God's work than making a donation".

Families from congregations at Perumbakkam, Gypsy Colony and Thiruppalaivanam too testified God's work amid them.

For some even distance wasn't a dampener. A family from Bengaluru had shipped a consignment of the Orange Squash they make.

Amul Raj's football juggling, a first for the Kirk Karnival was a crowd puller. His story of using this talent to share God's love touched many.

While talented singers ministered amid myriad transactions, one of them said "We prayerfully wait and choose our songs God guides".

Vidya Reddy a well known activist who lives closer to the Church enjoyed the fellowship and the food. She suggests "The Church could also consider introducing the subject of personal safety during VBS classes".

Speaking about the larger connect with the city, Rev Isaac Johnson, Presbyterian said "A sale like this is where the congregation and the larger city get to know what's happening in the life and ministries of the Church. Every time its growing. This means people are believing and seeing the vision". D. Shanthakumar, Secretary of the Kirk Session added "We identify the needs, look at the gap and see how we can pitch in".

The Karnival was yet another opportunity for the Church to work in one accord for God's glory. It's our prayer God would guide many of us for an active role in the Kirk projects and outreach ministries.

J Sam Daniel Stalin



Produce from the Kirk Garden



Asha Ministry Stall



Dr Bharath and Ajay Rao at the Live Kitchen by Kirk Men's Fellowship.



A team from the Kirk Women's Fellowship at one of their stalls.



The congregation from the Perumbakkam Church at their stall.



A team from the Kirk Garden Committee at their stall.

Children's Corner

God is our Creator

A drawing by Rachel Melissa Davids Class 7- Kirk Sunday School



Answers to Fruit of the Spirit – Puzzle - July'24

1.Love 2.Joy 3.Peace 4.Patience 5.Kindness 6.Goodness 7.Faithfulness
8.Gentleness 9.Self-control

August Bible Quiz on Genesis 1-7 for Children below 15

- 1.Where did God make a firmament/vault?
2. What was there along with the cherubim to guard the Garden of Eden?
- 3.How many years did Enoch walk with God after he begot Methuselah?
4. Who were the three sons of Noah?
5. How many doors and decks did Noah's ark have?

Source: www.biblequiz.co.in

Send in your answers to thekirk.chennai@gmail.com before August 10th

Dolly Shanthakumar

Bible Quiz No. 150–August2024

Editor's note: By His grace we have reached the 150th Bible Quiz in Kirkspire. We thank Thee, Lord, that Thou has led us this far and pray that Thou will lead us on.



An Entomologist's Quiz

Please give a Bible reference, where applicable (KJV).

1. Which **reptile** and which **insect** is most often mentioned in the Bible ?
2. What insects are mentioned in stories of
 - a. David and Saul
 - b. John the Baptist
3. Can you name at least two kinds of **worms** mentioned in the Bible?
4. What modern colloquial expression (containing the name of an insect) is used to express contempt for a person who fusses over tiny matters, but accepts great ones? *Hint: 'Straining out a _____, and swallowing a _____'*
5. According to Ecclesiastes, what causes *'the ointment of the apothecary to stink'* ?
6. How many names given to **snakes** in the Bible can you recall ?
7. Which of these insects is **not** mentioned in the Bible ?

Wasp / Bee / Mosquito / Hornet

8. In which Proverb does Solomon use an insect as an example of industry ?
9. Is this quotation from the Bible : **'Even a worm will turn when trod upon'** ?
10. What brazen image did Moses once set up in the wilderness ?

Taken from *A Bible Quiz Book* by May C. Smith

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email admin@thekirk.in by 23rd August 2024.

Usha George

**Answers to Bible Quiz No. 149 –
July 2024**

A Fireman's Quiz

1. Sodom and Gomorra. Genesis 19:24
2. To his father, Abraham. Genesis 22:7
3. Moses. Exodus 3:2
4. Samson. Judges 15:5
5. *'There the fire goeth out'*. Proverbs 26:20
6. Malachi. Malachi 3:2
7. John the Baptist. Matthew 3:11
8. At Pentecost. Acts 2:3
9. Tongue. James 3:6
10. Elijah's. 1 Kings 18:38

The winners are:

1. Mrs. Suguna Joseph
2. Mrs. Indra Rajanayakam
3. Mrs. Victoria Basker
4. Mrs. Sabrina Siga
5. Mrs. Gloria Jawahar
6. Mrs. Angeline Reagan
7. Mrs. Gladys Vedavimali
8. Mrs. Minnie Devadoss
9. Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar
10. Dr. Elizabeth Sujata Prasad
11. Mrs. Leela Coil pillai
12. Mrs. Elizabeth Jayaraj
13. Mrs. Patricia Patrick
14. Ms. Praise ye.K.

Hearty Congratulations!

Desperate for You

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; Psalm 63:1

David in the wilderness of Judah strangely dwells not in his distressful situation in the desert but his thirsting soul overflows with thanksgiving and a longing for a fresh renewal of glorious association with God.

Do we witness this fervour for God in us and in the world around us?

Our Creator has fashioned a flawless universe with trillions of galaxies going around in perfect precision. Closer to our view are the sun, moon and stars: the mountains, valleys and rivers. We are blessed with the richness of flora and fauna around us. May we have eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that humbly acknowledge the supremacy of our God.

“... The Lord of years,
The Potentate of Time.
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.” – Matthew Bridges

Yes, brilliant minds are making significant strides in the world of science. Cures for previously incurable diseases are being discovered. Frontiers of knowledge are being initiated to gain some information of limitless space. In sheer self-exultation they declare that “God does not exist!”

Humbly may we assess ourselves! Are we truly basking and exulting in the joys of Christ? Or are we sadly getting woven into the secular world – chasing and craving for the ‘gods’ of power, popularity, position, and possessions? Do we crave for a good ‘Report Card’ on these achievements? A sparkling gem from Mark 8:36 comes to mind: “For what shall profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

Many of us are quite content to be born into Christian homes and settle into the way of life expected. Are we truly ALIVE in our relationship with our God? Do 'we also joy in God' (Romans 5:11)?

Not to be desperate for our God is a blow on the face of God. It is not just a breaking of the cold law but the breaking of the heart of God.

Let us also not forget that God loves all His children on earth. He would be grieved to lose even one of His sheep.

As we travel down the miles of life, may we never forget that we are on a noble mission for our Master. When there is only one Gateway to Heaven, ought we not to be desperate to share this sublime life-saving divine truth with our neighbours? We have to keep 'rowing' in His service. We have to keep sowing 'the seed'. May we hear our Master's call, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few" (Matthew 9:39). Let us desperately serve Him with zeal, meekness, humility and love.

Our hearts should sing and dance –

"I'll tell the world that I'm a Christian
I'm not ashamed His name to bear
I'll tell the world that I'm a Christian
I'll take Him with me anywhere" – Words by Baynard L. Fox

Let our trumpet call be 'Receive Christ!'

Our prayer is that each dear heart sings out:

"I need Thee, Oh, I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee:
O, bless me now, my Saviour!
I come to Thee."

Usha George

Oh Lord, our fathers put spears into our hands and taught us to use them. But You have put the Book of Life into our hands; teach us to use it.

Prayer from Zaire

Know Your Hymn Shine Jesus Shine



Shine, Jesus, Shine is a modern hymn written by Graham Kendrick in 1987 and is sung in churches all over the world. Graham Kendrick (born 2 August 1950) is British Christian singer, songwriter and worship leader. Son of a Baptist pastor he was initially trained as a teacher, and began his career in 1972 releasing his first album. Graham Kendrick has written and recorded over 450 songs, many of which are sung around the world, including Shine Jesus Shine, Knowing You, The Servant King and Amazing Love.

Thinking of God's holiness, His desire for us to live continually in His presence, the longing for revival in churches and a spiritual awakening in the nation prompted Graham to pen this song. He had written three verses which were sung in his church, as he felt the song needed something more he kept it aside. Several months later he took up this song for a conference song book submission and realized it needed a chorus.

The line 'Shine, Jesus, shine' came to mind and with excitement he finished it really quick.

In an interview Graham shares his thoughts about this revival song "This song is a prayer for revival. A songwriter can give people words to voice something which is already in their hearts but which they don't have the words or the tune to express, and I think 'Shine Jesus shine' caught a moment when people were beginning to believe once again that an impact could be made on a whole nation."

"Shine, Jesus, shine" has been a song of hope at many events and was included in The Billy Graham crusade into the largest ever open-air mass in 1995 in Manila.

*Lord the Light or Your Love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus, light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me.*

This is our prayer, O Lord. Light of the World" (John 8:12). As Your light shines on us, O Lord, just as You said, "we will know the truth, and the truth will set us free" (John 8:32).

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory..
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word
Lord, and let there be light.*

This is our petition, O Lord. Heal our nation. "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chr 7:14). Fan into flame the Spirit that is within us, O Lord.

*Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance,
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me. Shine on me.*

O God, You are awesome from Your sanctuary. The God of Israel Himself gives strength and power to the people. Blessed be God! (Ps. 68:35). Those who look to him are radiant (Ps. 34:5).

*As we gaze on Your kindly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me, shine on me*

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2Cor 3:18

May our lives, O Lord, tell your story.

Shine on me, Jesus, shine on me.

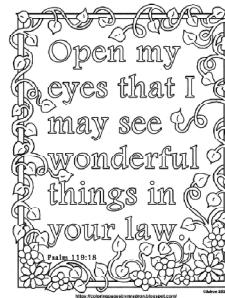
Dr. Anita Chelliah

Take time to peruse through the pages of our Church Hymnal to see all the songs written by Graham Kendrick. Beautiful lyrics and music. How many are there?

Living by the Book: Part 3

Learning how to study the Bible from Dr Howard Hendricks

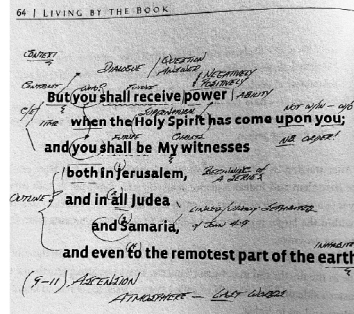
Dr. Hendricks indicates that the first step in Bible study is Observation - asking the question "What do I see?" It is the ability to observe that makes one person a better Bible student than another. Thankfully, observation is a skill that improves with practice.



BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.
ACTS 1:8

Let's start with a verse. We begin by looking for key terms. Even the word 'but' can be a key term (e.g. in Acts 1:8), indicating change of direction, and forcing one to go back to the previous context. The context of a verse is critical to its study.

Key terms also move us to study the people involved (*you, who?*), to examine the action words used (*shall receive*; future tense), to watch for cause-effect relationships (*when the Holy Spirit...; and you shall...; the Holy Spirit's coming will cause particular things to happen*), to define the terms (*My witnesses*), and find the places (*Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria...*). Finally, we are called to relate the verse to the book as a whole. In the same example of Acts 1:8, the pattern Jesus gives them then becomes the pattern for their missional activity seen through Acts. Most importantly, there is no limit to how much we can observe, as we return to a verse or a passage.



Living by the Book (2007) Hendricks HG, Hendricks WD, p.64

The Bible is a book, which needs to be read in order to be understood and appreciated. We need to be able to read - better and faster, as if we are reading for the first time, and treating it like the love letter God has written to us. Hendricks recommends two books - *How to Read a Book* (by Mortimer J Adler) and *How to Read Better and Faster* (by Norman Lewis). Different versions of the Bible help to approach it with fresh perspective. My husband and I have been personally enjoying this approach - we did the *New Living Translation* in one year, and JB Phillips' *New Testament in Modern English* the next, which has been brilliant. The latest *New*

International Version has amazingly accessible cross-references that have brought insight by connecting passages and meaning.

We also need to know what to look for, when we read. Hendricks offers ten strategies.

1	Read thoughtfully	Dig deeper to penetrate the truth of God's Word. Apply the same mental discipline that you would to your subject of special interest.
2	Read repeatedly	"The genius of the Word of God is that it has staying power; it can stand up to repeated exposure." Read books of the Bible at one sitting to understand their cohesiveness. Start at the beginning of the book. Use different translations, or listen to recordings, or read aloud. Set up a schedule to help you finish the books, repeatedly.
3	Read patiently	Be patient with the text and with yourself, if you want to be in it for the long haul. Working with a book for a month, zooming in (paying attention to a particular feature in detail) and out (the big picture) of the text, are techniques that can help.
4	Read selectively	Ask the questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - who are the people in the text? (And what is said about them? And what do they say?) - what is happening? - where is it taking place? - what time is it (taking place, written, in relation to other events)? - why? why? why? - so what? What difference would it make if I applied this truth? And write down your observations
5	Read prayerfully	Prayer is the key to effective Bible study. We learn to pray before, during and after reading the Word. We occupy ourselves with who God is, and our confession and requests flow from that.
6	Read imaginatively	Read it in different translations and paraphrases, rewrite it in your own words, read it in another language, have someone else read it, and vary your setting.
7	Read meditatively	We take time to meditate on it day and night, filling our mind with the truth that God has revealed.
8	Read purposefully	Purposeful reading looks for the aim of the author, through examination of grammatical (verbs, descriptive words, etc) and literary structure (chronological, historical, geographical, etc)
9	Read acquisitively	We read to retain the text. Reading this article in the Kirkspire will not result in life change, if you do not try out some of the tools and techniques you have just read. We have to get involved in the process to make it our own.
10	Read telescopically	This means viewing the parts in the light of the whole. The Bible has an integrated message, so we put our analysed study pieces together again using connectives and context.

- AL



STONES IN THE BODY – II

KIDNEY STONES (RENAL CALCULI)

“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”

Types of kidney stones (Renal Calculi)

Calcium oxalate stone is common and is called as mulberry calculi. It is irregular in shape having sharp projections. It produces blood in the urine very early, resulting in deposition of blood over the stone giving a dark colour to the stone. It is visualised in plain X-ray abdomen (KUB).

Phosphate stone is smooth and round, dirty white-to-yellow in colour. This produces recurrent urinary tract infection and blood in the urine and slowly damages the renal parenchyma (Tissue).

Uric acid stones are multiple, small, hexagonal, faceted, and yellow coloured. Pure uric acid stones cannot be seen in X-ray.

Cystine calculus, cystinuria is not an inborn error of metabolism but occurs in young girls at puberty due to decreased resorption of cystine from the renal tubules. Stones are soft like beeswax, pink or yellow and radio-opaque due to sulphur content.

Clinical features

Back pain, dull aching to pricking type of pain in the back, pain on pressure, tenderness at renal angle. When the stone is anywhere in the ureter, it results in severe colicky pain originating at the loin and radiating to the groin and medial side of the thigh. Blood in the urine is common with renal stones because the majority of the stones are oxalate stones. The quantity of blood lost is small but it is fresh blood. Recurrent Urinary tract infection, fever with chills and rigors, burning while passing urine and increased frequency of micturition, are common symptoms.

Complications

1. Hydronephrosis occurs due to back pressure producing renal enlargement. Stretching of the renal capsule results in pain in the loin and an associated palpable kidney mass suggests hydronephrosis.
2. Pyonephrosis is infected hydronephrosis wherein the kidney is converted into a bag of pus.
3. Renal failure can occur in large bilateral staghorn calculi, may be without any symptoms until they present with increase in blood urea and serum creatinine levels.

Dr. (Mrs.) Rajini Kantha Narendranath

Jesus is the Cornerstone,
He came for sinners to atone;
Tho' rejected by His own,
He became the Cornerstone.

Lari Goss

Kirk News

*Bright eyes gladden the heart;
Good news puts fat on the bones.
Proverbs 15:30*



Beyond the Ask

In the story of the Shunammite woman found in 2 Kings 4, we are reminded of the profound impact of having eyes that see need even when it is not yet pronounced and responding to it with creative generosity. Most of us can relate to the Shunammite woman in that we may not be in full-time ministry, but when we have a heart for it, God will pour into us ingenious ideas to help the people of God.

The Shunammite woman, recognising Elisha as a man of God, took it upon herself to provide for him without being asked. She built a small room on her roof, furnished it, and ensured Elisha had a place to rest whenever he visited. This act of generosity came from a heart of genuine hospitality and joy in serving. The woman didn't provide for Elisha expecting anything in return; rather, she did it because it was in her heart to do so.

The Shunammite woman's story also beautifully illustrates a divine principle: we can never outgive God. While she provided a room and a place of rest for Elisha, God blessed her with a son, fulfilling a deep personal desire she had never voiced.

At the Kirk Carnival, on 14th July 2024, right after the 9 AM service, we witnessed this spirit of generosity and proactive support. The community came together, offering their time, resources, and love, much like the Shunammite woman. With live music, stew, plants, books, ice cream, clothes, cutlets, cakes, biriyani, games, leather goods, and much more, all were blessed in participating.

Guest Speakers

Rev. Christian Benjamin – 28/07/2024 - 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM Services

Kirk Sunday School Retreat

On the 28th of July 2024, the Kirk Sunday School will be hosting a retreat at the Pleasant Days Resort in Chennai. The resource team,

led by Mr. Albert, will focus on the theme "Hope is Born," promising a day filled with inspiration and spiritual growth.

Kirk Youth Fellowship

The Kirk Youth Fellowship continues its enriching Bible study series titled "Rebuild." The second session was scheduled for July 21, 2024, immediately following the 9 AM service at the Guest House of St. Andrew's Kirk. Attendees enjoyed a communal lunch, fostering divinely orchestrated fellowship and deeper connections.

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club met on July 11, 2024, at 3:00 PM in the SACCE Hall. This gathering aims to strengthen bonds and create lasting friendships in Christ.

St. Andrew's Church, Perumbakkam

St. Andrew's Church, Perumbakkam, celebrated their 3rd anniversary on July 21, 2024. Rev. Isaac Johnson graced the occasion with his power packed sermons. Musical performances included the Christwood Children's Choir at the 7:30 AM Tamil Service and the Cross Rhythms Kid's Choir at the 9:30 AM English Service, it was a soul-stirring experience for the young congregation.

Obituary

We thank God for the life of Mr. Adolf Asir, who was born on December 16, 1941, and departed this life on July 6, 2024, at the age of 83. May the testimony of his life be remembered and cherished as God comforts the family and friends who dearly miss him.

Forever with the Lord!

Angela Susan Bryner

Help each one of us to live in such magnanimity and restraint that the Lord of Life may never have cause to say to anyone of us – "this is my body, broken by you".

Prayer from China



Kirk Sunday school Retreat



KYF Sunday - 28 July 2024