"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

-the LORD, in Joshua 1:8

17 Steps to take GOD's Commands from words on a page to thinking about them and actually doing and completing them:

- <u>Listen Carefully:</u> Read it out loud, listen, and write it in your journal. (Mark 4:24-25)
- Repeat it again and again: Sing it or say it over and over; Memorize it. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
- Understand: Ask questions and try to answer them. (Luke 24:45)
- Believe: Restate the command as a belief statement: "LORD JESUS, I believe that \_\_\_\_." (John 6:29 & 69, Mark 9:23, Numbers 23:19)
- Make a Plan: How are you going to actually do JESUS' Command in your daily life? Write out "Who, What, When, Where, and How". (Proverbs 21:5, Isaiah 32:8)
- Count the Cost: How much Time, Effort, Money, Pain, and Sacrifice (TEMPS) will this cost you? (Luke 14:26-28)
- Say, "Yes": If you are willing to pay the price, then say, "Yes, LORD, I want to do this." (Matthew 5:33-37)
- Repent and Commit it to the LORD: Say you are sorry for times you didn't do this command. Then pray, "LORD JESUS, I commit this plan to you..." (1 John 1:9 and Proverbs 16:3)
- Begin immediately with 2 minutes of action: Write it on your calendar and To-Do List. Do something simple to get the plan going. (John 9:4)
- 10. Work the Plan: Carry out your ideas as planned. (Colossians 3:23-24)
- Finish it: Persevere to the very end. Then clean up tools and put them away. (2 Timothy 4:7-8)
- Build Character: As you do this command, what character qualities will you be developing? (Colossians 3:10-14)
- Abide in JESUS: Notice how JESUS begins to bless you in special ways and how you feel closer to Him. You are becoming Best Friends with JESUS! (John 15:10)
- 14. <u>Pray Bold Prayers</u>: Use your abiding relationship to pray bold, heartfelt prayers. "If you abide in Me [do JESUS' commands] and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15:7 & 10)
- Make Disciples: Who can you teach this command to? Siblings? Friends? Classmates? Cousins? (Matthew 28:19-20)
- 16. Anticipate His Rewards: Imagine seeing JESUS on the Day of His Return, and Him saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21) And you say, "We are unworthy servants. We have only done our duty." (Luke 17:10 and Revelation 2 & 3)
- 17. <u>Become One of JESUS' Best Friends:</u> Follow the Lamb wherever He goes! Become just like JESUS: JESUS does this, so I do it. (Revelation 14:1-5)

### WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD?

"Thy Kingdom come. THY WILL BE DONE in earth, as it is in Heaven." Matthew 6:10 (KJV)

GOD clearly tells us His will in the Bible. His Commands ARE His will. They are expressed through the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and throughout the Bible. Here are GOD's major commands. When we obey GOD's commands, we are doing His will!

"If you love me, obey my commandments." – JESUS, in John 14:15 (NLT)

I love JESUS and have decided to follow Him and be His disciple. Because I love Him, I want to obey His commands. Therefore, these attributes, based on JESUS' commands, are now beginning to characterize my life:

# TEN COMMANDMENTS (Exodus 20:1-17):

- 1. I have no other gods before JEHOVAH. (20:3)
- 2. I do not bow down to idols. (20:4-5)
- 3. I do not take GOD's NAME in vain. (20:7)
- 4. I remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. (20:8-11)
- I honor my father and mother, that my days may be long upon the land that GOD give me. (20:12)
- 6. I do not kill. (20:13)
- 7. I do not commit adultery. (20:14)
- 8. I do not steal. (20:15)
- 9. I do not bear false witness against my neighbors. (20:16)
- 10. I do not covet my neighbor's house, spouse, or anything that belongs to my neighbor. (20:17)

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Matthew 5, 6, & 7)

- 1. I am poor in spirit and realize my need for GOD. (5:3)
- 2. I weep about sad things. (5:4)
- I am meek [humble, power under authority, well-trained, gentle]. (5:5)
- 4. I hunger and thirst for righteousness. (5:6)
- 5. I am merciful.(5:7)
- 6. I am pure in heart. (5:8)
- 7. I am a peacemaker. (5:9)
- 8. I rejoice when I am persecuted for doing what is right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is mine, and a GREAT reward awaits me in Heaven! (5:10-12)
- I am the salt of the earth [improving every situation I am involved in by loving with JESUS' kind of love]. (5:13)
- 10. I am the light of the world [I show other people GOD's way to live; the Way of Love; the Way of dying to myself and loving others so much that I am willing to die for them.] I let my good deeds shine out so that everyone will glorify GOD because of what I do! (5:14-16)
- 11. I obey GOD's laws and teach them to others. (5:19)
- 12. Not only do I not murder, but I don't even get angry with anyone without a cause or call them a fool. (5:22)
- 13. I get reconciled with those I have offended before I try to go and worship GOD. (5:23-24)

- If someone sues me, I agree with my adversary's accusations and settle my differences BEFORE our court date arrives. (5:25)
- 15. Not only do I not commit adultery, but I don't even LOOK at a person with the intent of committing adultery with him or her in my heart. (5:27-28)
- I am SERIOUS about not sinning. I work HARD to not sin. I am so serious about it that I would rather pluck out my right eye or cut off my right hand, than sin! (5:29-30)
- 17. I will not divorce my spouse unless he or she has committed some sort of grotesque act of fornication. (5:31-32)
- 18. I do not swear. I just say "Yes" or "No." (5:33-37)
- I do not resist evil. I let people hit me, hurt me, and walk all over me, but I DO NOT RETALIATE. I turn the other cheek and let them do it again if necessary. (5:38-39)
- 20. If anyone sues me, I give them more than they ask for. (5:40)
- 21. If someone compels me to do a task for them, I do more than they ask. (5:41)
- 22. If someone asks me for money or wants to borrow from me, I give it to him. (5:42)
- 23. I am just like my Father in Heaven: I love my enemies, I bless those who curse me, I do good to those who hate me, and I pray for those who despitefully use me and persecute me. (5:44-48)
- 24. I do my good deeds privately, not publicly (My goal is not to be noticed by others. My goal is to please the LORD). (6:1)
- 25. I quietly give to those in need. (6:2-4)
- 26. I pray to ABBA FATHER privately. (6:5-6)
- 27. I pray what is on my heart, not just merely repeating rote prayers over and over. (6:7-8)
- 28. I pray for GOD's Name to be kept holy; for His Kingdom to come to earth; for His will to be done on earth in the same way as it is done in heaven; for GOD to give us the food we need today; for GOD to forgive our sins to the same degree that we forgive the sins of those who hurt us; to help us not yield to temptation; and to rescue us from the evil one. (6:9-13)
- 29. I forgive all those who sin against me SO THAT my Heavenly FATHER will forgive me. (6:14)
- I fast secretly, combing my hair, washing my face—looking nice on days when I am fasting – so that no one but my Heavenly Father knows that I am fasting. (6:16-18)
- 31. I don't invest in earthly treasures, but in heavenly treasures. (6:19-21)
- 32. I am careful about what I allow my eyes to see. I fill my vision with things of the light, not of darkness. (6:22-23)
- 33. I serve GOD and hate money. I serve GOD, not money [I do not exist to make money. I exist to worship GOD. GOD is the One to whom I look in order to provide my needs, not money. Money cannot provide eternal salvation, but GOD can]. (6:25)
- 34. I don't worry about everyday life whether I have enough food, drink, or clothes to wear. I seek the Kingdom of GOD above all else, and I do what is right in GOD's sight, and I KNOW that GOD will give me everything that I need. (6:25-34)
- 35. I don't judge others, because GOD will judge me in the same way I judge others. (7:1-2)
- 36. I don't worry about the specks in my friends' eyes. Rather, I focus on getting the logs out of my own eyes. (7:3-5)
- 37. I am very careful not to share the beautiful insights and moments that GOD gives me with people who have no respect

- for GOD and will sneer at me for the precious things GOD has done for me. (7:6)
- 38. I am persistent. I keep on asking GOD for things in prayer, and I KNOW He will give them to me. I keep on seeking for lost things, for blessings, and for answers to questions, and I know I will find them. I keep on knocking, because I KNOW the door will eventually be opened to me. GOD is so good; He WILL give me the good gifts that I ask Him for! (7:7-11)
- 39. I do to others whatever I would like them to do to me. (7:12)
- 40. I am willing to do what GOD requires in order to enter GOD's Kingdom. If He says I must do it in order to go to have Eternal Life, I do it. [Therefore, I believe in JESUS for my salvation (John 6:29), I follow JESUS and am His disciple (Matthew 9:9), I confess with my mouth that He is my LORD, I believe in my heart that GOD raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9-10), I am baptized into JESUS (Mark 16:16), I love Him and obey His commands (John 3:36 and 14:15), and I get to know JESUS as my intimate friend. (John 6:53)] (Matthew 7:13-14)
- 41. I keep alert for false prophets who look like Christians and sound like Christians, but bear bad fruit. Their actions make me realize that they are not true prophets who speak for JESUS, because they don't love others like He does. (7:15-20)
- 42. I work hard to actually do the will of my Father in Heaven so that I can enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I work on my relationship with JESUS, to know Him as my closest friend and confidant, and I obey GOD's laws (7:21-23)
- 43. I listen to JESUS' teachings and I ACTUALLY DO the things He tells us to do. Because I do this, JESUS calls me wise. [By doing what JESUS teaches, I am creating good, holy habits that will stand up even through the fiercest storm of life. My actions will be approved of by GOD for eternity, because I'm doing what JESUS told me to do, and His commands are based on the love, character, and will of GOD that is rock-solid and will never shift.] (7:24-25)

## A FEW OF JESUS' OTHER COMMANDS:

- 44. I am the servant of all, and take the least, lowest, and last positions, because I want to be highly esteemed in GOD's Kingdom (Luke 22:25-27)
- 45. I humble myself and do yucky, humble tasks to serve others, because that is what JESUS did. (John 13:12-15)
- 46. I am early, ready, and prepared all the time for JESUS' Return, and I keep watch for Him so that I can immediately greet Him when He returns. I stay dressed and ready for service, ready to work hard for my Master. (Luke 12:35-48)
- 47. I love the LORD my GOD with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and I love my neighbor as myself. (Mark 12:29-31)
- 48. I tame my tongue and am very careful to not be defiled by the words that come out of my mouth. (Matthew 15:11)
- 49. I choose to follow JESUS, so I give up my own way [I live JESUS' way], take up my cross [I'm willing to work hard and suffer], and follow Him [I live JESUS' way and do His commands, following His example of how to live]. I give up my life for His sake. (Matthew 16:24-25)

### Example of How GOD's Commands Can Change our Lives:

JESUS' Command: "You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected." -JESUS, in Matthew 24:44 (NLT)

JESUS' Command: "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal..." -JESUS, in Matthew 6:19-21, (KJV)

How can we be ready for the LORD's Return, and what are the Eternal Treasures that we should invest in, in order to receive a reward when JESUS Returns? Eternal Treasures are: GOD, GOD's WORD, and people's souls. Here are some ways you can invest in these three things:

- Believe in JESUS, that He IS the Son of GOD, that His death on the cross served the punishment that you deserve for all the bad things you have done in life; that He died on the cross and was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day. (John 6:29)
- 2. Choose to follow JESUS and be His disciple. (Matthew 9:9)
- Make a decision that you are going to stop being selfish and to stop doing bad or unkind things. Choose to be like JESUS – and like GOD – who is loving, kind, and merciful to everyone, even His enemies. (Mark 1:15 and Luke 6:27-36)
- 4. Publicly acknowledge that JESUS is your LORD and Master. (Romans 10:9-10 and Matthew 10:32)
- 5. Be baptized in water in the Name of the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT. (Mark 16:16)
- 6. Ask GOD to fill you with the HOLY SPIRIT. (Luke 11:13, Acts 1:8)
- Seek GOD diligently and get to know Him as your closest friend and confidant. (Hebrews 11:6 He is a REWARDER of those who diligently seek Him.)
- 8. Get a Bible and read it. Meditate on His Commands (10 Commandments and Sermon on the Mount), do them, and teach them. (Matthew 5:19)
- Do your work and take care of your responsibilities faithfully (Matthew 24:45-47)
- Care for, teach, and encourage children to love and serve GOD. (Mark 9:37)
- 11. Love others. (John 15:12)
- 12. Be the servant of all. (Luke 22:26)
- Show mercy, kindness, and generosity to the poor and needy, orphans, widows, sick, imprisoned, strangers, homeless, weak, hungry, thirsty, and the disabled. (Matthew 25:34-40)
- 14. Suffer with JESUS (2 Timothy 2:12)
- Persevere and serve JESUS faithfully, to the very end, even if threatened with death. (Revelation 2:10 and 3:10)
- Keep our robes white and spotless by repenting of our sins, maintaining a clear conscience, and doing good deeds (Revelation 19:8)
- Be an overcomer, leaping over every Hurdle, Obstacle, Problem, Fear, Sin, Temptation, Anxiety, Worry, Fatigue, Disappointment, and Discouragement. (Revelation 3:21)
- Develop Christ-like character such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, meekness, and selfcontrol (Galatians 5:22-23)
- 19. **Rest in JESUS** daily and on the Sabbath. (Psalm 127:2 and Isaiah
- 20. Give firstfruits and a tithe of your income to GOD. (Malachi 3:1-12)
- 21. Watch for JESUS' Return by treating others well, doing our work, and asking yourself, "What would I do differently if I knew that JESUS was returning TONIGHT at midnight?" (Matthew 24:42)

# How to DO GOD's Commands!

By the power of the HOLY SPIRIT, unlock the door to the Kingdom of GOD:

READ GOD'S WORD.
THINK ABOUT IT.
DO IT.
TEACH IT.