



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 21 A Better Way to Be
By Pastor Jody May 09/14/2025

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 7:25-40 ESV

The Unmarried and the Widowed

²⁵Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. ²⁷Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. ²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

³²I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

³⁶If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. ³⁷But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. ³⁸So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

³⁹A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. ⁴⁰Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."
People - "Thanks be to God."



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Pray

Illustration

“What/Who do you want to be when you grow up?” I think that is a question that almost everyone in this room has had asked of them. I actually have in my possession my first-grade yearbook where that question was asked of me, and I believe I said a police officer. When I look back at that answer, I understand the root of my desire was to help people. Thank the Lord though I never ended up in ‘Law Enforcement’ for I was too much of a hot head in my youth. I don’t think it would have ended good.

That question is not meant to box kids into a career path, but it is meant to generate thought about what type of person do you want to be when you are older. The internet told me this week that the number one response was one of these three: doctor, teacher, or an athlete. Those three different career paths mean three different things or types of lives. The doctor helps, the teacher influences and the athlete entertains. All three usually have some type of fan base, each one is liked for a different reason, and each of the three in a way can bring joy to those around them.

For the Christian family let me reform that question into something better that you can ask your families. Who would you want most to be like? Who is it alone that is worthy to be praised for His life? Who was known for helping more people than anyone else? Who is it that had the greatest effect on this world? Of course it was Jesus! All of us in this room, doesn’t matter who you are would want to be more like Him! What’s more the promise of God’s Word is that is exactly what the Father wants to do with you, make you more like His firstborn ([Rom 8:29](#))! And as we said last week the pursuing of that life of glorifying Him, will build that identity that you worry too much about sometimes, and that identity in Him will bring you the most joy possible in your life.

Along with those questions though there comes a time where every believer must get real and accept some other facts. Who was hated more than any other person over the last 2,000 years? Who had more enemies that wanted



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nothing else but to see Him dead? Who was denied and rejected by His family and friends? That's right family, Jesus. The path that leads to eternal life is both joyous and painful there is no escaping the dichotomy of these questions. To be like Jesus you will have to learn to suffer like Him by taking up your own cross and following His life.

If you want to glorify the best thing in this universe then you need to learn to suffer as He did. OR You can keep glorifying yourself, a fallen undeserving creation, and suffer under the wrath of God that in the end leads to eternal death. One path makes sense of and adds value to suffering and one path intensifies suffering and has no redeeming value. Which path are you on today?

Introduction

That surreal question leads us into our topic of interest this morning because there is one trait that Jesus had that most of us in here no longer have, and that is '**singleness**'. Our Lord was never married, we never have a record of a betrothal, nor was there never any allusion to a woman in His life in a romantic sense. Ladies you should know He never played favorites He loves you all the same! ;). One of the Lord's greatest strengths to pursuing a life fully devoted to God was the fact that He could spend every ounce of energy and focus solely doing what the Father wanted Him to do and never had to share His time in responsibility for another person.

Now that doesn't mean for us married people, we can't become more like Him for I have said multiple times that our spouse is the greatest source of our sanctification for us. It is that just for us, it was determined by God at a certain point in our lives we were going to need someone to make us better because we were not going to be able to do that on our own, and part of that calling was to carry out the command of being fruitful and to multiply. But there is definitely something special about being single and giving Jesus that full devotion of time to His cause that you won't get to do if/when you are married.



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Whether for the young single who is yet to get married, or for the widow or abandoned spouse that may get married again, or the person that just never has that desire for companionship in that way, there is a unique calling for that type of life. Paul sees it as a benefit for the work of the Lord that time of singleness, so we want to highlight those things of which he talks about today.

MP:

Being single is a blessing to fulfill divine opportunities.

We are going to change this up a little this morning and I am going to give **not 3 but 4 different points** in this text to build up that main point this morning. They all come in form of expectations, or a promise derived from the scripture. You see whenever the Bible says anything to you about God and how He works you should always take that as a 100% of the time thing. God is never wishy washy about what He wants, what He demands, and what He says. So, there are four things I want to show you that you can expect from the blessing of being single.

The first is you can **expect less distress** when you are single for God. Being single for God essentially means that when you encounter hard times you are not pulled into having to worry about others. Secondly, you can **expect fewer distractions** when you are single for God. Being single means that you are freed from the distractions of materialism and the physical world because there is nothing making demands on your soul for attention.

Thirdly, you can expect **greater devotion** when single for God. Paul will explain to us that things that make you worry greatly diminish when you are single. Lastly, expect **better decision making** when single for God. That is there is NO decision-making matrix you have to work for Jesus, if the Spirit says go and do, you go and do with no one to be accountable to but God. All of that is a blessing to fulfill your divine opportunities (or tasks assigned).

1. Expect less distress when single for God.

²⁵ Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶ I think that in



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view of the present **distress** it is good for a person to remain as he is. ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have **worldly troubles**, and I would spare you that.

This you should know is the last talk on marriage and sexuality so take a deep breath we are almost done, you made it, and it has been good for everyone. You can stop sweating over what I am going to say now on this topic.

Starting off though on this topic of singleness there is one type of single that Paul is talking to specifically here in these first few verses and that is the betrothed (25 & 28). The betrothed for us in present day would mean someone that is promised to marry someone, or a person that is engaged, in that day betrothed means a 'virgin'. That word is defined by both the position of being engaged and never to have known another person sexually.

Paul is like what I am about to tell you again Jesus did not teach on specifically but Paul as an apostle is about to drop some doctrine and that doctrine will have authority over people because he is an apostle. The Lord has preserved him (mercy) so know that by Jesus' election of Paul you can trust him in what he is about to say.

Paul begins his advice with a condition, as in there is a specific event occurring or about to occur in which this advice is given, that comes from his choice of word there in v. 26 for a 'present distress' ἀνάγκη (*anagkē*).¹ We don't know though specifically what the exact distress is, or restriction, or peril there is going on. Some speculate that there was a current famine going on in Corinth, some suspect that it was the growing disdain against Christians by both the Jews and Roman politicians, or perhaps Paul by the Spirit is sensing a growing trend of hostility towards the elect as he has endured

¹ **340** ἀνάγκη (*anagkē*), ἡς (*ēs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 318; TDNT 1.344–1. LN 22.1 **trouble**, distress, hardship Lk 21:23; 1Co 7:26; 2Co 6:4; 2Co 12:10; 1Th 3:7+; **2.** LN 71.30 **complete obligation**, a necessary thing, a force compulsion (Mt 18:7; Lk 14:18; Ro 13:5; 1Co 7:37; 9:16; 2Co 9:7; Phm 14; Heb 7:12, 27; 9:16, 23; Jude 3+; Lk 23:17 v.r.); **3.** LN 71.38 **inevitability**, as a sure thing in human experience (Mt 18:7), for another interp, see prior James Swanson, [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



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persecution in Ephesus. We don't know the nature of the trouble, but it was there, and it is in this predicament that Paul chooses to give his wise advice.

Sum it up, if you are married don't seek to be free, if you are single don't seek to be married, but if you are engaged and still a virgin, do not feel bad about getting married, it is no sin. You already know that doctrine builds on Paul's teaching to us on getting married and not burn with passion (9). But Paul's reasoning is that there is a worldly trouble coming (28) and the blessing of being single is that it **lessens the distress of worldly troubles** you know are coming.

Now let me be very frank with everyone in this room for not just singles in this room but for every parent hear me, because you are the one on the hook for how you lead your family through this. Paul is not saying don't get married and he's not saying to get married, but this passage alludes to your calling as a Christ follower, that task from last week, that is divinely yours and no other. That calling must be considered first, and the worldly troubles that come with it, and then you decide whether to get married. (Jonathan Edwards example)

Make decisions for marriage based on calling in Christ.

That also helps you to see that singleness is a blessedness for all of God's people for some period in their life. No Christian should take on marriage just because of lust, or just because you are lonely, or just because you are insecure, or just because you want kids, or just because everyone else is doing it. You get married fully aware of your calling in Christ, having weighed the cost and the good you can do through the marriage, and through that deliberation you then decide if you want to get married.

When you do, that also changes how you look at the people you want to get married to. If every single person in this room started looking at the opposite sex as a potential mate you are going to have to start assessing, what do they want out of life, do they love Jesus overall, and can they handle the heat of persecution. Parents if you will help your children do this then don't be surprised when God brings them the person you are praying for. If you are more concerned about **letting your youngins run around trying out their**



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dating lives before realizing their calling or vocation you are asking for a future marriage that will always be plagued by unrealized worldly troubles.

If you want to help your kids with their dating life, then take seriously their life for God, and work with them getting them to verbalize what they think they are called to do for God one day!

Let's sum all of this up, yes you can expect less distress when you are not married and that is simply something Paul wants you to avoid if you can. But we are learning from this point, that for the 95% of us in here that desire to be married, you better think about being married in the right way and for the right reasons, bringing glory to God in a troublesome world!

2. Expect **fewer distractions** when single for God.

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short.** From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the **present form** of this world is **passing away.**

I love it Paul clarifies like I must do sometimes. Preachers do that a lot they kind of go off on a tangent and they come back and are like, "did I explain that well?" So, he is like, "this is what I mean." Here's the **distress** I see coming.

"The appointed time has grown very short." What is he talking about? That is Paul using his eschatological speech again, he's talking about end times. You see the Apostles were mostly under the assumption that the 2nd coming was around the corner. Persecution is heating up, Jesus said here are the signs, you will be treated like I was, so get ready!

John 15:18-21 ESV

¹⁸"If the world **hates you**, know that it has **hated me** before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater



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than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹But **all these things they will do to you on account of my name**, because they do not know him who sent me.

You and I will have hard times in the end times, but end times have always been **now times**. We have been in a season of end times for the last 2,000 years and will be until Jesus returns. So, Paul is absolutely right, the **present form** of this world is **passing away**: The Devil is no longer in charge, light has come into the world, the forces of darkness were defeated by the Prince of Heaven, and the darkness hates Him! Now it rages against this onslaught for all of time because its' loss is eternal, and so that rage will be turned against the church. End times mean an earthly persecution for the church because as the head of the serpent has been crushed but the dying body still lashes out.

Look because I think someone needs to hear me say this today, Charlie Kirk's death was not a sign of the bad guys winning, it was a sign of the fear by the enemy and a lashing out of a defeated foe. Even then in that act of violence what is about to happen to the enemy will be far worse than what it did to us. There is retribution coming, the gates of Hell are breaking down, and Jesus is coming to rescue prisoners and set them free!

What Paul wants us all to realize though, and grasp hold of today is this: He's saying because of this fight, because of the enemies' desire to harm on its' way to eternal damnation, let us **not live** with the distractions of this world! Married people, Paul says let those with wives live as though they had none, it doesn't mean leave your spouse (he already condemned that 7:1-11). What it means though, you all, we all, are to get our act together, stop arguing about the things of this world, they do not matter anymore. Put your focus on the Kingdom we are in a fight against a mutual enemy the Devil and his hordes!

**Living with Heavenly Concerns
frees us from Worldly Distractions.**

Don't get all caught up in the things that make you sad, or joyful, or what you can 'buy' to bring you happiness, it does not matter anymore! It doesn't mean



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you can't enjoy the life you are living, BUT **if you are living just to enjoy life you have got this all wrong!** Christ has come, He is reigning, we are winning, the end is coming, the clock is ticking, SO don't get caught sleeping! If you are spending time arguing about the things that won't matter in eternity, the trivial concerns of this world, then you are falling into the schemes of this world to keep you out of this fight!

Paul is merely pointing out the easiest way to live is being **single 'IF' you are going to be single for the Lord.** If you are not going to be single for the Lord and waste your time on all the worldly stuff, go back to step 1 and evaluate your identity in Christ. Do you live for Him, are you actively seeking for ways to push in the gates of Hell, are you sacrificing for the cause? Next step, if you answer yes then you should be busy being single for God. If you are still unfocused seek counsel in this church, it maybe we need to help you realize marriage may be for you.

3. Expect greater devotion when single for God.

³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

You got to be careful here when you start reading this verse. So, what is it Paul, do you want us to be anxiety free or have anxiety I am not sure now?

**Anxiousness about the world causes anxiety,
anxiousness for God causes passion.**

Anxiety is set up in a losing system because you can't control what others do because most the world is under the control of the Devil and fallen creation. BUT concern for the Kingdom is based in the glorious and eternal victories of



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God of which are controlled by Him. If you are married your interests are split, your concerns over the Kingdom advancing are competing with worries over keeping the world's concerns out of your home.

When the man is single for the Lord, God puts Him on the right path to **please Him**. What everyman in the church, that is a true Christian, wants to know is how do I please God? I have talked to multiple men over the years, and this is the thing that drives guys crazy, how can I please God? The answer is live as Jesus as Lord of your life and when you are single for Him that is the only stress you will have, and that is a good stress, for it pleases God! Like I said earlier for most young men that is a limited time, most guys end up being married, and that is not a sin when that happens, Paul assures us. Young men though, do not waste your single time squandering it doing nothing, pursue God and pray, *Lord show me the way to please you and He will!*

When the woman is single for the Lord, they get to be concerned about how to be **holy in body and spirit**. That's the time in a young woman's life where she learns how to dress, how to act, how to think, and how to use her pleasing personality for the Lord's sake and when that is taken seriously her Spirit, her heart, and her personality is **shaped by that training**. So that when she is ready to marry, she is not wooing a young man by her looks, her flirtatious behavior or indecent dress, but by the revealing of her mind to a man that is serious about pursuing God. That is a young woman who can take on managing a home for her husband not out of resentment but out of a calling, because she loved the Lord first and most above all! Ladies don't miss this time of your singleness worried about what boys think, they don't think much when they are young anyways. Don't worry about how you look compared to others, looks are fading. BUT be concerned with your faithfulness to Christ because that is what is most attractive to the man that knows what to look for!

Couples in the room it is not too late for you either. You know what the most attractive trait in any person in this room is, reflect the Savior in your life! You want to rekindled romance, intimacy, and loyalty in your marriage love each other as Christ has called you to and stop worrying about the pay out! The payout is you get to impact your spouse for Christ by loving them like Jesus! If



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you love your spouse that way it is not a distraction then, you're fulfilling your calling as a Christian and as a spouse at the same time!

You can expect greater devotion when you are single for Christ, but you are always called to devotion to Him first no matter what your status is!

4. Expect better decision making when single for God.

³⁶If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. ³⁷But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. ³⁸So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

³⁹A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. ⁴⁰Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Logical and plain conclusion of this text is that if one is in the state of Holy and called singleness then that is a better way for there is **no longer a concern about the decisions** that need to be made in life **with input from another** (no more decision matrix to consider).

The way one gets there is that they have done the hard work first of ascertaining am I to be married at all. If I want to be married, is it for the right reasons. Do I understand my identity in Christ as a rescued but indebted slave to Christ? Do I understand yet what my assigned task from God is? If all of that has been worked through, if all of that you have answers for in your life, then expect to make the decision to marry to come a lot easier than not. At that time Paul is like don't feel bad about it, there is no sin in it, go and do for it is your calling as led by the Spirit of God.

[CALL TO OBEY]



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Have you yet ascertained why you are married or if you want to be married based on your calling in Christ?

Let me close with this reality check for all of us today. What happened this past week was really a building up based on two events. First, we saw a woman last week, murdered on a train for no reason, no one helped, it was a failure of the justice system, based on policies of the left, of which they tried to avoid the whole story in biased news sources. Then we had a young champion, the man that would speak out on those things, who would point it out to our culture, and we saw that because of his passion he was murdered as well. Now we see the righteous anger of many on the right, and more importantly the church determine they won't let this stand. But here is something I want to tell you about our fallen but not forgotten champion of what it takes to stand in the gap that he left.

Charlie, by God's grace and construction of his personality under the sovereign hand of God, was never the type of person not to take his singleness for granted to squander it. As a Middle schooler he was saved by God and at 18 he started TP, began his public career, took the time to develop his mind outside of universities and grew his passion for what he believed to be the right way, the politically conservative way. In his own words, "Follow your passion, and follow your skill, but don't follow your heart, bad idea."²

Along the way a few years ago, God took the seed that was planted in his heart and Charlie had an awakening for God, and everyone saw it. No longer was Charlie just arguing for the American Way and Conservatism, he began debating for the Kingdom of God calling people to repent and believe in Jesus, and determined this was the life he was called to. I have even heard recently from other pastors that Charlie had been talking to prominently good doctrine leaders for he wanted to give his full-time devotion to evangelism and apologetics. THEN, when he had received and embraced his assignment from God, he met his wife at the age of 27 and married at 29.

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL4DxMZXNIA>



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Charlie did that right, not because he waited till his late twenties to get married but because he took seriously his calling for God FIRST! Listen my singles in here, you want to impact the world, you want to stand in the gap, you want to get back from this world some of the light it took by offering your life for the cause? Then right now put away your pursuit of the worldly and put your heart on discovering what Jesus has called you to do!

Families in this room I call you to stop trying to protect your kids from this world by letting them play all the time at being adults, call them to take on the yoke of Christ and follow Him, you are the main teacher for your child in this world! The next generation needs us to take our jobs seriously as their protectors and providers by being their preparers for the days ahead, for the times are short, the end is coming, so let's take this opportunity and swing on the way out!

MP:

Being single is a blessing to fulfill divine opportunities.

And being the church in this day and for this time calls us all to put away our concerns over what the world thinks about us, to put away concerns over what we are trying to get from it, and it is time to give all our effort in building up the church of Christ!

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. The Lord took seriously His life which took the desire and potential of ever having an earthly mate and put it away and instead totally focused His energies on His Father's agenda. By this singular focus He won for us our freedom, He won for us immediate spiritual rebirth, and He won for us a glorious future physical resurrection. Praise be to Him for His commitment to the Father!

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. Our Lord was murdered for His convictions, our Lord was abandoned for His beliefs, our Lord endured even the slander of His own people. We who are undeserving of His Love have received Grace upon Grace. We gave Him the death we deserved, and He gave us the right standing with the Father that only He deserved. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder - **"Christians, what do we believe?"** Congregation - recites:

London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 Chapter 25 Paragraph 3 Marriage Should Be Between Believers

Marriage can be between anyone who is able to give consent with discernment. 5 However, Christians should marry in the Lord. 6 Those who profess the true religion should not marry non-believers or idolaters, and those who are godly should not be unequally yoked by marrying someone who lives evil lives or believes damnable heresy. 7

5. Hebrews 13:4; 1 Timothy 4:3

6. 1 Corinthians 7:39

7. Nehemiah 13:25-27:15-20

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]



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[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that bestows the gift of singleness for the development of our passion for Him.

Go in the name of the Son, who embraced singleness for life securing our futures to be with Him forever.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that calls us to our tasks, that instills our passions and fuels our resolve. Now go and use that to bring God's glory to this world.



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