 In Christ

> As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.
> *— 1 John 2:24*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: listening, Evangelism, Father, Jesus

Interpretation:
In *1 John 2:24, the apostle John* encourages us to abide in what we have heard from the beginning. This is an important exhortation that is still relevant today. In this passage, John tells us to be rooted *in the Word of God*, for only through it can we abide in fellowship with *the Son and the Father*.

Remain in the Word

The term *“remain”* in this verse is a translation of the Greek word *“meno,”* which means to dwell or to be present. So John is encouraging us to abide in the Word of God. To paraphrase the verse, John is telling us, *“What you have heard from the beginning remains in you.”*

The idea behind this is that the Word of God should not only be present in our minds, but it should be rooted in our hearts and be an integral part of our lives.

The importance of abiding in the Word

The Word of God is God’s way of communicating with us. In it we find the truth, wisdom, and guidance we need to live a full and satisfying life. Abiding in the Word means we develop our relationship with God, listen to His voice, and follow His will.

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> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

> — *1 John 5:14*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: listening, Prayer, trust

Interpretation:
Trusting God is a fundamental element for any Christian. *1 John 5:14* tells us this by saying that we can have confidence in Him, knowing that if we ask anything according to His will, He will hear us. Trusting God means believing that He is in control of all situations and that He always acts with justice, love, and wisdom.

How can we be sure that God hears us?

According to the verse, we can be sure that God hears us if we ask for something according to His will. We should always seek God's will in everything we do and ask for, not our own selfish intentions. When we pray for something that we know is in line with God's will, we can be confident that our prayers will be heard and answered.

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> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.
> — *1 John 5:15*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: listening, Prayer, trust

Interpretation:
In *1 John 5:15*, we are taught the importance of prayer and its power to receive what we need from God. This verse reminds us that if we believe in Him and trust His answer, we can be confident that we will receive whatever we ask for.

This may lead us to several questions, such as: What does it mean to believe in Him and trust His answer? How do we know what God's will is for our lives? And what happens if we don't receive what we ask for?

Believe in Him and trust His answer

To believe in Him and trust His answer, it is important to know God and His character through Bible reading and prayer. We must recognize that God is loving, just, wise, and faithful, and that He is always working for our well-being. With this in mind, we can trust Him and be confident that His answer will be what is best for us.

Knowing God's will

To know God's will for our lives, it is vital to spend time in His presence and seek His guidance. *Jesus* teaches us in *Matthew 6:33* to *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*, and all these things will be added to us.

We must ask God to reveal His plan for our lives and be willing to obey His leading. By doing so, we can be confident that our prayers will be in line with His will and that we will receive what we ask for.

Didn't get what we asked for

When we don't get what we ask for, it can be easy to become discouraged and doubt whether God is listening to us. However, we must remember that God is sovereign and that His plan for our lives is perfect, even if we don't understand His ways.

At times like these, we must trust that God is protecting us from something that will not ultimately benefit us, or that perhaps now is not the right time to receive what we ask for.

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> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.
> *— 1 Peter 3:12*

Book: New Testament / 1 Peter
Topics: listening, evil, Prayer, righteousness

Interpretation:
1 Peter 3:12 is a positive reminder that God is always present and attentive to the prayers of those who strive to live righteously. The Bible teaches us that we are all sinners and make mistakes, but

those who strive to live righteously and follow God's will can be confident that He will hear them.

Justice in the Bible

Justice is an important theme in the Bible, and being just means doing what is right in the eyes of God. Justice is not just following rules and taking certain actions, but having a close relationship with God and allowing His will to guide our actions. When we live justly, we can be confident that God is on our side and will always be there to support us.

God's constant presence

1 Peter 3:12 reminds us that God is always present, attentive to our prayers, and ready to hear us. This means that even in times of pain or uncertainty, we can trust in God's constant presence and look to Him for comfort and help. Furthermore, if we do what is right according to His will, God's eyes will always be upon us, giving us a sense of peace and security.

The danger of doing evil

In contrast to God's promise to be with the righteous, the verse also reminds us that those who do evil will stand before the face of the Lord. This shows us that there are consequences to our actions, and that if we live a life contrary to God's will, we can expect to face His wrath and judgment.

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> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.
> — *Acts 16:25*

Book: New Testament / Acts
Topics: listening, praise, Prayer, singing, worship

Interpretation:
The Bible passage in *Acts 16:25* describes how *Paul and Silas*, after being beaten and imprisoned, prayed and sang hymns to God in the midst of their suffering. This verse introduces us to two men who, despite their difficult situation, are able to trust God and praise Him always.

The importance of worship in the midst of adversity

The example of Paul and Silas shows us that worship is an essential practice for those who want to maintain their faith and hope in God even in the worst moments of life. The Bible teaches us that worship is not just an activity in church, but a way of life.

Worship helps us connect with God and remember His power in our lives. It also allows us to focus on God and not on our difficult circumstances.

The power of prayer

In this passage, we see that Paul and Silas are not only singing hymns, but also praying. Prayer is a fundamental tool in the Christian life and allows us to communicate directly with God.

Prayer helps us carry our burdens before God and allows us to trust His plan for our lives. Moreover, prayer is also a way to glorify God and acknowledge His greatness and goodness.

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> It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.
> *— Deuteronomy 13:4*

Book: Old Testament / Deuteronomy
Topics: listening, awe, following, idols, serving

Interpretation:
God's commandments are clear and straightforward. Throughout the Bible, we find various verses calling us to follow His teachings and live by principles and values ??similar to His own. *Deuteronomy 13:4* calls us to follow the Lord, fear Him, and keep His commandments.

Follow God and fear Him

In today's world, most people have their own beliefs about religion. However, following God is more than just a religious affiliation; it is a relationship with Him and a willingness to follow His teachings, not follow our own desires and whims. Fearing God is not simply being afraid; it is respecting and honoring His authority and power. This is why this verse calls us to follow God and fear Him to stay on the right path and make wise decisions in life.

Keep His commandments and listen to His voice

God's commandments are a way of life, a guideline we follow in our daily lives. By following them, we ensure that we are doing the right thing, ensuring our own well-being and the well-being of others. It is also important to listen to His voice. The Bible is a powerful tool that allows us to hear and understand *God's Word*. This way, we can know what He expects of us at every moment of our lives.

Serve and be faithful to God

Serving God is a sign of gratitude and love for Him. It means a willingness to put His teachings into practice and help others do the same. We must understand that we are responsible for sharing God's message with others, guiding them on the true path of life. Faithfulness to God is also very important, because He is faithful and expects the same from us. We must have a close relationship with Him and trust that He always guides us and cares for us.

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> If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.
> *— Exodus 15:26*

Book: Old Testament / Exodus
Topics: listening, healing, law, obedience, righteousness, sickness

Interpretation:
Exodus 15:26 presents a very important promise from the Lord to His people: if they keep His commandments and hold His will above all else, the Lord will protect them from the diseases and disasters that befell the Egyptians. In other words, obedience to God and His will is the key to a healthy life.

But what does it mean to obey God?

The literal translation of the Hebrew word *"obey"* means *"to listen attentively."* This implies not only listening to the Lord's words but also paying attention to His instructions and following His will. The

foundation of obedience to God is keeping His law. The Bible reminds us that if we love the Lord and desire to follow Him, we must strive to always keep His commandments.

The importance of obedience for health

This divine promise is especially important today, given the growing concern about health. Many people actively seek ways to stay fit and healthy, and this verse seems to indicate that following God's will is a sure way to secure divine protection from life's obstacles.

However, we must remember that obedience is not a guarantee of eternal health. Each of us is mortal and susceptible to illness. Obedience to God is not a magic cure for illness, but a path to abundant life and spiritual peace.

The role of prayer in health

Another way to apply the Lord's promise to our lives is through prayer. When we face illness or difficulties in life, we can turn to the Lord for strength and patience to overcome these trials. It is important to maintain a close relationship with God and remember that He is always present in our lives.

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> So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?
> — *Galatians 3:5*

Book: New Testament / Galatians
Topics: listening, law, Spirit

Interpretation:
Galatians 3:5 teaches us how *the Holy Spirit* and His power work in our lives. The Apostle *Paul* reminded the believers in his letter to the Galatians that the Spirit does not come by the works of *the Law*, but by hearing with faith. That is, it is faith that connects us with the Holy Spirit, not our actions.

What does it mean to “hear in faith”?

Listening with faith implies listening to *the Word of God* with an open heart and a readiness to believe what we hear. It is an attitude of humility and trust in God, recognizing that His Word is true and that He has the power to do what He promises. It is not just about hearing with the ears, but also about hearing with the heart.

What Law is being referred to in this verse?

In this context, the Law refers to the rules and commands that God gave to the people of Israel through *Moses in the Old Testament*. These laws included things like circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, dietary restrictions, etc. The law became a heavy burden on the Jewish people as they sought to fulfill it on their own, thinking that this would earn them God's approval.

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> I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.
>
> *— Genesis 26:4-5*

Book: Old Testament / Genesis
Topics: listening, blessing, law, obedience

Interpretation:
The Bible tells the story *of Abraham*, a man who lived in a time and culture very different from our own, but whose life and legacy still teach us valuable lessons. In these verses, God speaks to *Isaac*, Abraham's son, about his father's obedience and how he listened to and kept the commandments and laws God gave him.

The importance of listening to and keeping God's commandments

The first thing we can highlight in these verses is the importance of listening to and keeping God's commandments. Abraham not only listened to God's words but also consciously sought to keep them and apply them in his daily life. This is an important lesson for us, as we can often listen to a sermon or read the Bible and be inspired by the words we hear, but then forget to apply them in our daily lives.

Abraham's obedience reminds us that it is important not only to listen but also to put what we learn into practice.

The importance of keeping commandments and decrees

The second point we can highlight in these verses is the importance of keeping the commandments and decrees given to us by God. In the Bible, we find many commandments and laws that God gave to His people. These commandments and decrees are not simply arbitrary rules; *they have a purpose and a reason for their existence*. By keeping these commandments, we not only obey God but also protect our lives and our relationship with Him.

An example of faith and obedience

The third point we can highlight in these verses is the importance of Abraham's example of faith and obedience to God. In the Bible, Abraham is considered one of the fathers of faith, and his story teaches us the value of trust and obedience to God, even in difficult and incomprehensible situations. His example is a call to emulate and a reminder that faith and obedience are essential in our relationship with God.

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> I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’
>
> *— Isaiah 65:1*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: listening, calling, seeking

Interpretation:
The Book of Isaiah is one of the most important prophetic books of the Old Testament, offering us a unique promise and warning. *Isaiah 65:1* is seen in the broader context of God's judgment on a rebellious nation, but it also contains the promise of God's abundant grace.

In this verse, God speaks of how He seeks those who do not seek Him, finds those who do not call upon Him, and reveals Himself to them. The promise is that even if some have lost their way, God still

seeks them and is willing to reveal Himself to them. This demonstrates God's loving and compassionate nature toward humanity.

How can this verse help us?

This verse can be of great help to those who are struggling in their faith or feel they have lost their way. It reminds us that God is a God of love and is always ready to receive those who have fallen away from Him. It can also be a great comfort to those who seek God but seem unable to find Him.

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> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.
> *— James 1:19*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: listening, anger, self-control, speaking

Interpretation:
The book of James is one of the most practical and applicable texts in the entire Bible. In it, the author gives us very useful advice for our daily lives, helping us to be better people and honor God in everything we do. In this sense, the verse we are discussing is especially important, as it speaks of the need to be patient and prudent in our words and actions.

Quick to listen

The first piece of advice this verse gives us is to be “quick to listen.” This means that we should be willing to listen to others and pay attention to what they say. In an increasingly polarized world, where we often limit ourselves to listening only to what already confirms our beliefs, this advice is more relevant than ever. We must learn to listen with empathy and be open to the ideas of others, even if we do not always agree with them.

Slow to speak

The second piece of advice this verse gives us is to be “slow to speak.” This means that we should think carefully before we speak, rather than just speaking for the sake of it. Often our words can hurt

others, even if we don't mean to. We should take the time to think about what we want to say and choose our words carefully. By doing so, we will show respect for others and avoid unnecessary conflict.

Slow to become angry

The third and final piece of advice this verse gives us is to be "Slow to become angry." This means that we should control our emotions and avoid impulsive reactions to difficult situations. When we allow anger to get the better of us, we lose the ability to think clearly and may say or do things that we will later regret. Therefore, we must learn to control our anger and respond to conflicts calmly and peacefully.

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> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
> — *James 1:22*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: listening, obedience, Word of God

Interpretation:
James 1:22 calls us to be doers *of God's Word*, not just hearers. This verse reminds us that it is not enough to simply read the Bible and listen to sermons; we must also take concrete action and apply the teachings in our daily lives.

This verse calls us to put God's Word into practice. It is vital to follow what the Bible teaches us, because only then will we be able to grow in our faith and have a close relationship with God. The Bible is like an instruction manual that guides us in our daily lives, but like any manual, it must be applied and used for everything to work perfectly.

How can we be doers of the Word?

To be doers of the Word, we must be diligent in applying what we learn in our daily lives. It is important that we set clear and distinct goals for how we will apply God's Word in our lives. We must strive to apply the Bible's teachings in every area of ??our lives.

One of the best examples of being a doer of the Word *is Jesus*, who perfectly applied the teachings of the Bible in His daily life. *Jesus* lived a perfect life, without a single sin, because He applied the teachings of the Bible in every aspect of His life. We should follow His example and strive to apply the Word of God in every aspect of our lives.

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> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.
>
> *— James 1:25*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: listening, blessing, freedom, law, obedience

Interpretation:
The Bible verse in *James 1:25* tells us about the importance of carefully following the perfect law and persisting in it, rather than hearing it and forgetting it. It also mentions that those who are “doers of the work” and who abide in this law will be blessed in what they do.

What is the law of liberty?

The law of liberty that *James* speaks of in this verse is a law that is found in the New Testament. When *Jesus* came to earth, He brought a new understanding of how we should live. He taught us to love God and others, and this law sets us free from sin and allows us to draw closer to God. Jesus gives us the freedom to choose to follow this law and live by it. Instead of being slaves to our sin, we can walk in freedom and experience the fullness of life that God has for us.

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> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

> — *Jeremiah 29:12*

Book: Old Testament / Jeremiah
Topics: listening, Prayer, worship

Interpretation:
The Bible tells us about the relationship we can build with God through prayer. In *Jeremiah 29:12*, God calls His people to cry out to Him, to pray to Him, and He promises that He will hear them. Prayer is a form of direct communication with God through which we can express our desires, thanks, concerns, and shortcomings, and ask Him for help and protection.

The promise of an answer from God

The verse says that when we cry out to God in prayer, He hears us and answers us. It is important to note that this answer does not always come in the way we expect or desire, but rest assured that God will always answer. We may receive an answer through the Bible, through a loved one, a religious leader, or through our own thoughts, feelings, and dreams.

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> Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.
> — *Jeremiah 33:3*

Book: Old Testament / Jeremiah
Topics: listening, Prayer, understanding

Interpretation:
Jeremiah 33:3 is one of the most popular verses in the Bible, and it's easy to see why. This verse gives us a clear and comforting promise that God will hear our prayers and teach us things we might not otherwise know.

Call to Me and I will answer you

The first part of the verse is simple and straightforward: "Call to me and I will answer you." This means that when we pray to God, He will respond to us in some way. The answer may not be exactly what we expect or desire, but it's important to remember that God always has a plan for our lives, and He knows what's best for us.

Furthermore, it's interesting to note that the verb "call" implies a certain degree of urgency and desperation. This isn't simply a plea for God to give us what we want, but a sincere and passionate desire for His help.

Tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know

The second part of the verse is no less important: "tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." This indicates that God possesses knowledge and wisdom beyond our human understanding. He is able to reveal to us things we would otherwise not know and guide us through life in ways we don't always understand.

This promise from God is especially comforting when we feel confused or lost in life. When we pray to God, we can be confident that He will answer and show us the path we should take, even if that path isn't immediately obvious.

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> And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”
>
> *— Joshua 24:24*

Book: Old Testament / Joshua
Topics: listening, obedience, serving

Interpretation:
The Book of Joshua tells the story of the conquest of Canaan by the Israelites under the leadership *of Joshua* after the death *of Moses*. Joshua was a pious and faithful man of God, charged with leading the people of Israel to the Promised Land and conquering it by force.

Chapter 24 of the Book of Joshua describes the leader's final speech before his death. In his message, Joshua calls the tribes of Israel to serve and obey God, reminding them of what He has

done for them in the past and their role in the future.

The importance of serving and obeying God

In this verse, we see how the people of Israel respond to Joshua's call to serve and obey God. The decision they made is crucial not only for the people of Israel then but also for us today.

Serving God means putting Him first in your life, keeping His commandments, and living according to His will. We often succumb to the temptation to follow our own desires and goals, leaving God and His teachings aside. Obedience to God's voice means paying attention to what He speaks to us through His Word and Spirit and acting accordingly. It is an active and conscious response to God's will for our lives.

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> He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”
> *— Luke 11:28*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: listening, life, Word of God

Interpretation:
The Bible is a reliable guide for those seeking a meaningful life. It is the most widely read book in the world, and its teachings are applicable to every situation we may face.

In *Luke 11:28*, *Jesus* talks about the importance of hearing and following *God’s Word*. This teaching is timeless and still relevant to our lives.

What does “Blessed” mean?

In the context *of Jesus’* teaching, the word “blessed” means a person who is filled with joy, happiness, and fulfillment. It is a privilege to be blessed by Jesus himself. However, this blessedness does not exist for everyone. A person’s blessing does not depend on their social status, education, or power, but on their relationship with God and obedience to His Word.

Why is it important to hear and obey God’s Word?

God’s Word is our guide in every situation in life. If we follow its teachings, our actions will be directed toward goodness and justice. Moreover, *the Word of God is the voice of our Heavenly Father*, and His teachings teach us to love God and our neighbors, making our lives more meaningful and fulfilling.

In *Luke 11:28*, *Jesus* tells us that those who hear *the Word of God* and obey it will be counted blessed. Those who do so accept the truth of God’s Word and apply it to their lives. It is important to understand that the Bible was written to transform our lives, not just to give us information. Therefore, it is imperative that we hear the Word of God and obey it.

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> What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.
>
> *— Luke 12:3*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: listening, Light, sin, speaking

Interpretation:
Luke 12:3 is found in the place where *Jesus* is telling His disciples about the importance of fearing God over man. He is reminding them that nothing is hidden from God’s eyes and that everything they have kept secret will eventually be revealed.

Interpretation

This verse can be interpreted in a number of ways. In a literal sense, it refers to a future time when all hidden words and actions will be revealed. On a deeper level, it can be interpreted as a reminder that we must always be honest and transparent in all our words and actions. We must live with integrity and not be afraid of our actions being exposed.

Current relevance

This verse is especially relevant in the digital age we live in, where privacy is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. Today, our digital footprints can be tracked and information about us is easier to find than ever. This means that we must be even more diligent in living with integrity and transparency.

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> “If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor my name,” says the Lord Almighty, “I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me.”
>
> — *Malachi 2:2*

Book: Old Testament / Malachi
Topics: listening, blessing, obedience

Interpretation:
Malachi 2:2 invites us to listen and make a heartfelt decision to give glory to God. The Word reminds us that if we do not obey and heed God’s teachings, a curse will come upon us. This verse emphasizes the importance of true devotion to God, which not only benefits us, but also glorifies our Creator.

Obedience

The first thing this verse teaches us is the idea of ??obedience. Obedience is a fundamental act in the Christian life because it allows us to learn, receive direction, and grow in our faith.

God speaks to His people in many ways in the Bible, such as prayer, reading Scripture, and preaching. It is important to take the time to listen to what God has to say to us and be attentive to His voice.

Heartfelt Decisions

The second point is the importance of making a heartfelt decision. God not only seeks our obedience, He wants it to come from our love for Him. Forced obedience or obedience without sincere devotion has no value in the eyes of God.

It is important to realize that we must dedicate ourselves to God with all our being, with a firm and determined heart. This not only protects us from curses, but also brings us closer to God and strengthens us in our faith.

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> If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.
> — *Matthew 18:15*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: listening, reconciliation, sin, speaking

Interpretation:
The Gospel of Matthew is one of the four canonical Gospels and the first in the New Testament. It tells of the ministry *of Jesus* and His teachings to His disciples and the people at large. This verse from *Matthew 18:15* is part of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus teaches His followers a number of valuable lessons about how they should live the Christian life.

Interpretation

In *Matthew 18:15*, *Jesus* teaches us the importance of brotherly correction in the Christian community. In this verse, He tells us that if a brother sins against us, we should go and talk to him privately. This means that we should address the issue directly and personally, rather than spreading rumors and gossip. If our brother listens to us and repents, we have gained our brother.

This verse reminds us that as Christians, we are not called to judge others, but to love them and help them grow in faith. Brotherly correction is an act of love because it aims to help our brothers and sisters improve their behavior and relationship with God. Jesus gives us a practical tool to help restore broken relationships and harmony in society.

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> If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

> — *Matthew 18:17*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: listening, Church, sin

Interpretation:
Matthew 18:17 is part *of Jesus'* teaching on forgiveness and reconciliation in the church. This passage tells us what to do when someone in the church has sinned and refuses to repent and ask for forgiveness.

Why is this passage important?

Matthew 18:17 is of great importance to the church and Christians because it gives us clear guidance on how to approach sin and forgiveness in the Christian community. It reminds us that the church has a responsibility to help those who have sinned, not just to punish or judge them. Furthermore, it reminds us that all members of the church have a responsibility to correct and build others up.

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> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
> — *Matthew 4:4*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: listening, bread, food, Word of God

Interpretation:
Matthew 4:4 is Jesus' response to the temptations presented to Him by the devil in the wilderness. The devil tempted Him to turn stones into bread to satisfy his appetite, but Jesus wisely quotes a scripture that reminds him that **life is not just about satisfying our physical needs**. In His response, Jesus teaches us that we need more than just food for our bodies; we need food for our spirits.

After fasting forty days and forty nights, Jesus became hungry. (The number forty is often used in the context of a trial or test in Scripture.) This natural desire provided *the tempter* with an advantage that he used with success on many people. He invited Jesus to use His miraculous power to turn the

stones of the desert into loaves of bread.

There is no doubt in the opening words, **“if you are the Son of God.”** They actually mean **“since you are the Son of God.”** The devil is referring to the words the Father spoke to Jesus at His baptism: **“This is my Son, whom I love.”**

To gratify natural desire with divine power in response to Satan’s prompting *is outright disobedience to God*. We are similarly tempted to live for the gratification of natural desires, to choose the way of our convenience instead of seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness. The devil says to us, **“You must live, must you not?”**

The central teaching of this verse is that we need spiritual food to survive, just as we need physical food. This verse does not make an equal comparison between the Word of God and bread, but rather, the Word of God is a higher and more essential need than bread. Therefore, when we feed on the Holy Scriptures, we feed our spirits according to God’s divine purpose.

The primary way to feed our spirits is through a life of Bible reading and study. It is the Word of God that nourishes us, guides us, and transforms us as we advance in our faith. The Psalms tell us that *“The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple” (Psalm 19:7)*. When we read and study the Bible, we open ourselves to the wisdom and truth that only God can give.

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> Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
> — *Matthew 7:24*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: listening, mind, wisdom, Word of God

Interpretation:
This verse is part of the famous Sermon on the Mount, which *Jesus* delivered to the crowds that followed him. In it, Jesus taught about various aspects of the Christian life, such as prayer, fasting, caring for material things, and loving one’s neighbor.

In *chapter 7, the Lord* speaks of the need to be wise and prudent in our lives and not to be deceived by false prophets. Then, in *verses 24–27*, Jesus illustrates this teaching with a parable about building two houses, one on rock and one on sand.

The parable

In the parable, Jesus compares two builders, one wise and one foolish. They both wanted to build a house, but the wise man built his house on rock, while the foolish man built his house on sand. When the rain came, the floods came, and the winds came, the wise man's house stood firm, but the foolish man's house collapsed.

Jesus concludes the parable by saying that those who put His words into practice are like the wise man who was able to withstand the storms of life.

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> But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.
> — *Micah 7:7*

Book: Old Testament / Micah
Topics: listening, hope, Salvation

Interpretation:
In *Micah 7:7*, the prophet invites us to keep our eyes on the Lord. Instead of looking at our problems and difficulties, *Micah* teaches us to look to the Lord and wait on Him. The prophet's trust in God is evident in his statements, and his faith serves as an example for us to follow in our own lives.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by life's problems and get lost in our worries. However, trusting in God and looking to Him can help us find peace and strength to overcome any obstacle. By directing our prayers and thoughts to God, we trust Him to guide and support us in the midst of our struggles. The prophet's promise shows that God is willing to hear our prayers if we choose to trust Him.

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> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.
> — *Philippians 4:9*

Book: New Testament / Philippians
Topics: listening, learning, peace

Interpretation:
Before we dive into *Philippians 4:9*, it's important to consider the context. In the previous chapters, *Paul* has been talking about the importance of unity, having the mind of Christ, and persevering in the face of opposition. He encourages the Philippians not to focus on their problems, but to focus on *Jesus Christ* and His goodness. In this context, *Philippians 4:9* gives specific instructions on how we should live our lives.

Paul begins verse 9 by calling us to think about what we have learned, received, heard, and seen in him. This is important because Paul is essentially saying that we can learn from his example and follow him. He is referring to all the teachings he imparted, both in his actions and in his words. In other words, we are all to imitate what he did and said.

While we cannot know Paul personally, we can learn from his teachings as recorded in the Bible. We can study his letters and learn from his life what they reflect. It is important to understand that it is not just what you say, but how you live, and how it is revealed in your faith-filled example in Christ. That is why Paul says in the next verse, *"—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9)*.

The promise that follows the command in *Philippians 4:9* is that if we do what Paul teaches us, the God of peace will be with us. This does not mean that our lives will be perfect, but that despite our circumstances, there can be peace in our lives. God desires to be with us and give us the supernatural peace that only He can give. We must remember that this peace is not something we gain on our own, but rather a gift from God.

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> Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.
> — *Proverbs 10:17*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: listening, life, obedience

Interpretation:
Wisdom is one of the fundamental themes of the Bible, and it is closely related to the instruction we receive from those more experienced. In the book of Proverbs, we find many verses that encourage us to follow instruction, and verse 10:17 is one of them. Instruction is knowledge we receive from others that teaches us how to deal with specific situations and make better decisions in our lives.

What does it mean to keep instruction?

Instruction is like a path that guides us through life, pointing us in the right direction and helping us avoid mistakes that can harm us. Following instruction means receiving and applying the knowledge we receive from others, and not only that, but also listening to and accepting correction from those who care about our well-being.

Rejecting correction leads to error

Anyone who rejects correction and suppresses their pride and desire to always be right is making a mistake. We must not forget that we are human and are all prone to make mistakes. Accepting correction and learning from it helps us grow as individuals and become better every day.

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> Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.
> — *Proverbs 12:1*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: listening, learning, understanding

Interpretation:
The Bible offers us a variety of instructions and advice for living a fulfilling and successful life. One such verse is found in *Proverbs 12:1*, which talks about the importance of loving instruction and wisdom.

Meaning of the verse

This verse teaches us that a person who loves instruction, that is, one who is willing to accept constructive correction, is able to grow intellectually and gain wisdom. On the other hand, a person who hates correction is ignorant because he refuses to listen and learn from mistakes.

The importance of loving teaching

Loving instruction allows us to recognize our limitations and mistakes. By accepting constructive criticism, we can learn from our mistakes and avoid repeating them in the future. However, accepting criticism is not easy because it can create anxiety, fear, and a sense of condemnation. It is important to remember that constructive criticism is an opportunity for personal and professional growth.

Wisdom

Wisdom is the practical knowledge we gain through learning and experience. Loving guidance allows us to acquire knowledge and in turn apply it to our daily lives for betterment. Knowledge and wisdom are the pillars of building a successful and happy life.

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> Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.
> — *Proverbs 16:20*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: listening, blessing, trust

Interpretation:
This is a powerful statement that shows us that understanding God’s Word is the path to goodness and truth. Finding goodness through understanding God’s Word is the key to wisdom, and that is what

Proverbs 16:20 seeks to demonstrate.

The Hebrew word translated *“understood”* refers to someone who has experienced something and learned to apply it. Here, it refers to those who have experienced God’s word and incorporated it into their lives in a meaningful way.

On the other hand, the second part of the verse shows us that those who trust in the Lord will find blessings and happiness. To be blessed is to be happy and live a fulfilling life because of our trust in God. We can trust Him, knowing that He will guide us in the right path in life. *Trust in God is developed through personal experience, prayer, and the study of His word*.

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> If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable.
> — *Proverbs 28:9*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: listening, law, obedience, Prayer

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs, part of the Old Testament, is a collection of wisdom sayings and teachings attributed primarily to *King Solomon*, who is considered the primary author of the Proverbs. *Proverbs 28:9* speaks of the importance of keeping God's law and how deviating from it can affect our relationship with God.

Historical context

Proverbs 28:9 does not refer to any specific historical context, but rather reflects the eternal truth that God treats His children based on their obedience to His Word. Throughout the Bible, God's message to His people is clear: *"If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15)*.

Meaning of the verse

Proverbs 28:9 says that even prayer is an abomination from those who turn their ears away from hearing the law of God. In other words, anyone who refuses to listen to and obey *God's Word* cannot expect a good relationship with God. The prayer of someone who ignores God's law is ineffective and unacceptable to God.

This verse shows us the importance of listening to God's Word and keeping His commandments. We cannot simply pray and ask God to help us in our needs if we are not prepared to follow His teachings.

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> My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart.
> — *Proverbs 4:20-21*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: listening, heart, obedience, Word of God

Interpretation:
Proverbs 4:20-21 calls us to keep God’s teachings in mind. Wisdom and truth must remain at the center of our lives, and we must strive to keep them deep in our hearts so that they are always present.

It is easy to be influenced by our sinful nature and the worries of our daily lives, which can lead us away from the way of the Lord. However, *God’s Word* calls us to remain firm and constant in our faith and not allow anything to separate us from God’s love.

It is important to note that this verse calls us to keep God’s teachings deep in our hearts. This does not mean simply memorizing them, but also meditating on them and applying them to our daily lives. We must consciously strive to integrate God’s teachings into our lives and follow His commands.

Discipline is the key to keeping our minds focused on the things of God. We must be careful in our decisions and habits. The time we devote to Bible reading and prayer should be sacred and a priority so that we can be sure that our minds and hearts are focused on God.

In a world full of distractions, this verse calls us to renew our attention to God’s commands and teachings, remembering what is truly important. As we listen to the Bible’s wise words and apply them to our lives, we can find our way to peace and happiness, as well as greater balance in our emotions and thoughts.

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from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> My son, keep your father’s command and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.
> — *Proverbs 6:20*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: listening, family, obedience

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *Proverbs 6:20* reminds us of the importance of obeying and following our parents’ commands and incorporating their teachings into our lives. This ancient wisdom commandment is a reminder to all children of the fundamental value of the parental relationship.

The Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, mentions the relationship between parents and children many times. It mentions the importance of honoring our parents, submitting to their authority, and following their teachings. It is a sacred and vital relationship for the family structure and society as a whole.

Parents are the ones who provide us with direction and structure in life from the very beginning. They guide us on our path in life, teach us important values, and show us love. The values ??and principles we acquire in our relationship with our parents are not only personally meaningful, but can also affect our relationships and success in the future.

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> I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.
> — *Psalm 116:1-2*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: listening, love, worship

Interpretation:
Psalm 116:1-2 teaches us valuable lessons about the importance of turning to God in difficult times. The psalmist recounts how God heard his prayer and how he chose to turn to Him every day of his life. These verses show us that turning to God is an act of faith and trust that He will hear our prayers and come to our aid.

Turning to God

Turning to God is a common practice in Christianity. It involves turning to a higher being or divine power with a request for help. In the Bible, turning to God is a recurring theme in many passages, and its meaning goes beyond a simple request. Turning to God is an act of humility and dependence, an acknowledgment of our need for divine help and protection in our lives.

God hears us

These verses show us that when we cry out to God, He hears us. God is a close and personal God, desiring a close relationship with each of us. He desires to hear our needs and answer our prayers. When we cry out to Him, we can be confident that He will not ignore us.

Cry to God every day

Psalm 115:1-2 calls us to cry out to God every day of our lives. This doesn't mean we should pray constantly, without ceasing, but rather that we should have a spirit of dependence and trust in God, seeking His guidance and direction in all our decisions and actions. By crying out to God daily, we acknowledge that He is the center of our lives and that we long for a deep and meaningful relationship with Him.

Love in adversity

These verses also speak of God's love even in times of adversity. The psalmist testifies that God heard his voice and his cries, which means that God is present in difficult times and gives us the strength to overcome them.

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> Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

> — *Psalm 130:1-2*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: listening, dependence, grace, mercy

Interpretation:
Psalm 130 is a beautiful song of repentance, expressing humanity's need to cry out to God from the depths of their being. The first verse speaks of a supplicant's voice coming from the depths of the soul. Verse 2 of this Psalter, in particular, emphasizes the psalmist's plea for God to hear his voice.

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord

The word *"depths"* in these verses has a deeper meaning than just physical depth. It denotes the depth of our pain, torment, sorrow, and suffering. The psalmist cries out to God from the depths of his troubles, desperately seeking a solution or answer.

The word *"cry"* means to beg with tears, to plead persistently. These verses describe a deep and sincere cry to God, coming from the very heart. The author acknowledges his need for a savior and turns to God in faith, trusting in His love and mercy.

The importance of prayer

Prayer is one of the fundamental pillars of Christian spiritual life. Through it, believers communicate with God, expressing their feelings, needs, gratitude, and petitions. *Jesus* Himself taught us to pray *the Lord's Prayer* and repeatedly withdrew to solitary places to be alone with *His Heavenly Father*.

These verses from *Psalm 130:1-2* remind us of the importance of praying with humility and sincerity. The psalmist, conscious of his sin and needing help, turns to God, asking for His mercy. He knows that God is a God who hears and is always ready to help those who trust in Him.

The voice of the psalmist

The psalmist begs God to hear his voice. This request has a double meaning: on the one hand, the psalmist longs to be heard by God, and on the other, he desires to recognize God's voice and find answers in it.

In this sense, the psalmist's voice represents his inner being, his soul, his spirit. He knows that if God hears his voice, he will find the peace and rest he so desires. The psalmist believes that God hears him and therefore turns to Him with a sense of complete devotion and trust.

Our relationship with God

Psalm 130 is a prayer that speaks of our relationship with God. *He is our Savior, our Redeemer*, and our only source of hope. The psalmist acknowledges his need for God and knows that only God can save him from sin and its consequences.

In our daily lives, we can also find comfort and hope in prayer. When we find ourselves in trouble or despair, we should turn to God with humility and sincerity, knowing that He hears us and answers us. In moments of joy and gratitude, we should also turn to Him with a heart full of thanksgiving and praise.

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> In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.
> *— Psalm 18:6*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: listening, Prayer, speaking

Interpretation:
The Book of Psalms is one of the most important sections of the Bible, and in it we find a wide variety of emotions expressed by the authors; from joy and gratitude to sadness and despair. In *Psalm 18, David* tells us how he cried out to the Lord in his distress and received an answer from God.

The term **“called”** in the Bible refers to calling or asking God for help in times of need or distress. In *Psalm 50:15*, God says, *“and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”* It is important to note that God does not promise to immediately resolve all of our situations, but He does promise to be with us at all times and hear our cries.

If we look at the context of *Psalm 18*, we will see that David was facing a serious threat from his enemies at the time. In this passage, David acknowledges his despair and pain, but also demonstrates his trust in God to hear him and answer his call. This is important to remember because we can often feel overwhelmed by our difficulties and not trust that God can find a solution to our struggles.

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from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry.
> — *Psalm 34:15*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: listening, righteousness

Interpretation:
Psalm 34:15 is a verse that reminds us that God always watches over the righteous and listens to their cries for help and comfort. When we feel despair, the Lord never leaves us; instead, He is always there to guide us and help us in difficult times.

In difficult situations, we must trust God and remember that He is always there to listen to us when we cry out to Him. This verse is an important sign of hope for all of us. If we are going through a difficult situation, we should not despair, but rather raise our voice to God and allow Him to guide us on the right path.

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> I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.
> — *Psalm 34:4*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: listening, fear, seeking

Interpretation:
The Psalmist David wrote this verse during a time when he was in danger and worried about the persecution he was facing. In his distress, he sought God and found comfort and protection in Him. This verse is a reminder to us that we as believers can find comfort and protection in God when we feel anxious and afraid.

We face many fears and worries in our daily lives. It could be illness, the loss of a job or a loved one, financial instability, or anything else that makes us feel helpless and insecure. In times like these, we can apply Psalm 34:5 and seek God in prayer and meditation on His word.

The first step is to acknowledge our fear and ask God for help and protection. By sincerely seeking Him, we can feel His presence and peace in our hearts and find strength to overcome our worries. God doesn't promise that our circumstances will change immediately, but He does promise His love and faithfulness, as well as the help we need to face our fears.

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> This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.
>
> *— Psalm 34:6*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: listening, poverty, Prayer, Salvation

Interpretation:
Psalm 34 is one of the most beautiful in the entire Bible. *David*, its author, wrote this verse while fleeing from *Saul*, who wanted to kill him. This verse speaks of how God hears and saves the poor who cry out to Him for help. At that time, David experienced torment and pain, but trusting in God, He delivered him from all adversity.

What does it mean to be poor in spirit?

In the Bible, poverty is not limited to a lack of material resources but also refers to the state of those who humbly submit to God. To be poor in spirit means recognizing that without God we have nothing and need His help and guidance in our lives. It is a state of humility and dependence on God.

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> In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.
> — *Psalm 5:3*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: listening, patience, Prayer

Interpretation:
The Book of Psalms is a collection of verses and prayers used in Jewish and Christian liturgy throughout history. In Psalm 5, the author (likely *David*) addresses God, asking for protection from his enemies and expressing his faith in God's love and justice.

Interpretation of the verse

Psalm 5:3 expresses the psalmist's trust in God. The fact that the author mentions speaking to God in the morning and awaiting His answer indicates not only the importance of daily prayer but also his confidence that God hears his requests and responds with love and justice.

Morning prayer is a common practice that involves seeking God's will at the beginning of the day. This practice also implies humility and trust in God and helps us remember our dependence on Him.

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> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.
> — *Revelation 3:20*

Book: New Testament / Revelation
Topics: listening, food, obedience, promises

Interpretation:
Revelation 3:20 is a verse that is familiar to most Christians. This verse describes the call *of Jesus Christ* into the lives of those who listen to Him and respond to Him. The imagery described here is of a closed door that can only be opened from the inside. *Christ* cannot enter our lives until we open the

door to invite Him in.

A closed door and an opening from the Inside

A closed door is a metaphor used in the Bible to describe the separation between God and humanity. The Bible teaches us that humanity has been separated from God since the beginning of time when *Adam and Eve* sinned. Since then, people have been separated from God and can only return to Him through faith and opening the door in their hearts.

Jesus Christ is the One who knocks at the door. He calls humanity to open their hearts and allow Him to share a meal with Him. It is important to note that this is a personal invitation. Each person must individually respond to this invitation.

The meaning of the dinner

The dinner that Jesus Christ describes in this verse is an act of fellowship and friendship. Jesus Christ's invitation to share a meal with Him is an expression of His deep love and desire to have a personal relationship with each of us.

In the culture of Jesus Christ's time, sharing a meal was considered a sign of friendship and fellowship. *Jesus Christ's Supper* points to the close relationship between Him and us. It is an important aspect of the Christian faith, based on a personal relationship with God.

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> Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.
>
> *— Romans 10:17*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: listening, Evangelism, faith

Interpretation:
Quoting Isaiah, Paul notes that the faith spoken of in the prophecy had to be born on the basis of what was heard, and this, in turn, came from God's word about the Messiah. Thus, the apostle comes to the conclusion that faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of God. Faith comes to a person

when he hears the news about the Lord Jesus Christ, which, of course, is based on the written Word of God.

But ordinary hearing in itself is not enough. To hear God's word, it is necessary to listen not only with the ears, but also with an open heart and mind. If there is a desire to know God's truth, then the Word will ring the bell of truth, asserting its own authority. Then it cannot be disbelieved. And, of course, the hearing spoken of here does not necessarily have to be physical hearing; it can, for example, be reading. That is, *"to hear"* means to receive the Word in any way.

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> Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.’ But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the Lord.
> *— Zechariah 1:4*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: listening, conversion, evil

Interpretation:
Zechariah 1:4 is a verse that calls us to reflection and introspection. The prophet *Zechariah*, one of the prophets who returned from the Babylonian captivity, reminds us of the importance of learning from history and not repeating the mistakes of our ancestors. This passage refers to the call of the early prophets, who tried to persuade people to abandon their evil ways and wicked deeds. However, they ignored the warnings and continued down the wrong path.

Prophets and religious leaders

This verse teaches us the importance of heeding the advice of prophets and religious leaders, as they guide us on the true path. It also calls us to reflect on our actions and determine whether we are on the right path or whether we need to make changes in our lives.

In a world where there seems to be so much corruption, injustice, and evil, this passage is especially relevant. It challenges us to rethink our actions and consider whether we are contributing to the well-being of society or, on the contrary, exacerbating suffering and despair.

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> I will strengthen Judah and save the tribes of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them.
> — *Zechariah 10:6*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: listening, compassion, Prayer, strength

Interpretation:
The Bible is a book full of divine teachings and promises, providing support at every moment of life and in every situation. One Old Testament verse that can be very helpful to us in these times is *Zechariah 10:6*.

Context of the verse

Zechariah wrote this book after the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity. The Jewish community was struggling to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and establish prosperity in their land. Zechariah serves as a prophet to encourage and exhort God's people not to lose hope.

Verse 6 follows a section in which God expresses His wrath against the unjust rulers of Jerusalem and the false prophets who deceived the community. But in this new verse, God reveals His merciful grace. He will strengthen and protect the house *of Judah* and the house *of Joseph*. He will bring them back to their land, no matter how long they have been in exile.

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