



5. Dedicated to God

God gives us a wonderful promise. He says, **“You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13)**. Why do we need to find God? Because we have all sinned, and sin separates us from Him. **Romans 3:23**.

Sin is a terrible thing! When Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan and disobey God’s law, sin came into our world. People became Satan’s prisoners; they were no longer free to be God’s friends. **2 Timothy 2:26** says that we have **“been taken captive by him [Satan] to do his will.”** That means our minds want to disobey God; and without help, we can’t change that.

People locked up in prison can’t get out without help. And

we can’t free ourselves from obeying Satan without help. That’s why we have to seek or ask for God’s help.

Has God sent us help? Yes! Jesus came to our world to die for our sins. He took our punishment for disobeying God’s law and showed us how much God loves us! And if we ask Him for help and choose to love Him with all our hearts, He will free us from Satan.

Not everyone wants to be free from Satan; they like the sins they are doing, and God

will never force anyone to love Him. That wouldn’t be love, would it? Would you want to love someone who said, “If you don’t love me, I’ll hurt you!” No! That’s why God wants people to love Him because they *want* to love Him.

Sin is like a poison that will kill us if we don’t get rid of it. The Bible says, **“the wages of sin is death.”** But it also says, **“the**

gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). God wants to give us life, but we must be willing to let Him help us get rid of every single sin in our hearts. If there is even one sin we want to keep doing because we like it, we are still obeying Satan.

Does God ask us to give up anything that is good for us? No. He only asks us to stop doing those things that will hurt us and others and keep us out of heaven.

God knows it is hard to say “No” to Satan’s temptations. He knows that without His help we can’t. That’s why God invites us to choose Him. When we do, His love will fill our hearts, and we will want to stay close to Him. He will make us strong enough to obey His laws.

God promises that when we **“submit to God”** and **“resist the devil,”** **“he will flee from you” (James 4:7)**. Would you like to do that?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5

TULIPS

GOD’S PROMISE



**“Submit to God.
Resist the devil
and he will flee
from you.”**

—James 4:7





9. Living for Others

Do you want to be happy? Of course. Are you always happy? No. Sometimes you feel sad.

Did you know that when we are sad, one of the best ways to become happy is to try to make someone else happy? When we do this, we are learning to live for others.

COSMOS

GOD'S PROMISE

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
—Acts 20:35



Another way to become happy is to be unselfish and share what we have with someone in need. Jesus said that we are more blessed, or happy, when we give to others.

Acts 20:35.

Jesus was always happy because He was always helping people. He was thoughtful and kind to everyone, especially old people and the poor. He showed kindness even to the animals. Every living thing was happier when Jesus was near.

The Bible tells us, **"Do not forget to do good and to share"** (Hebrews 13:16). Sometimes it may seem hard to live for others. Often we will have to deny ourselves. That means saying "No" to what we want to do. But the more we are like Jesus and help others, the happier we will become.

Even angels are more happy when they help others. God could have let the angels do all the work of helping people. But He wants us to be happy, too. Isn't it nice to know that when we help others, we are doing what the angels love to do?

All the beautiful things of nature teach us how to live for others. Does the sun keep its light to itself, or does it give its light to help us? Does a flower keep its sweet nectar to itself? No. It gives it to the hungry bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Do

the bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds take that nectar without helping the flower? No. They pollinate it so it can make seeds.

Water flows into the ocean from many rivers. But does the ocean keep the water to itself? No. As the sun warms the water, the ocean gives some of its water to the air. Clouds of tiny water droplets form, and the wind blows the clouds over the land. Do the clouds keep all the water droplets? No. The water falls to the earth to help plants and flowers grow. Then it flows in streams and rivers back to the ocean again.

Does an apple tree keep all its apples for itself? No. It grows extra so there will be food for animals and people. Do the leaves on plants and trees live only for themselves? No. They are always making fresh air for people and animals to breathe.

We can be giving and unselfish like the beautiful things in nature when we ask God to change our hearts and help us to live like Jesus. Why not think of the many ways that you can be giving to others? You can be sure that you will discover lots and lots of happiness as you make others happy.

"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philippians 2:4

