



April 2025



Father, forgive...

*Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them,
for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:34)*

Recently as I was thinking about the relationship issues among my Christian friends, I realised that their hurt and broken hearts created a gulf between them. Why do such good and godly Christians have such struggles, why could they not love and honor one another instead of experiencing bitter feelings in their hearts? I had many such questions like these swirled in my thoughts. God helped me to see the bitter reality of the underlying issue. They could not forgive and forget the things their friends or loved ones committed against them knowingly or unknowingly.

People often say, "To err is human, to forgive is divine." However, many of us struggle to forgive others, even our closest relatives and friends. Some say, "I will forgive but will never/cannot forget what s/he did against me." In a way, this is also unforgiveness. I am surprised to know that UNFORGIVENESS can cause many diseases and evil in our modern mobile world.

If we count the number of times we asked the Lord to forgive us....I doubt whether we can finish counting them. We all know that it will be countless. We do not hesitate to ask God to forgive us, but we are reluctant to ask others to forgive us even for our mistakes and misdeeds. Our EGO and self-respect hinder us from doing it. Some pray, "Lord, I cannot ask sorry with the person, so please forgive me even for not asking the person to forgive me (or reconciling with him/her)." Let us remember: we should not hesitate to say sorry and seek forgiveness, whoever we may be.

Many times, it is not difficult to ask for forgiveness when we know that the mistake is on our part. If we did not do anything wrong, or when we are suffering without any reason, what should we do? We should set our eyes on Jesus.

We should follow what Jesus did. We should forgive others with all our hearts and pray for them. Instead of accusing or blaming others, we need to intercede for them in prayer. When we do this, we will receive the reward of righteousness from our God.

Jesus is "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens." However, he was mocked, abused, condemned, and was crucified on the cross. Leaders could not prove their accusations against Jesus. Everyone knew that Jesus was a just person. Even Pilate confessed "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person." However, he delivered Jesus to the evil religious leaders.

BUT JESUS forgave all of them. In his prayer, he said, "they do not know what they do." Let us remember Jesus, "who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls."

When we are not able to forgive someone as we have deep hurts and are irritated about the person, it affects our spiritual life. It makes our prayers and meditations shallow and empty, making it difficult to experience God in our lives. Therefore, realizing the greatness of forgiveness, let us ask God, "Lord, forgive me. Help me to forgive others and go to others to seek forgiveness without any reservations and reluctance." May God help us to practice this just as Jesus did.

- Bro. Arputharaj Samuel, Bangalore.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on behalf of the GODependence Team. I thank God for the opportunity to reconnect with you through this newsletter once again.

As we journey through this Lenten season, our hearts are drawn once again to the foot of the cross where love, sorrow and salvation meet. The Passion of Christ is not just a narrative of suffering—it's the heartbeat of the gospel, a divine demonstration of love that held nothing back. "He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain..." (Isaiah 53:3). In a world that often turns its face from suffering, Jesus stepped into ours. He didn't avoid the cup of pain; He embraced it. Betrayed by a friend, abandoned by His followers, and accused by those He came to save, He bore every wound not out of weakness, but out of relentless love.

We did nothing to deserve it, yet Christ gave everything to redeem us. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). The cross was not a mistake—it was a mission. As we reflect on the Passion, let it move us to deeper surrender. Let it stir gratitude that overflows into worship. May we also say like Paul as in Galatians 2:20 with conviction: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

Around 290 participants took part in the Ramadan Bible Reading Challenge, which began on February 28 and concluded on March 30; among them, 21 people completed reading the full Bible. Over 1,250 individuals have joined the Lenten Bible Reading Challenge that began on 5 th March.

By God's grace, we were able to launch the GODependence Talkshow as planned. Participants of the event in March 2025, which emphasized the importance of fasting in prayer, shared that it was a meaningful and beneficial program.

As our entire team is currently involved in dispatching the Appreciation Certificates / Certificates including Prizes — to individuals who successfully completed the Bible reading challenges, the Bible Meditation Groups that were scheduled to resume in April 2025 have now been postponed to July 2025. Continue to pray for our team and all the ministry activities planned for 2025, that they may be carried out diligently and in an orderly manner, without any setbacks.

We deeply appreciate each one of you who actively participate in our Bible Crossword Puzzles and Let's Play Bible Games. Please continue to pray for this ministry and help to introduce its services to others. May the name of the Lord be glorified.



**In Christ's service,
Dr. Pethuru Devadason.**

Praise & Prayer Points - April 2025



Let's Praise God:

1. For those who successfully completed the Bible reading plan by the end of March 2025.
2. For those who joined the Ramadan 2025 Bible Reading Group that started on 28 February 2025 and completed the Bible reading challenge successfully.
3. For the students of 11th and 12th grades who completed their public exams well.
4. For the Lord's grace and blessings that led to the successful execution of the GODependence Talk Show in March 2025.
5. For those who are enthusiastically reading the Bible as part of the Lenten Bible Reading Challenge 2025 group.



Let's Pray:

1. That those who have joined the April 2025 Bible Reading Challenge groups to complete reading the Bible successfully.
2. That the Lord may grant wisdom to students preparing for the NEET exam.
3. That the 12th-grade students who have written their public exams may receive good marks and get admitted to their desired higher education programs.
4. That the GODependence Talk Show scheduled for April 2025 may be fruitful.
5. For the preparation works of the Bible Meditation groups that are about to restart.

Spiritual and Physical Benefits of Fasting and Prayer

- Dr. Diana Thamby Ebenezer



The practices of fasting and prayer, often intertwined throughout history, hold profound significance for both the spiritual and physical well-being of individuals. This powerful synergy is not merely a temporary discipline but a transformative lifestyle choice, offering a unique pathway to deeper communion with God and tangible benefits for the physical body. By intentionally abstaining from food or drink and dedicating oneself to focused prayer, believers can experience a heightened spiritual sensitivity and unlock potential physical advantages.

Biblical Foundation for Fasting and Prayer

The teachings of Jesus implicitly link fasting with prayer and giving as fundamental duties of every Christian. When Jesus spoke of these practices, He used the phrases "When you give...", "When you pray..." and "When you fast," indicating that fasting, like the other two, was a normal part of the Christian life. Furthermore, the Old Testament reveals that God absolutely required fasting of all His people under the old covenant, with severe consequences for those who neglected it on the Day of Atonement. Throughout the Bible, numerous examples illustrate the significance of combining fasting and prayer in seeking God's favor, guidance, and deliverance.

Spiritual Benefits

The combined discipline of fasting and prayer yields a wealth of spiritual benefits, fostering a closer relationship with God and enhancing spiritual discernment. When you eliminate food from your diet for a number of days, your spirit becomes uncluttered by the things of this world and amazingly sensitive to the things of God. This heightened sensitivity can lead to deeper intimacy with the Lord and knowledge of God's perfect will. Richard Foster, in **Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth**, notes that

"More than any other discipline, fasting reveals the things that control us. This is a wonderful benefit to the true disciple who longs to be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. We cover up what is inside of us with food and other things." Thus, fasting and prayer become a powerful tool for self-reflection and spiritual growth.

Furthermore, fasting and prayer are presented as a secret key that unlocks heaven's door and slams shut the gates of hell, signifying their potent spiritual impact. They serve as a means of humbling ourselves before God, as King David declared, "I humbled myself with fasting" (Psalm 35:13). This posture of humility is crucial for drawing near to God and receiving His grace. During periods when one feels distant from God, fasting can trigger rejuvenation and revitalization of the spiritual connection.

The practice also focuses our attention on God & express our dependence upon Him. It is a powerful way to seek God by humility and to align our hearts with the will of God. Moreover, fasting prepares the way for God to give you fresh revelation, fresh vision, and clear purpose. It keeps one sensitive to His Spirit, enabling you to live holy. The yearning expressed in Psalm 42:1-2, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?", often resonates deeply during times of fasting and prayer.

Physical Considerations

While the primary emphasis of combining fasting and prayer is often spiritual, the sources also touch upon physical aspects. Believers are called to "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). Engaging in disciplined fasting can be seen as an act of presenting the body in a way that is conducive to spiritual focus.

Furthermore, fasting, when aligned with spiritual seeking, can have tangible physical benefits:

- Fasting brings physical health naturally and supernaturally (Isaiah 58:8).
- Fasting prepares us for temptation (Matthew 4:1-11). This may relate to developing self-control and a reliance on spiritual strength rather than physical gratification.
- Fasting unlocks our calling (Acts 13:2). While the context here is primarily spiritual, it can imply a clarity of purpose that can influence one's physical actions and direction in life.
- Fasting releases divine power into your life (Luke 4:14, Deuteronomy 8:18). This empowerment may manifest both spiritually and physically, providing strength and resilience.

It is important to note the physiological stages one might experience during fasting, including initial hunger and cravings, and progressing through stages like ketosis and autophagy after extended periods. Awareness of potential side effects such as headaches, fatigue, and digestive issues is also crucial for a safe and effective fast. The guidance to consult your doctor before fasting if you have any medical issues underscores the importance of considering one's physical well-being.

Practical Guidance for Engaging in Fasting and Prayer

To effectively integrate fasting and prayer into one's spiritual life, the sources offer practical advice:

- Prepare yourself gradually before embarking on a fast.
- Start small when beginning, perhaps with shorter durations.
- Slowly cut back on food intake and increase water intake in the days leading up to the fast.
- Consult a doctor before fasting if you have any medical issues.
- Clear your schedule as much as possible to dedicate time to prayer and seeking God.
- Plan what you will consume if it is not a complete fast, focusing on simple sustenance like water or juice.
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated.
- Set aside specific times to read your Bible and pray.
- Listen to praise music and worship God whenever possible.

- Make a list of what you are praying and believing God for.
- Avoid drawing attention to your fast; keep it a private matter between you and God.
- Unplug from distractions such as social media and excessive entertainment.
- When cravings hit, turn to prayer and ask God for strength.
- Be mindful of how you treat others, allowing the Spirit to guide your interactions.
- Always end your fast with prayer and praise, acknowledging God's faithfulness.
- Break your fast carefully, especially after longer periods. Begin with easily digestible foods like fruit or vegetable juices.
- Gradually return to regular eating with small snacks over a few days.
- Do not be discouraged by initial difficulties; building "fasting muscles" takes time.
- Avoid breaking your fast with a feast.

Fasting with the Right Heart

The sources also caution against improper motivations and approaches to fasting. Biblical fasting is not a hunger strike between you and God and is not intended to earn God's favor or manipulate Him. Christians should avoid hypocritical or showy fasting, fasting without repentance or change, fasting without compassion or justice, fasting as a ritual without heart, fasting for selfish motives, fasting without faith or trust in God, and fasting that harms the body. The focus should remain on seeking God with a sincere and humble heart. If it doesn't mean anything to you, it won't mean anything to God.

Conclusion

The combined practice of fasting and prayer offers a powerful pathway to holistic transformation. By intentionally engaging in physical abstinence and fervent spiritual seeking, individuals can cultivate a deeper intimacy with God, gain spiritual clarity, and even experience tangible physical benefits. When undertaken with the right motives and practical wisdom, this ancient discipline remains a vital tool for spiritual growth, personal development, and experiencing the transformative power of God in both the spiritual and physical realms. May the Lord help us to cultivate these spiritual disciplines in our lives.

- Dr. Diana Thamby Ebenezer

BIBLE READING CHALLENGES - From 01 May 2025 onwards

"Get your mind stored with Scripture, by diligently reading, and you will soon discover its value and power." - J C Ryle

Reading the Bible never makes a person feel tired but refreshes the mind of the reader. If you have not yet tasted the benefits of reading the bible regularly, We, GODependence invite you to experience the joy of reading the bible by joining one of our reading plans that start on 01 May 2025.

The following are some of the testimonies of our Bible reading challenge participants who successfully read through the Bible:

"I completed reading the full Bible once in 2002. After that, though I started reading it many times, I couldn't finish. This time, with the help of the GODependence Bible Reading Challenges, the Lord enabled me to complete it." - Vijaya Kumari Melbin

"It's a great joy to know that I have read the whole Tamil Bible in a year. This is my very first experience. Thanks a lot to the GODependence Bible Reading Challenges team members for their constant communication, follow-ups, and encouragement." - K. Dhinakaran

"Many times I have desired to read the entire Bible, but I used to stop midway and could not continue. After joining the 6-month Bible Reading Challenge, by God's grace, I have been able to complete reading the Bible twice." - R. Kinitha Franklin

Its Special Features are:

Your choice of Challenge Duration ranges from 1 Month to 1 Year [Reading the whole Bible in 1 month / 2 months / 3 months / 4 months / 6 months or 1 Year].

Your choice of Language group from 10 Languages [English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi or Bengali].

Bible Reading Portion is given daily on the previous night.

Daily Motivational Quotes or Clips on reading the Bible.

Weekly, BiWeekly & Monthly Reviews to ensure progress.

If you fall behind, jump back in! Our reading plan includes Catch-up days & Changing of Plans because we understand real life!

User-friendly WhatsApp groups regulations.

Certificate of Appreciation and Prizes (*Conditions apply).

So if you are interested in completing Reading the whole Bible, join in one of the Challenges we designed for your convenience. Please make your choice of convenient Duration plan and Language group and inform us of your decision along with your Name (as to be printed in the Appreciation Certificate on successful completion of the Challenge) and Age to the WhatsApp number +919525595265 by clicking this link: <https://wa.me/919525595265>

Thank you. God bless you. Amen.

- Team GODependence



<https://wa.me/919525595265>

**** This message can be shared with all your family members, relatives, Christian friends, and Church members so that they also may get into the habit of reading the Bible in a regular manner!**

The poster features the GODependence logo at the top left with the tagline 'True Freedom is being dependent on God'. The title 'BIBLE READING CHALLENGES' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, a quote by J.C. Ryle is presented: 'GET YOUR MIND STORED WITH SCRIPTURE, BY DILIGENTLY READING, AND YOU WILL SOON DISCOVER ITS VALUE AND POWER. - J C RYLE'. To the right of the quote is an image of an open Bible with a key resting on it. The start date '01 May 2025 onwards' is highlighted in a blue banner. Three key features are listed with microphone icons: 'Join one of our Bible reading plans', 'Start reading at your own convenience', and 'Scan the QR code to Join'. A QR code is provided for scanning. Below these, contact information is given: 'For more information: GODependence +91 95255 95265'. At the bottom, a WhatsApp message request format is specified: 'Send a WhatsApp Message request in this format: <Your Name> <Age> <Plan Duration> <Language Group>' followed by the website 'www.godependence.com/for'.

Scripture:

Romans

LET'S PLAY BIBLE GAME - 6

Send the answers with Bible references.
You can use the Bible (NKJV) to find the answers



Find the key words in the Romans Constitution hidden in the grid

W	L	E	O	T	A	S	N	M	E
R	O	T	H	K	G	I	F	T	S
I	M	E	L	D	H	B	C	U	I
J	G	R	X	Q	F	D	O	C	M
E	Z	N	V	Y	U	E	R	B	O
W	S	A	H	M	T	A	O	K	R
H	Y	L	C	H	F	T	R	F	P
S	C	L	G	D	G	H	U	A	B
E	L	I	J	A	H	L	O	I	G
P	R	F	I	O	J	H	K	T	L
D	T	E	B	M	S	I	N	H	X
T	Y	L	O	V	E	G	N	K	D



<https://forms.gle/GWASyZLxfU73mKg49>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 25/04/2025. The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter.

Contact Numbers for the Bible Reading Challenges:

GODependence is using the following contact numbers for Bible Reading Challenges in various languages.

You can contact the appropriate number to enroll into a particular language Bible Reading Challenge groups.

Tamil - +965 6596 2559

English - +91 95255 95265

Other Languages -
+91 99628 34944

[Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi or Bengali]

JOIN NOW!

GODependence Social Media sites

GODependence WhatsApp Channel

This is the Official whatsapp channel of GODependence in English...

Kindly keep following this channel For the Daily Quotes in English and the regular updates on Bible Reading Challenges from GODependence. Thank you.



<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaCtY5W72WTqI9nZKW28>



JOIN NOW!

Our Vision

To enlighten, enrich, and empower people to become dependent on God.

Our Mission

GODependence seeks to help people become dependent on God by engaging with God's Word and prayer.

GODependence Youtube Channel

GODependence Youtube Channel has reached 160 Subscribers and 60 Videos.



<https://www.youtube.com/@godependenceenglish>



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Josephine Shiny Paul
Catherine Suji

Did You Know?



DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible Provides the Cure for Guilt

The Bible offers a definitive way to overcome guilt. It declares:
"But he (Jesus Christ) was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5, Bible).

- If you believe that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for your sins, rose again on the third day, and accept Him as your Savior and Lord, your sins will be forgiven. Through this act of faith, you will become a child of God and experience the peace and freedom that come from His grace.

The Bible is filled with unique promises for those who trust in Him.


Read the Bible to discover the transformative power of God's love and forgiveness.



Did you know?

Did you know the sun stopped for a day?
Joshua prayed for extended daylight during battle
(Joshua 10:13).

Did you know the longest name in the Bible is **Maher-shalal-hash-baz**?
 Isaiah named his son this as a prophetic sign
(Isaiah 8:1).



Last month let's play Bible game-5 & Bible Crossword Puzzle -5 the correct answers

Correct Answers

Discover the places mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles with pictures:

- Samaria (Act : 1- 8)
- Pamphylia (Act : 2 -10)
- Cyrene (Act : 2-10)
- Egypt (Act : 2-1)

II. Identify the names of people with pictures

- Matthew (Acts : 1 - 13)
- Judas (Act : 1 - 24, 5 - 37)
- Philip (Act : 1- 13, 8 - 6)
- The governor who imprisoned Paul for two years (Acts 24:27)

III. What are the miracles performed by the Apostles?

- Healing of the lame Man (by Peter) (Acts 3:6-9)
- Healing of Publius' Father (by Paul) (Acts 28:7-9)

The first 2 people who sent in the correct answers were:

- Deepa Theodore
- Diana Thamby

Correct Answers

Across:

- Athens (Acts 17:23)
- Barnabas (Acts 13:2)
- Matthias (Acts 1:26)
- Philippi (Acts 16:26)
- Seller of purple (Acts 16:14)
- Antioch (Acts 11:26)
- Sanhedrin (Acts 5:27)
- Malta (Acts 28:1)
- Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
- Eutychus (Acts 20:9)
- Cornelius (Acts 10:1-2)

Down:

- Ananias and sapphira (Acts 5:1-10)
- Stephen (Acts 7:59)
- Paul (Acts 13:2)
- Felix (Acts 24:27)

The first 5 people who sent in the correct answers were:

- Stephen Srinivasan S.
- Florence Noah
- Dr Sireesh
- SIJI JOSE
- Nirosha Anthony

Let's Play Bible Game -5

Bible Crossword Puzzle -5

Scripture: Acts of the Apostles

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 31 March 2025

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 31 March 2025

1 Month Bible Reading Challenge

- Hepzibah Robert
- JOHN WESLEY S
- SHUNMUGIAH. M
- T.Gnana Lalitha Mary
- Samrajesh Mault
- P.Pavithra
- R Padmavathi
- SHUNMUGIAH.M
- T.HELAN JLI

Congratulations!

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Prize & Certificate will be send to them in due time

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 31 March 2025

2 Months Bible Reading Challenge

- Mrs. Jasmine Jenifer David
- Sherine Ranjit
- Andugula Keerthi
- Sivalakshmi
- Sivalakshmi
- Mary Anitha K
- Renita Praisly S
- R. Muthukutti B.Sc., M.Th.,
- Mary Anitha K
- GLECIL
- S Thanapoul

Congratulations!

GODependence +965 6596 2559

Prize & Certificate will be send to them in due time

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 31 March 2025

3 Months Bible Reading Challenge

A.S. Jeberej Fletcher	Arockia Mary Anite E
BINAYA KUMAR SAGAR	Jini Ajin
BINAYA KUMAR SAGAR	R.Deborah
Daxi Grace	D. Primrose Jebamary
Ezsh Godspower	Mj.Floria
Joy grace S	A R Elisabeth
Marine Phalsie	P Pearson Samuel
Danomma	R.Deborah
Usha Anil Shere	Shalini Sudhan
Darivemula Jaya Raju	PRESMANSH
Mrs. Vijaya Kumari	J.Lakshmi Priya
Malbin	Mrs. Mercy Elisabeth
பு. அருண் குமார்	Mercy Elisabeth
Kingoly Thomas	Rev Dr ARUN CHRISTOPHER
Malini Gunasekaran	

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 31 March 2025

4 Months Bible Reading Challenge

- 1.D.H. JABA SELVI
- 2.Mj Flora
- 3.Jasmin Aruldhass

Congratulations!

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GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 31 March 2025

6 Months Bible Reading Challenge

Brigida S	R. Kinitha Franklin
Jenifer P	S.Sujatha shanthini
R. Kumar	R. Kinitha Franklin
S. Radhika	A Anbu sadarech,
M Samuel	Sangeetha
Josephine Lilly	D E E RAJMOHAN
Prema Sam	Prema Sam
Sujatha Shanthini	J. SAMSON RAJ
Sridhar paramanandham R	J. SAMSON RAJ
Sangeetha	Cathrine Mary.A
	R. Josephine

Congratulations!

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges
Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 31 March 2025

1 Year Bible Reading Challenge

- 1.Manisha George Devre.
- 2.CRISANCIA ANIE P
- 3.G.sarojini
- 4.Sahaya Antony J
- 5.K. Dhinakaran
6. Agnes C

Congratulations!

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

Joseph of Arimathea

The rich man who dared to bury Jesus

(MATT. 27:57-60; LK. 23: 50-53)

Joseph of Arimathea was a good and upright rich man. Though he was a prominent member of the Jewish Council, he had not consented to their decision and action to crucify Jesus because he was a disciple of Jesus Christ.

After the death of Jesus, he went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph wrapped the body in a clean linen cloth and placed it in his new tomb.

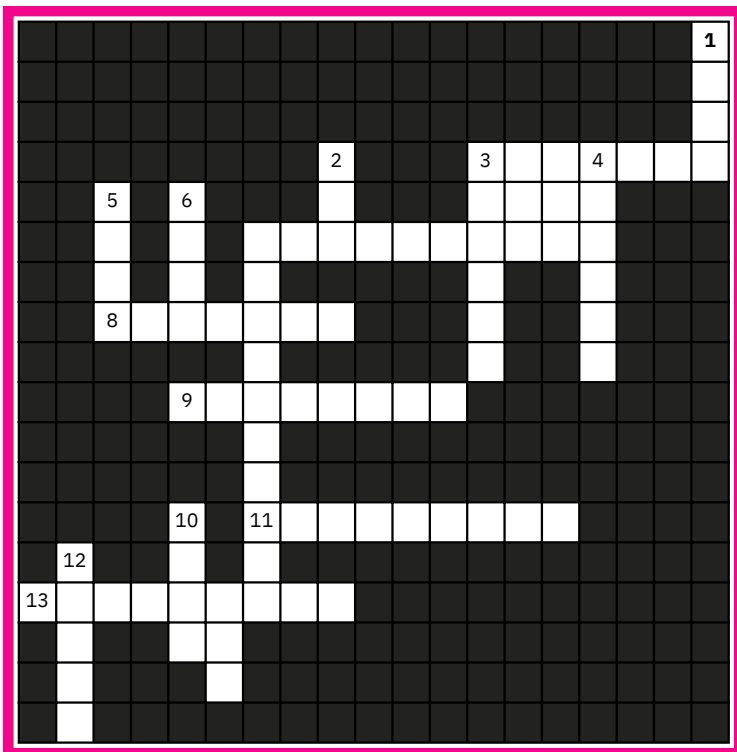
During the trial, Pilate could not find any basis for a charge against Jesus. But the inscription of the cross portrayed that Jesus was crucified for sedition charges. From the human point of view, burying a person executed for sedition charges is a shameful act. But Joseph knew the truth about Jesus' death. So he disregarded the public opinion and did what was right.

Joseph of Arimathea challenges us to show steadfast devotion to Jesus Christ.

- Even when believing in Jesus is risky, we should not turn back from faith.
- Joseph would have been aware of the opposition he would face from the Jews. But he was ready to pay the cost. Are we prepared to march forward in faith by paying the cost of discipleship?
- Joseph buried Jesus in a newly cut tomb in his place. Are we ready to honour Jesus by giving our best?

- Bro. A. R. Peter, Palakad, Kerala.

Bible Crossword Puzzle - 6



Scripture Portion: Romans

Across

- 4 Overcome evil with ____.
- 7 We are more than ____ through Him who loved us.
- 8 The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is ____
- 9 Through one man's ____, death reigned.
- 11 If God is for us, who can be ____.
- 13 If you confess with your mouth that ____ is Lord, you will be saved.

Down

- 1 Be transformed by the renewing of your ____.
- 2 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of ____.
- 3 Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of ____
- 4 The power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.
- 5 The law of the Spirit of ____ has set you free.
- 6 Nothing can separate us from the love of ____.
- 7 There is now no ____ for those in Christ Jesus.
- 10 We do not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into ____.
- 12 We are justified by this, not by works.



<https://forms.gle/zy9jZL6caj5Hk2HK6>

- Send the answers with Bible references.
- You can use the Bible to find the answers

- Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 25/04/2025.
- The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter

Romans

Time of Writing: A.D. 56 - A.D. 57
Time of Events: A.D. 56 - A.D. 57

Author of the Book: Apostle Paul
Type of Book: Letters

Introduction to the Book

- Romans stands as one of the deepest theological sections in the Bible. Paul did not write this letter by hand; instead, as noted in 16:22, he used a scribe named Tertius.

Context and Purpose

- This letter was written in Rome to "those loved by God and called to be saints" (Romans 1:7). Though Paul was a Roman citizen, he had not yet visited the church in Rome, so this letter served as an introduction to them. The Apostle Paul had not gone to Rome when he wrote this letter. However, the church was well-established there at that time. Paul desired to meet this Roman church and planned to visit the Roman Christians on his way to Spain (15:28). From Corinth, he wrote this letter during AD 57–58, before taking the offering from Macedonia and Achaia to Jerusalem. Prior to this letter, Paul had written to the Galatians. His teachings—that justification by faith (not works of the law) is superior—faced strong opposition from those emphasizing legalistic practices. Therefore, Paul wrote this letter to clarify his teachings and apostolic ministry, urging the Romans to abandon misconceptions about him before his visit. Another purpose (especially in chapters 9–11) was to prepare them to accept him and the collection he would deliver to Jerusalem (15:31).

Key Verses

Romans 1:16; 3:9–11; 3:21; 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 8:9; 8:28; 8:37–39; 10:9–10; 12:1; 12:19; 16:17

Summary of the Book

Paul was enthusiastic about finally being able to serve in the Roman church, and everyone was well aware of this fact (Romans 1:8–15). He planned to go to Rome and then to Spain (Romans 15:24), but his plans were disrupted when he was arrested in Jerusalem. He eventually went to Rome as a prisoner. Phoebe, a member of the church in Cenchreae near Corinth (Romans 16:1), likely delivered the letter to Rome. The Book of Romans can be divided into four sections:

1. The Need for Righteousness (1:18–3:20),
 2. Righteousness Provided (3:21–8:39),
 3. Righteousness Vindicated (9:1–11:36),
 4. Living Righteously (12:1–15:13).
- Led by the Holy Spirit, Paul first condemns the sin of all humanity. He was assured that those in Rome would remain on the right path

Jesus Christ in the Book

- He was not ashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16), because it is the power of God. The Book of Romans explains who God is, what He has done, what the death of Jesus Christ accomplished, and who we are—both without Christ and after believing in Him. In chapters 1–11, particularly in 1:17, it declares that "the righteous shall live by faith." Whether Jews or Gentiles, all are enemies of God and need salvation. This salvation comes through faith in Jesus, not by the law or circumcision. Paul describes the new life as a spiritual life. In chapters 9–11, he explains that the Jews' rejection of Christ was part of God's plan so that all humanity might receive grace through Jesus. The Gentiles' repentance is meant to provoke the Jews to jealousy, and since God's promises to Israel are irrevocable, the Jews will one day turn to Christ.

Practical Application

- The Book of Romans clarifies that we cannot save ourselves by any effort (Romans 3:23–24). Every "good" deed we perform is like a filthy rag before God (Isaiah 64:6). We were dead in our sins and transgressions, but God demonstrated His grace by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place. When we turn our lives to Christ, we are no longer enslaved to our sinful nature but are led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). Salvation comes by confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His resurrection (Romans 10:9–10). As reborn believers, we are called to offer our lives as "living sacrifices" to God (Romans 12:1), worshiping Him as our highest priority. The greatest application of Romans is embodied in Romans 1:16: boldly embracing the Gospel, which is the power of God for salvation.

Structure of the Book

1. Preface (Greetings, Thanksgiving, and Prayer) – 1:1–17
2. Humanity's Need for Salvation – 1:18–3:20
3. God's Method of Justification – 3:21–4:25
4. New Life in Christ – 5:1–8:39
5. Israel in God's Redemptive Plan – 9:1–11:36
6. Christian Living – 12:1–15:13
7. Conclusion and Benediction – 15:14–16:27

Testimony 1

Mstr. Juan Sathees, Kuwait

Inspiring Experience from Mstr. Juan Sathees (9 Years) Reading Bible in 1 Month

First and foremost, I wish to thank God for the opportunity he has given me to share my experience with you all. I am Juan Sathees, doing my 5th grade. I am here to share my divine experience during the COVID lock down period.

Even though it was a tough situation for us all, I thank God for helping me to turn this bitter days to a sweet and memorable one. This lock down period has given a gala of salvation for our family. The initiation was taken by my parents.

They decided to read Bible by scheduling each day. Instead of spending time in television or on any other entertainments, they decided to spend time with our Heavenly Father. During this time, I used to read one chapter daily along with my parents.

Same time, my Sunday school teacher shared a schedule for us kids where we have to complete three chapters a day. I was strictly adhering with my Sunday school teacher's schedule and reading Bible became a routine of my day-to-day life.

At that instance, Pethuru Uncle sent an invitation to complete whole Bible reading in 1, 2, 4 and 6 months categories. Even though it was intended for elders, I wished to be a part of it. My parents suggested me to go with 6 months reading but I thought to go with 1 month schedule. I decided just to read and complete.

When I discussed with my parents, they supported me and enrolled me in that group. Enthusiastically, I started to read my first day portion 40 plus chapters and completed in time. I updated to Pethuru Uncle that I completed my first day portion and I am going to stick with 1 month schedule... Uncle sent a voice message which motivated me more than anything.

At times, I felt like getting back but my parents kept on supporting me. They believed that I can do it. By seeing their confidence, I put aside all my struggles, distractions and stepped up each day and finally achieved my target in 29 days.

Weekly 6 days and Sunday off to read the pending portion. God's grace, I never put any portion pending and completed on time. I was scared whether I will complete it in 31 days but God helped me to finish in 29 days.

He is the one who is planning better things for us. When I started reading, I know a very few things which I studied from my Sunday class and through my parents. But now, I know a little more.

Once again, I thank Almighty, my Grandparents, Parents and Pethuru Uncle as well as GODependence Ministry for their prayers, support and motivation. Thank you.

Testimony 2

Mstr. S. Shawn Lenariel, Trichy

Inspiring Experiences from Mstr. S. Shawn Lenariel (10 yrs) Reading Bible in 1 Month

First, I want to thank our Lord Jesus Christ for the opportunity He gave to read His words. I am sharing that experience with you. I am S. Shawn Lenariel, studying 5th grade.

I started reading the Bible during the month of January. The Lord blessed me and turned the COVID lock down into a time where I can read His words day and night. My parents took the initiative and entered my name in this challenge and asked me to take up one month challenge.

My parents felt it is better to find time in His words than in front of TV or using mobile. Usually, I used to read one chapter a day, daily. They introduced me to the website: www.godependence.com. I was astonished to find various Bible reading challenges.

There were challenges to complete the Bible in 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 6 months and 1 year. Since schools were online, I had lot of time. So, I joined one month challenge.

To complete the Bible in a month, I had to read 45 chapters a day. I found it a bit hard at the beginning. But with God's grace and support by parents and grandparents, I completed reading the Bible in one month.

This helped me to read the Bible again and again. I request you also to take this challenge. The organizers are very helpful and supportive in ways through dedicated WhatsApp groups.

This helps me to diligently read and understand His words. Thank God and thanks to GODependence Team. Praise be to God.

CLICK THE FOLLOWING YOUTUBE LINKS TO SEE MORE TESTIMONIES Want to know God's will? Read the Bible! | Bro. Simon





Bible Reading Challenges

6 Plans in 10 Languages*

Reading Planner

*OUR BIBLE READING CHALLENGES START ON THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY MONTH.

1 MONTH READING CHALLENGE

Every day 45 chapters

Reading time

2 hours 30 mins

2 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day 22 chapters

Reading time

1 hour 30 mins

3 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day 15 chapters

Reading time

60 minutes

You can choose a convenient plan

4 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day
11 chapters

Reading time

45 minutes

6 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day
7 or 8 chapters

Reading time

25 minutes

1 YEAR READING CHALLENGE

Every day
3 or 4 chapters

Reading time

15 minutes

Why delay? Join today!

Contact:  +965 6596 2559

Send a WhatsApp Message request in this format:

<Your Name> <Age> <Plan Duration> <Language Group>.

*You can join any reading plan that fits your desire and language.

*Our reading plans are available in English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi and Bengali languages.

Ramadan & Lenten Bible Reading Challenges - 2025

The Ramadan Bible Reading Challenge (English & Tamil) groups, which began on 28 February came to end by 30 March 2025. Of 290 persons who had joined in these groups, 21 persons have completed the challenge successfully.

The Lenten Bible Reading Challenge (English & Tamil) groups which started on 05 March will come end by 20 April 2025. More than 1000 persons still continuing the Challenge.



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GODependence Talkshow - April 2025

Topic: Medical aspects of the Crucifixion of Christ

(Live session to explore answers to the questions—questions that often arise within us or are raised by others—about the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, in conversation with a Christian medical doctor.)

Date: 13 April 2025 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm IST

Children's Bible Reading Challenges - CBRC

Children's Bible Reading Challenges for the Academic Year 2024-25 has come to end by first week of March 2025. The Videos of the Memory Verses Competitions of the Term 3 have been uploaded in the Youtube Channel.

New batch for the next Academic Year 2025-26 will start from first week of June 2025. Notification message on this will be shared in the groups in the month of May 2025.



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Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) - from July 2025

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) we had planned to restart and to conduct them continuously will happen from July 2025 only. The training for the participants will be given in the month of June 2025.

Notifications and details on the training will be sent in the Bible Reading Challenge groups.

FOLLOW US!

 **GODependence Bible Reading Challenges**



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