



John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)
Email responses may be sent to: TychicusTruths@johnpolkll.com

Free Bible Article: "Four Rules For A Happy Life"

<https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/1c0a530a-e0bf-455d-8ef2-887f8e12552d.pdf>

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, Notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
- ~ Middle age is when you choose cereal for the fiber, not the toys.
- ~ There is a difference between friends you can count up and those you can count on.
- ~ God loves each one as if there is but one to love.

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"I Have Kept The Faith" 2 Timothy 4:7

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul's faith was formed by rules of fighting and racing. **v.7**
2. It's not competition with others, but accomplishment.
3. The Christian life: prospect, practice, and promise
4. What it took for Paul to say this.

DISCUSSION:

1. "I **Will Keep** The Faith"
 - a. A sinner's promise
 - 1) **Luke 9:57-58**
 - 2) **Matthew 19:29**
 - b. Hindrance: Faith only
 - 1) **Matthew 21:38-31**
 - 2) **James 2:25-26**
2. "I **Am Keeping** The Faith"
 - a. Continually
 - 1) **2 Timothy 3:10-12**
 - 2) **Hebrews 10:36-38**
 - b. Hindrance: Turn Aside
 - 1) **Luke 8:13**
 - 2) **2 Timothy 4:3-4**
3. "I **Have Kept** The Faith"
 - a. Counting Blessedness **Revelation 14:12-13**
 - b. Hindrance: **1 Thessalonians 4:8**

-----John T. Polk II

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LET'S REPORT IT!

"Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report *it*, that they might seize Him."

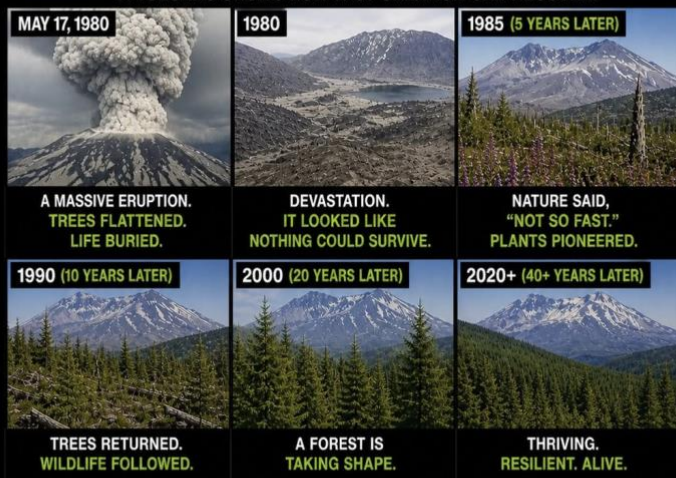
(**John 11:57** NKJV)



MT. ST. HELENS

NATURE'S NOT SLOW—IT'S POWERFUL!

A VOLCANO SHOWS HOW FAST CREATION CAN RECOVER!



THE EARTH'S PROCESSES DON'T TAKE MILLIONS OF YEARS.

Get the Word In, Then Live It Out

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus tells of the sowing of the seed, which is the word of God. The seed falls on various types of soil, which are people's hearts. You can read the parable and Jesus' explanations in Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23; Mark 4:3-9, 13-20; and Luke 8:4-8, 11-15. With the exception of the hard soil, all of the soils received the seed and plants started to grow. But only the good soil produced a crop. Combining all three gospel accounts reveals something interesting concerning what should be done after receiving the seed to insure success:

- * *"he who hears the word and **understands it**" (Matthew 13:23)*
- * *"those who hear the word, **accept it**" (Mark 4:20)*
- * *"having heard the word...**keep it**" (Luke 8:15)*

Thus, if we are to bear fruit for the Lord, then we must not only hear the word, but we must understand it, accept it, and keep it active in our lives. We must read, comprehend, believe, and obey the word of God. It is then we will grow and be productive in God's vineyard.

- Edd Sterchi



By David Sproule

Perpetually Holding Someone's Past Against Him

Don't you love it when someone brings up something that you did decades ago and reminds you of a mistake that they refuse to put behind them? No! You don't love it! You likely are hurt by the reminder, frustrated by the blast from the past and long for the time when it is forgotten.

Here's a question to consider: As much as we wish others would give us a break for past mistakes we have made, do we give them that same courtesy? Jesus taught, "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise" (Luke 6:31). Give some thought to what the Bible teaches.

Jesus occasionally reflected on a truism that states: "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house" (Mark 6:4). The reason that a prophet cannot find honor in these places is often because these folks remember his behavior from years gone by and have a hard time letting it go. Do we hold a person's past against him unnecessarily and unfairly? Do we appreciate it when others do that toward us?

Consider the example of the apostle Paul toward John Mark. Mark was the cousin of Barnabas (Col. 4:10), and he travelled with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Acts 12:25). However, he turned back from "the work" on

that journey (Acts 13:13; 15:38). Paul "insisted that they should not take" him on the second journey, which led to a sharp "contention" with Barnabas (Acts 15:37-39). However, by the end of the book of Acts, John Mark was a companion of Paul again (Phile. 24) and became "useful to [Paul] for ministry" again (2 Tim. 4:11). What happened? We see growth, perhaps on both sides, as Paul did not forever penalize John Mark for his past choices.

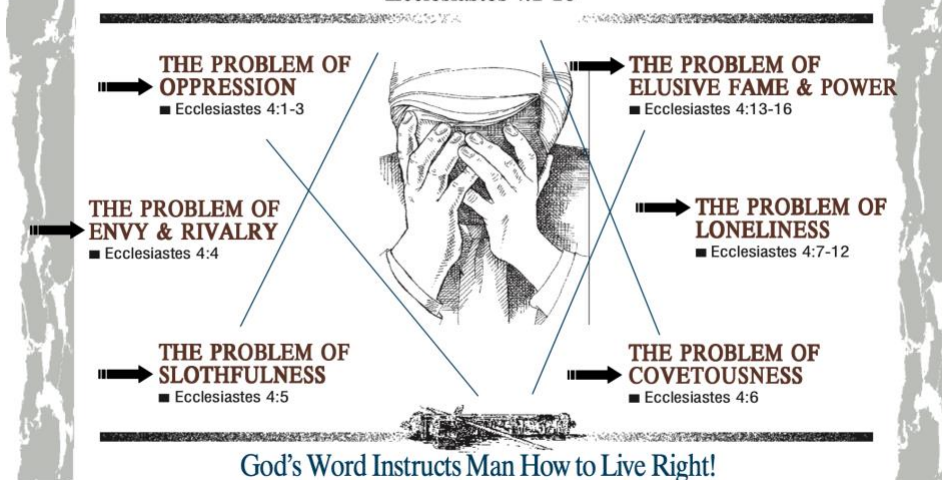
**God's people
are instructed
to be
"forgiving"!**

When the Holy Spirit moved Paul to describe the nature of *agape* love, one key component is that love "does not take into account a wrong suffered" (1 Cor. 13:5, NASB). The "wrong suffered" probably still hurts, but when a Christian refuses to be "selfish" and chooses to "look out...for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4), he is willing to forgive. But why would he do that?

God's people are instructed to be "forgiving," "even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32). Not only is our forgiveness from God contingent on our forgiving others of wrongs they have done against us, but God's standard of forgiveness is to be ours. While it is hard to forget what another has done against us, our model Forgiver "will remember no more" the sins and lawless deeds that we commit against Him (Heb. 10:17). God does not perpetually hold our past against us! So, who are we to do what God Himself will not do?

Six Problems that Frustrate the Human Heart

Ecclesiastes 4:1-16



God's Word Instructs Man How to Live Right!

Chart Idea: The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible - Ecclesiastes

Barnes' Bible Charts