

New Life— Straight Ahead!

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Subject: Keeping this New Attitude by the Spirit

[**Matthew 24:35** God's Word always applies; **Psalm 12:6** God's words are *pure*; **Deuteronomy 4:2** add *not* to the word; **Jeremiah 17:9** the heart is desperately wicked; **John 10:10** Satan steals, kills, & destroys; **Ezekiel 16:28** Israel was unfaithful; **Romans 5:8** yet sinners, Christ died for us; **Romans 2:4** God brings us to *repentance*;

John 8:31 *If ye continue in my word*; **Judges 17:6** no king in Israel; all did their own thing; **Matthew 12:50** doing the will of God makes a child of His; **John 17:17** God's Word is the Truth; **Jude 1:3** contend for the faith—spiritual battle rages; **Matthew 6:14** *If we forgive, God forgives*; **1 Thess. 5:21-21** *Prove all things; hold fast to good. Avoid appearing evil*].

God takes His Word seriously, so we must also. His Word is *settled* in Heaven and He had it written in a Book. The Author is the living God and the Word has been sealed by the Blood of His Son.

Matthew 24:35 *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* **Mark 13:31**; **Luke 21:33**.

The Word of God is extremely important and relevant to everyone today. We must understand its importance—how God will always *uphold* and *preserve* His Word; and how seriously we need to *read* it and *follow* it.

Av **Psalm 12:6** *“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”*

The New Life—Straight Ahead is grounded in the *Word* of God. We must be *alert* because Satan is constantly on the prowl and trying to *discredit* the Word.

He has an agenda and a multitude of ways to *hide* the Truth of the Word. He will downplay the seriousness of *obeying* it and will suggest that faith and trust in God is not that important.

Satan *lies* and people *die*—but God knows that His Word brings *truth* and *life* to those who will *accept* it; *value* it; and *follow* its instructions.

God was serious when He had Moses write **Deuteronomy 4:2** *“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it.”* The Bible needs to be taken *seriously* and lived *literally*.

Satan is determined to destroy souls—his *names* tell of his *intentions*—Adversary; Accuser; Abaddon—meaning: *place of destruction* or *depths of hell*.

Satan is called Apollyon—meaning: *the destroyer*. He is—Beelzebub; Belial; Dragon; Enemy; and father of lies.

His many names tell us what he intends to do to us! He is someone *no one* would invite into their home, and *no one* would want him *around* them or their friends.

Many people make jokes about him as if it is a game—but Satan plays for keeps.

He first wants *our heart* and then he can control *our life*. Most people are not aware that he already *has* their heart—they have already tasted the forbidden fruit!

Jeremiah 17:9 *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked”*—no one can know it; God has to reveal it.

The devil's hatred for God is *off the charts*, but he cannot overcome the King of kings—so he resorts to tricks, scams, deceptions, and suggestions that are not easy to identify.

His plan is to cover the *Truth* of the Word so we will not live out the *plan* of the Word God has written. The destroyer of souls is on the hunt and looking for someone to devour—wanting only *to steal*; *to kill*; and *to destroy* **John 10:10**.

Anyone who is *not alert* and *aware* of what is going on, can be bested in this battle.

The deceiver *knows* he will eventually *lose*, but he is not going down without a fight. The battle began in Genesis where we were made in the *image of God*, so we are the *target of Satan*. He is focused on deceiving and destroying lives.

Many think they are dealing with a *house pet* instead of a *wild beast*—who is out to consume their soul!

Every day we should repent of any known sin or wrong habit, and not give Satan a foothold.

The stakes are so high that God uses strong words to state a truth and get our attention.

To those who were unfaithful, God said **Ezekiel 16:28**, *“Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them.”*

90 times in the Bible God uses that term for anyone who chases after *false gods*.

The world goes *a-whoring* after other gods—which only give fleeting satisfaction and nothing more. The lust of the eyes; the lust of the flesh; and the pride of life are sins that will *bite* the sinner and eventually *end* in destruction.

The New Life—Straight Ahead means we *stay* on the narrow path and *avoid* Satan's traps—we then go *straight ahead* toward a paradise kingdom!

God has *given* us His Truth and He has *showed* us His power. He *parted* the Red Sea, *fed* His people with manna, and He protected the faithful when trials were met.

Today **Romans 5:8** He “*Commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”

God gives us many blessings, and yet many are not satisfied so they chase after other gods—the god of money; the god of pleasure; the god of fame and fortune; the god of entertainment; and the gods of different religions that do nothing for them now and bring destruction later.

Scripture speaks often about the people of God provoking His anger. God has done much for His creation, and yet the world goes after *other* things as if He does not exist.

God just wants His creation to love and trust Him, but most will not do that. NIV **Romans 2:4** “*Do you show contempt for the riches of his [goodness], tolerance and patience, [not knowing AV] that God’s kindness leads you to repentance?*”

God is loving, kind, gracious, and slow to anger—but millions take advantage of His love and grace.

God just wants anyone who is unfaithful to Him to *repent* and *come back* to Him. He never forsakes *us*—it is His creation who forsakes *Him*.

God is compassionate and everyone needs to *know* that before it is too late. The race is coming to a close—the finish line is just ahead.

Sinners do not win in the end, but the *repentant* and *forgiven* have a joyous eternity ahead.

John 8:31 “*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.*” We then know the freedom God’s Truth gives—free from worldly attitudes; free from worldly desires; and free from things that would eventually destroy us.

God wrote **Judges 17:6** “*In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*”

That is so true today—unbelievers want to be their *own god*; they want to direct their *own life*—leaving God out of their decisions and choices—but if Jesus is not *Lord of all*, He is not *Lord at all*.

The warning is clear—judgment is coming on all who *do not know* Him; who *do not obey* His Word; and who *chart their own* life.

The Bible is the only Source of Truth, and it has stood the test of time. It tells us *right* from *wrong* so we would know the *will of God* from the *way of the world*.

Many claim to follow Christ but are afraid of losing friends or money or ministry, so they end up following the world.

They try to please everyone, but truth is *truth* and doctrine is *important*—it is a *way of life*, and our *way of living* must be according to the Word of God.

Anyone who puts *their* thoughts and plans ahead of *God’s* Word and plans—are *saying* that they are their *own god* and want to chart their *own course*.

They are saying that *they* know what is best—but it is the *Father* who knows what is best and has *always known* what is best. It is all written in a Book. **John 17:17** “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*”

The New Life is Straight Ahead and with God’s help we must *stay* on the *straight* and *narrow* path to His kingdom.

Jude 1:3 “*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*”

To *contend* for the faith is to *defend* God’s Word! To *contend* for the faith is to—**1 Timothy 6:12** “*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses*”—which we do when baptized.

Believers are *contenders* in a prize fight—not *spectators* in the arena. To fight the good fight, is to trust our *faithful* Savior!

In fighting this battle, we must never *despise* the riches of God’s *Word*, but to *value* it and *follow* it all through our life.

The Word tells us to *forgive* everyone of everything, because God has forgiven us of everything every time we repent.

To value His *Word* is to follow His *advice*—**NLT Matthew 6:14** “*If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.*”

The New Life—Straight Ahead means we are willing to **1 Thessalonians 5:21** “*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

23 *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

The New Life—Straight Ahead to a mansion prepared for us!



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