

PBC Growing in Christ

Minister Patrick and Stephanie Burrage

December 6, 2020

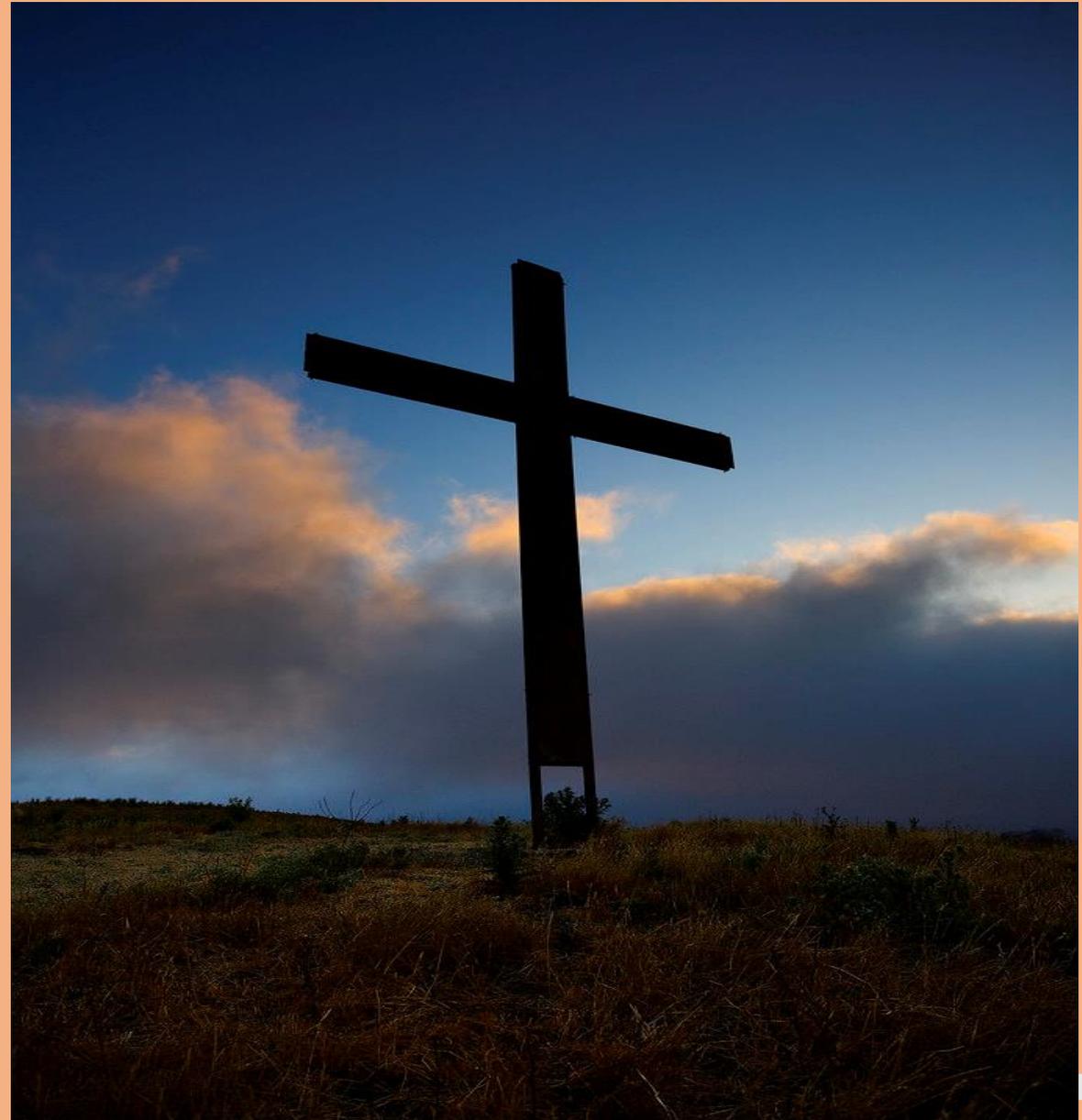
Class Norms

A large black cross silhouette stands in a field of dry grass under a blue sky with light clouds. The cross is the central focus, with its vertical post and horizontal arms clearly defined against the background. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a lighter, hazy blue near the horizon, with some wispy clouds. The foreground is filled with dry, brownish grass, suggesting a rural or natural setting.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

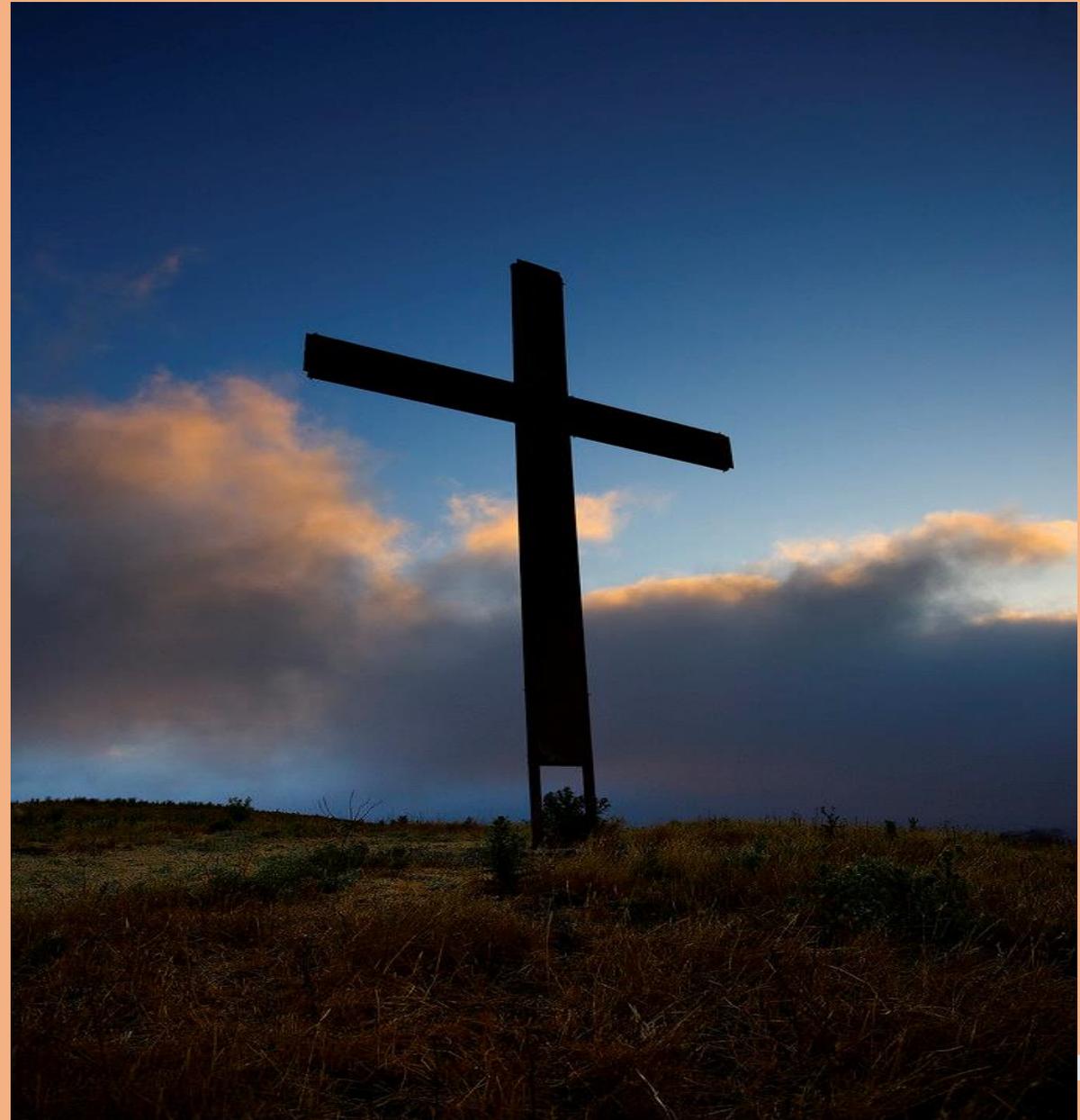
Growing in Christ

- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



Growing in Christ

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)



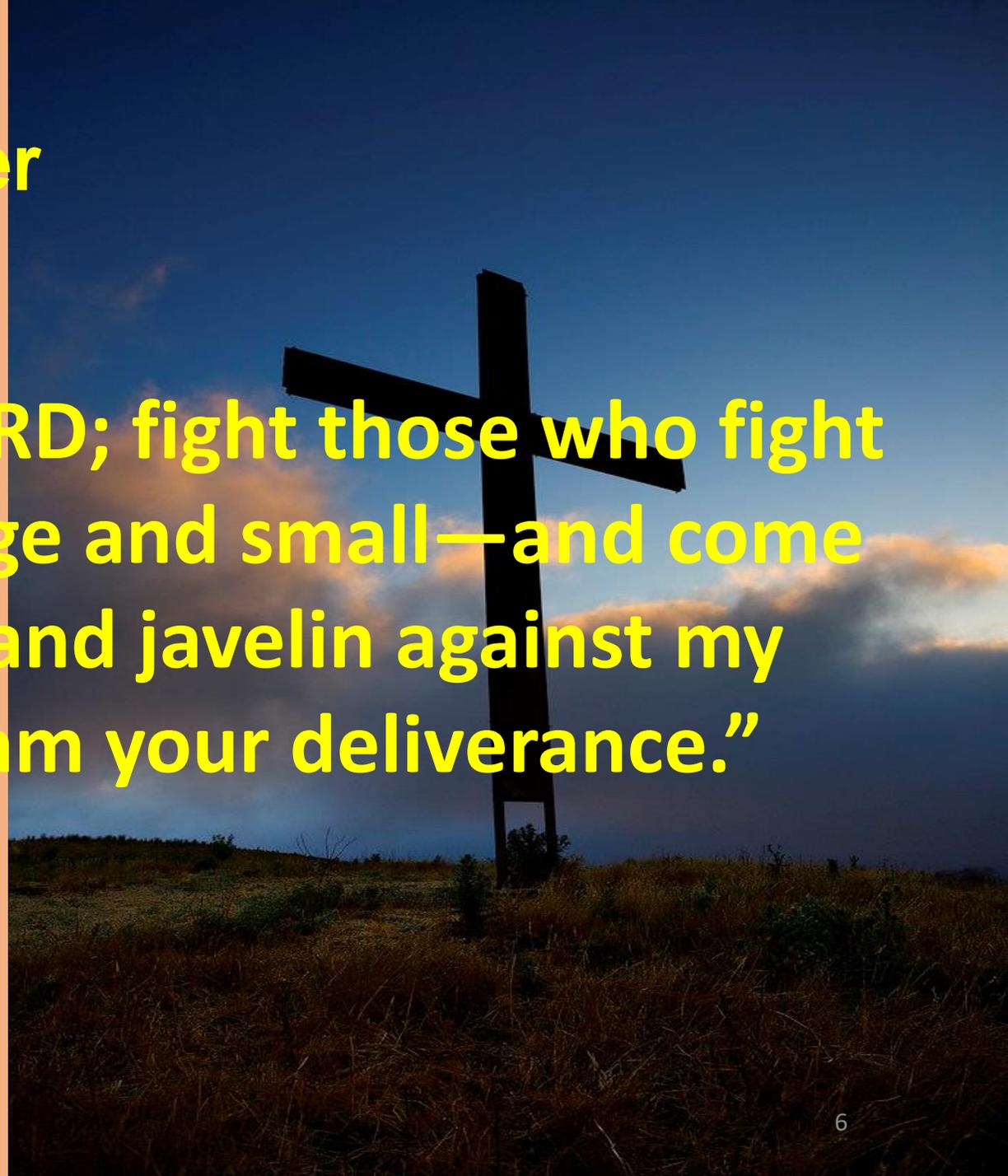


Redirecting Anger Psalm 35:1-3,13-18

When you were a kid,
what would make you
really angry?

Scripture
Redirecting Anger
Psalm 35:1-3

1 Oppose my opponents, LORD; fight those who fight me. 2 Take your shields—large and small—and come to my aid. 3 Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers, and assure me: “I am your deliverance.”





Redirecting Anger Psalm 35:1-3

What's your first reaction to these verses? Why?

What can we learn from the psalmist about prayer?



Redirecting Anger

Psalm 35:1-3

- **David had an easy opportunity to kill his enemy—twice!** On one occasion, Saul went to relieve himself in the very cave where David and his men were hiding. David crept up and cut off the corner of Saul's robe to prove that he could have harmed Saul—but he would never lift his hand against the one God had anointed (see 1 Samuel 24:1-11). Another time, David crept into Saul's camp while he was sleeping and took the javelin and water jug that were inches from Saul (see 26:7-12).
- **David took the matter to God. David didn't seek vengeance; he sought God.** Read this psalm through verse 8, and you see a cry for David's opponents to be disgraced, humiliated, ashamed, and ruined. David expressed his anger and frustration to God, but he left the matter there.

Scripture

Redirecting Anger

Psalm 35:13-16

13 Yet when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting, and my prayer was genuine. 14 I went about mourning as if for my friend or brother; I was bowed down with grief, like one mourning for a mother. 15 But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee; they gathered against me. Assailants I did not know tore at me and did not stop. 16 With godless mockery they gnashed their teeth at me.

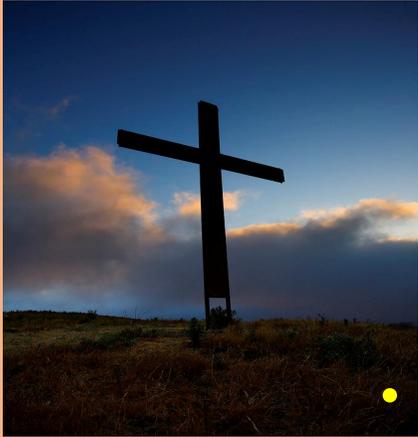


Redirecting Anger

Psalm 35:13-16

Why is compassion a necessary characteristic for followers of Christ?

Who has effectively modeled for you what it means to love your enemies?



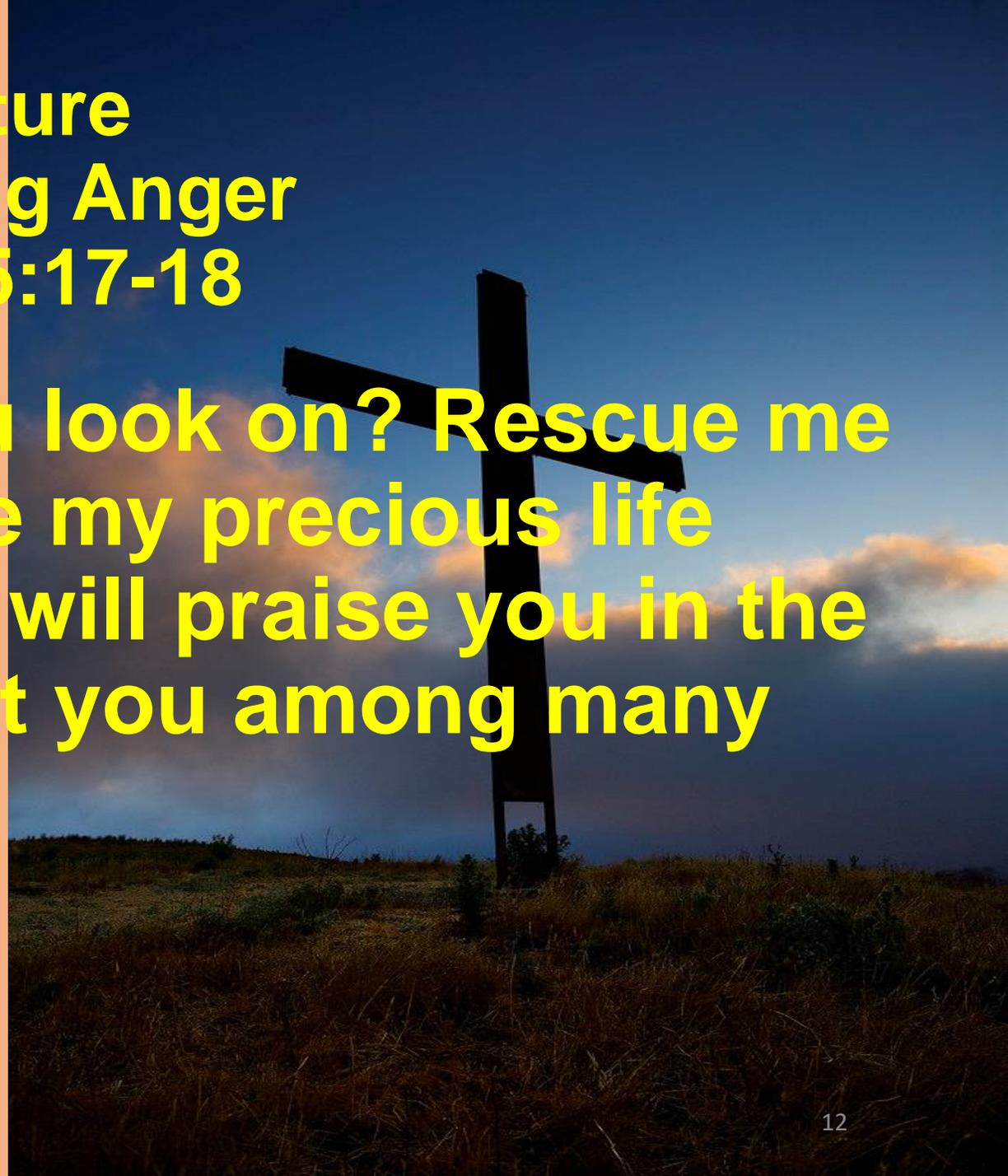
Redirecting Anger

Psalm 35:13-16

- That's what made David's situation so hard. The ones who were seeking to kill him were the very ones he cared for most. Not only had David served Saul closely, his best friend was Saul's son, Jonathan (see 1 Samuel 18:1). But David had also been a military leader for Saul, and he had served alongside many of the soldiers who were now pursuing him (see v. 5).
- Note that David sincerely prayed for these men. He wasn't guilty of the casual prayer in passing. He changed his clothes. He fasted. He mourned for them. He "was bowed down with grief." His "prayer was genuine."
- In an ideal setting, those David had previously prayed for and cared about would do the same for him when he stumbled, seeking the best for him. But instead, "they gathered in glee; they gathered against me." Others joined David's former friends in this feeding frenzy.

Scripture
Redirecting Anger
Psalm 35:17-18

17 Lord, how long will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages; rescue my precious life from the young lions. 18 I will praise you in the great assembly; I will exalt you among many people.



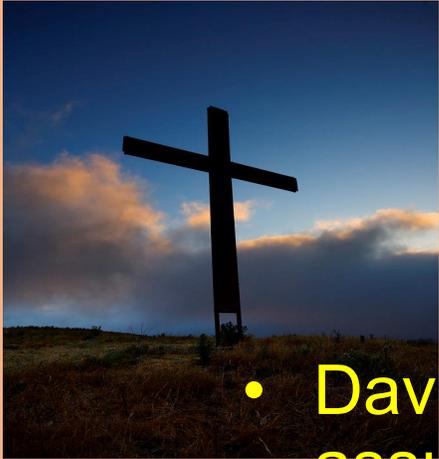


Redirecting Anger

Psalm 35:17-18

What makes leaving matters in God's hands so challenging?

What does it look like to put our anger in God's hands?



Redirecting Anger

Psalm 35:17-18

- David's other psalms reflect an unwavering trust in God, so we can assume David's closing words in Psalm 35 reflect that same trust. David had faith that God would rescue him; he just didn't know when. "Lord, how long will you look on?" David was ready to be rescued right then!
- We also see David's trust in his praise of God. Things didn't look favorable for David at the moment—he hadn't yet experienced the rescue he sought from God—but he approached life with a renewed determination. "I will praise you ... I will exalt you" (emphasis added). David had expressed similar praise in verse 9, but here David would offer his praise and worship "in the great assembly ... among many people." To offer public praise in the thick of frustrating, anger-provoking circumstances is a great testimony of our trust in God.



GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

- **Vent—to God.** Before talking to others about what has upset you, talk to God. Be honest with God about why you're angry. Ask Him for the strength to refrain from anger and the will to trust Him with the situation.
- **Seek resolution—not retaliation.** If possible, find a way to resolve the relationship or situation that has angered you. At the very least, pray for the well-being of the other person. As you genuinely pray for another person, God will also work on your heart.
- **Love—no matter what.** Find specific, concrete ways you can show the love of Christ to those who have hurt you or made you angry. Don't take any action to look self-righteous and better than the other person. Show love in order to honor the One who loves you.



Final thoughts about Redirecting Anger

- Who do we turn to when we're opposed and anger rises up? David models the best approach: take the matter to God. We aren't to respond in anger or retaliation; we are to respond in love. Loving those who anger us or seek our harm is the best way to "get back" at them.



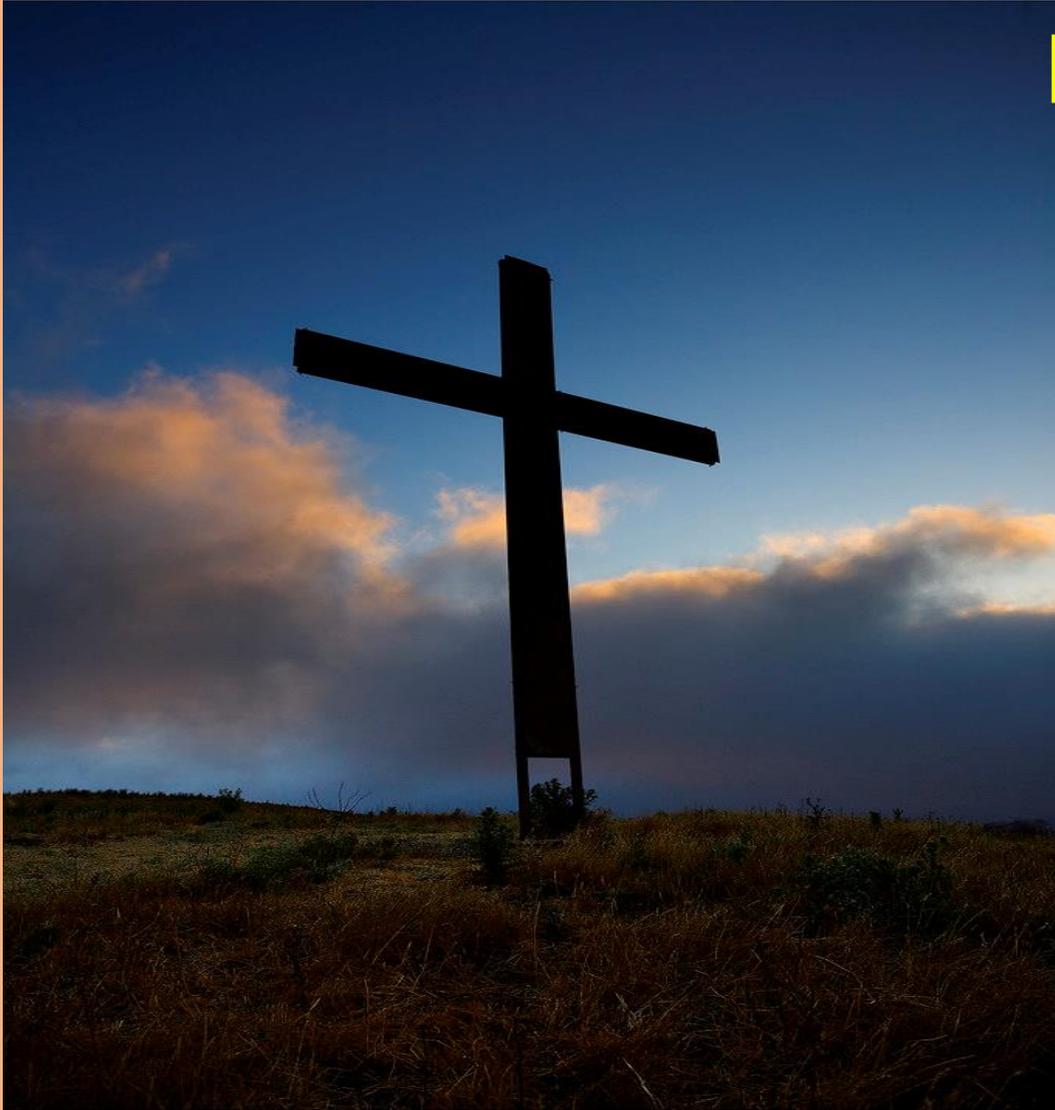
Growing in Christ Preparation for learning

Bible.com

- Daily reflection on the topic of joy
- Dates: November 29-December 5
- Bible Study link:
<https://bible.com/p/35593788/461d171824262c1f33822f90649f9ff1>

Resources

- **BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth**
- **Bible.com**



Next Week: December 13, 2020
Benefit of Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:1-10

What's a habit you would like to
develop?



**God Bless
You!**

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