

 **FIRST**
LOVING GOD. OUR GREATEST
GOAL & PRIORITY

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Mark 12:29-31



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Love God with all your Strength

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Pillar NT Commentary

God lays rightful claim to every facet of human personality: heart (= emotions), soul (= spirit), mind (= intelligence), and strength (= will).

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“Lord, Your will be done in all
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The Garden of Gethsemane
Jesus' anguish before the cross

Mark 14:32-42



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Garden of Gethsemane - Mark 14:32-42

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 36 "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."



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37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

39 Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. 40 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.



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41 Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"



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Garden of Gethsemane - Luke 22:39-46

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. 40 On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." 41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.



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Struggle to Strengthened

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Struggle \Rightarrow Surrender \Rightarrow Obedience \Rightarrow
strengthen



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Strength → No struggle → No need to surrender → Obey



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Jesus message to
the faithful Church
in Philadelphia
in the midst of persecution.

Revelation 3:7-13



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Revelation 3:7-13 To the Church in Philadelphia

7 “To the angel (ministers) of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION

PHILADELPHIA
THE FAITHFUL CHURCH

BT

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10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. 13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

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Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes”



GOSPEL

The Greatest Story
Ever Told

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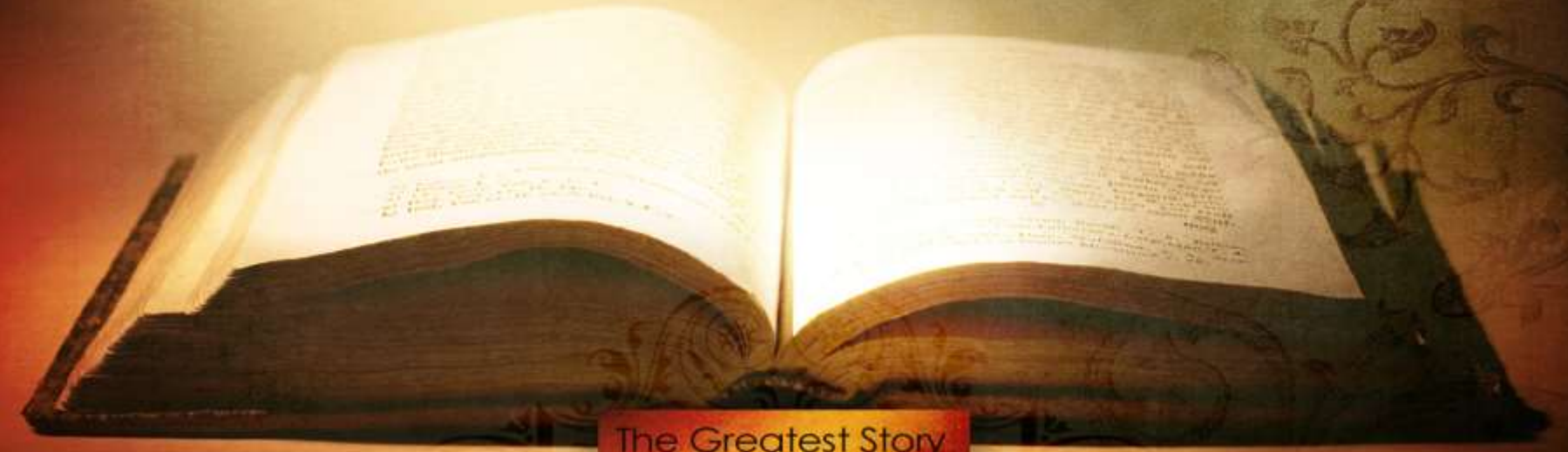
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Romans 8:11 (NLT)

“The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.”

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Growing in Love

1. The Gospel: Remind each other of what Christ has done for us on the cross and even now through his resurrection. We love in response to his love.

2. Thanksgiving: Remember God's kindness and love over your life, family and church.

3 Obedience: Develop a heart that is willing to hear and obey

- Through the word e.g. "I will.."
- In the many everyday moments especially the challenges.

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"Lord, Your will be done in all
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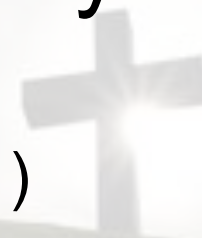
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Prayer of blessing

Apostle Paul's prayer

(Ephesians 1:14-21)



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