

WORSHIP  
WORD  
WELCOME  
WORKS  
WITNESS

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WEEK 5

## Hallmark #12

I seek opportunities to share the gospel and my testimony with people around me, to love them for Jesus and pray for their salvation, invite them to follow Jesus, and connect them to church.

13 June 2022

## Obedience to the Great Commission

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20)*

**Read.** On 3rd August 1945, after Japan refused to surrender, President Truman authorized the use of the atomic bomb. On 6th August, 2 planes flew to Hiroshima and dropped an atomic bomb on the city. Because the atomic bomb had the power to inflict a catastrophic amount of damage, only the President had the authority to make such a decision. This controversial decision had cataclysmic effects, causing the deaths of at least 70,000 in an instant, and many more from the radiation after-effects. Authority. The power to decide and act.

When Jesus says "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him," what did He mean? John 17:2 says God granted Jesus authority over all people that He might give eternal life to

all those God has given Him. In contrast to the example above, Jesus is authorized to give eternal life to all who come to Him. Only Jesus has the power to give eternal life. Jesus' authority is also in His sovereignty over all affairs of the world. Revelation 17:14 says that Jesus is King over all kings. And that even though other powers and kingdoms may wage war against Jesus, He will triumph over them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings. And finally, Jesus says in Matthew 16:18 that He will build His church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. The foundation of the church is Jesus, and by His authority and power, the mission of the church will not fail.

Jesus' authority inspires worship. But it should also inspire confidence. Confidence to obey His command to make disciples of all nations. It should give us faith to sacrifice our time, offer our money and use our gifts to make disciples of those around us. Because Jesus has the authority. Because His power ensures that it will not fail. His purposes and plans will prevail. And Jesus promises to be with us. So what else do we fear? What else prevents us from giving all of ourselves to make disciples of all nations?

**Reflect.** Reflect on the power and authority of Jesus. If all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus, why do you hold back in obeying the Great Commission?

**Respond.** Lord Jesus, all nations and powers will bow down before you, confessing that You are Lord. I lay at your feet all my fears and insecurities. Grant me the courage to obey You, to go and make disciples. Amen.

## Hallmark #12

I seek opportunities to share the gospel and my testimony with people around me, to love them for Jesus and pray for their salvation, invite them to follow Jesus, and connect them to church.

14 June 2022

## Seeking opportunities to share the gospel with others

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Pet 3:15)*

**Read.** “Very busy.” “No time.” “Don’t know how to do it.” “No, no it is not my call.” “Let the chatty ones, the missionaries do that. They are better equipped to share the gospel.” Are these the excuses we have when the subject of speaking about Christ comes up during a conversation?

“Now go, I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.” (Exod 4:12) God knows best. He foresees the fear, apprehension and concerns we have. We all have limitations, let us not be constrained and allow that to stop us. Seek God for wisdom. Let Him take charge of the situation and work through us in sowing the seeds of conviction which only the Holy Spirit can bring to fruition.

The Lord has commanded that we make disciples of all nations

and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt 28:18-20) There is no denying that we are commissioned to do the job.

Indeed, God has anointed us to proclaim good news to the poor. (Isa 61:1) In these troubling times, with the pandemic, global warming and countries in tension, we need to pray and avail ourselves to share the gospel when the opportunities arise. The Ukraine war really brings home the message that we do not need a crisis to act. We can begin with those who are in regular contact with us. Family members, relatives, friends, colleagues, school mates and neighbors. Be intentional and ready to share with acquaintances, passers-by, the shop keeper, taxi driver or even a stranger! If you are willing, God will make it happen when you least expect it.

**Reflect.** Have you missed an opportunity to share the love of our God when the moment presented itself? Do you intentionally seek ways to connect others to the Kingdom we belong to and sincerely pray that others will join us?

**Respond.** Yes God, give me the courage to speak and the willingness to share your love for the world. Help me to be an exemplary model by following Christ (1 Cor 10:33). Let me not just be hearers of your Word but also doers for the glory of God. Amen.

### Hallmark #13

I trust God courageously with my life, my family, and my future, such that I am a living testimony for Jesus.

15 June 2022

## Putting my trust in God such that I am a witness for Jesus

*But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD  
(Josh 24:15b)*

**Read.** When our children were younger, it was always tempting to schedule extra classes and tuition on Sundays, as the rest of the week was already packed! Let's go to church on Sunday morning, and the afternoon is free to have extra lessons! But God commanded us to rest, and set aside a day for Him. As parents, we struggled with this. If we didn't use the time, won't our children lose out?

But we decided not to have any academic activities on Sundays. The children would have the time to either rest, or participate in church ministry activities. A simple decision contrary to conventional worldly wisdom, but our lives must be a testimony for living according to what God commanded us to.

Trusting that God will provide for our children was not easy (Josh 1:9). We felt compelled by the world to push them as much as we can, filling every moment with opportunities to help them succeed (Prov 3:5-6).

But God is faithful, He takes care of all our needs without lack when we chose to live in His Ways, and chose to put Him first. Build our schedule around what we have committed to serve God and not the other way around. Don't serve only when our schedule permits us, but commit to serve first, then use the rest of the time for other activities.

**Reflect.** What do we hold dear to us and do we dare to let it go and ignore worldly wisdom and trust God with it instead? What examples do we set for our families in how to live life?

**Respond.** Father God, you love us and you want to bless us. Help us to honour you with our lives and the lives of our families. Help us decide courageously to make the choices to honour you instead of conforming to the world, and to serve you faithfully as families.

### Hallmark #14

I remain faithful to God in the midst of hardships and personal loss, temptations, and persecution. I rejoice in all circumstances, knowing that God is in sovereign control, that my suffering is temporal, and that my eternal hope is secure.

16 June 2022

## Rejoicing in the Lord despite trying circumstances

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.  
(Rom 8:28)*

**Read.** The Covid situation brought much pain and suffering. We experience disruptions to normal life, face health issues (physical and mental), have concerns over family/careers/finances and so on. We lived with much stress and anxiety.

In Romans 8, Paul taught us to overcome tough times not with our own strength but through a Spirit-filled life, a controlled mind filled with life and peace where the Spirit intercedes for us according to His purpose. A life filled with hope as we wait on the Lord patiently, trusting that all things work for good for those who love him who have been called according to his purpose. Confident that we are more than conquerors and nothing can separate us from the love of God.



A challenging situation will draw us closer to God as we wait on Him, devoting time to read His word and pray. We are not alone. Many in God's family will uphold us in prayer and provide support. God will reveal His purpose. When we face difficult situations, this could be a call to repent, a time to rest, a time for healing, an opportunity for a relationship to be restored or to show us a new area to serve. Whatever it may be, we deepen our walk with God and are refreshed to journey on.

**Reflect.** What does God want me to understand and do this season?

**Respond.** Heavenly Father, I need you. May your Holy Spirit empower me to manage my circumstances, trusting in your sovereign control. Grant me peace and patience as I wait on you, strength to press on and bring glory to you, Amen!

### Hallmark #14

I remain faithful to God in the midst of hardships and personal loss, temptations, and persecution. I rejoice in all circumstances, knowing that God is in sovereign control, that my suffering is temporal, and that my eternal hope is secure.

17 June 2022

## Faithfulness to God in times of persecution/hardships

*But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” (1 Pet 3:14)*

*“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt 5:11-12)*

*You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matt 10:22)*

**Read.** In this world, Jesus’ followers will never escape persecution and trials. Jesus Christ spoke frankly to His disciples about the future. He did not hide anything from them, so there was no way they could ever accuse Him of deception or making false promises. He told them that to be His disciples meant a life of self-denial and the bearing of a cross. He said “Count the cost if you want to be my disciples, for you will meet with suffering and hardship”. Indeed, as the world hated Him, so would they hate His

servants. He warns the Christian today to expect conflict, not an easy and cosy life. There will be false accusations, insults and all manner of evil against believers. The apostle John says “the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God” (John 16:2).

But here’s the powerful hope that keeps us strong: God is greater than whatever we face here in this world, and He fights for us still today! In the midst of our struggle with the enemy, rejoice, stand firm, we know we are not alone, for God constantly shields, protects and strengthens us, even when we are unaware of it. Jesus has “endured the cross for the joy set before Him” (Heb 12:2), likewise, we too will be “strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy” (Col 1:11).

So Christian, “Rejoice and be glad!”. The unexplainable joy in this life is only a foretaste of the overwhelming joy that awaits all believers when they see Christ in eternity. Everyone who shares Christ’s rejection now will also share His glory then. That is the blessed assurance we have.

**Reflect.** Why is suffering and hardship so much a part of the Christian’s life in following Christ? What truths about God help us when we undergo suffering?

**Respond.** Father, please help me not to fear when we undergo suffering and hardship for our faith. Help me to remain steadfast and faithful to You and to rejoice in all circumstances because You are sovereign. My suffering is temporal but my reward and hope is eternal in Jesus.