



WEEK 1

FBCO 21-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK 1: DAY 1 The Word of God – Part 1

By: Pastor Mark Jones

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and [o]acts on them, [p]may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the [q]floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not [r]act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, and the [s]floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

Have you ever taken in the cityscape of Chicago? If you have, you can't help but notice the famous Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower). Did you know the Willis Tower stands 1,454 ft from the sidewalk to the rooftop, or 1,729 ft from the sidewalk to the top of the antenna?

As is true with the Willis Tower and our lives, the degree to which we are able to “reach for the skies” will be determined not by what people see “above the surface,” but that which lies below: that is, the foundation upon which our lives are built. For the Willis Tower, there is an immense concrete structure that extends 100 ft below the surface, and extending another 100 ft below that, you have 200 cement-filled caissons! That is a serious foundation, but one that is needed to permit this structure to rise up into the sky and remain steadfast.

What dreams or aspirations do you have for your life? Do they “reach for the sky?” Let me also ask you this, “What is feeding into those dreams and aspirations?” Proverbs 23:7 says “*As a man thinks within himself, so he is.*” Do you realize that your perspective or the way you view the world is determined by the thoughts you think, and those thoughts create the foundation upon which you live your life?

So, it begs the question, “What are you feeding into your thought life?” In the above parable, Jesus paints a powerful picture of the importance in having a solid foundation support our lives. Storms of life come, unexpected tragedies occur, failed expectations take place; and how well we are able to “weather” these dynamics will be determined by the strength of the foundation upon which our lives have been built.

God's Word is His answer in how we overcome the challenges we face in life. His Word produces a rock-solid foundation for our lives, but notice, there is one additional critical element connected to “The Word”:

We need to “act on it.”

It's not enough to have “head knowledge” about what God's Word has to say (simply “hearing” it) but we are to put His Word into action! By putting His Word into practice, it produces a deep, abiding faith and trust that God's Word will not return void, but instead, all of His promises will produce lasting results.

If you think about it, when we've surrendered our lives to Jesus, He walks with us through this amazing journey we call “Life.” He wants us to have “life and life more abundantly.” For us to experience this kind of life, our lives need to be founded on God's Word, and not our own opinions or preferences. The latter will fail us time and again, but God's Word will never fail you!

So, as you pray today, ask God to help you see how important His Word is in creating a foundation to your life. Let Him open your eyes to all the applications in how His Word can positively impact every aspect of your life as you learn what He has to say about so many things “in His Word!”

Aspire to build the tallest skyscraper with your life by building the deepest, strongest foundation that can not only handle the storms of life, but can support the weight of an amazing dream He's given you to accomplish for Him. Dare to dream a dream for God, but don't set your limits on the dream, LET HIM!

PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank You for Your Word and how it is a strong foundation! Lord, I need this foundation in my life that I might survive the storms and difficulties of life. I also need it in me that things will go well for my life, and that the dream you give me for my life will come to pass! May my perspective be completely formed and based on Your Word! Thank You for revealing Your thoughts in The Word. Help compel within me a holy hunger to want to know it more and more. Help build this rock-solid foundation in my life by the Power of Your Spirit who lives within me to the Praise of your Son's Name...JESUS!

AMEN!!

WEEK 1: DAY 2 The Word of God – Part 2

By: Pastor Mark Jones

Scripture: I Corinthians 2:10-12

10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

Have you ever bought a power tool that offered many features, but you only knew how to utilize a few of them? In order to enjoy the full benefits of your new power tool, you need to read the instruction manual! But how many times have you read those instructions, and you ended up having more questions than answers? In other words, you needed a tutor, someone to help you make sense of the manual.

I've also read instructions in manuals, but there always seems to be "that spot" in the instructions that don't make sense. I read it over and over, but have no clue on how to solve this problem. So, what do you do? If you're like me, you go to your "Go-to" instructor:

Youtube!

There's something about learning from an instructor that's far better than just reading the instructions alone. In similar fashion, how many times have you read something from the Bible that just doesn't click for you? The above-mentioned passage is for you!

Notice two critical phrases Paul states in this passage, "*For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God,*" and "*so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.*"

When I came upon this passage a long time ago, a powerful thought hit me in how I should approach things when reading God's Word:

Pray, read, then pray again.

Pray first that God would do two key things prior to you reading His Word.

1) For God's Spirit to strip away preconceived ideas or interpretations you may currently have which are holding you back from a greater

understanding of God's Truth. For instance, I've seen people with a legalistic viewpoint of the Bible (and life) become opened-up to having a greater "love of God" approach to life when they prayed that God's "written word" would become a "Living Word" inside of them! So, pray for God to remove any blind spot you have as well as remove any barrier that stands in the way of God's truth as HE wants you to know it, in order that you may live it to the max!

This leads to the second key point prior to praying.

2) For God's Spirit to open up your thoughts allowing God's Spirit to speak His thoughts on how to fully apply and live out God's Word. Our perspective leads us to making an interpretation of the passage we're reading. That interpretation impacts how we approach and live life. We need to realize that there are many factors that play into this formulating process (how we come to having our perspective or interpretation), of which are the church environment, our parents & peers, our Pastor's theological persuasion, and so on. Only God's Spirit will give us a full understanding of how to apply God's Word to our lives so that we live well For Him and represent His Name well in every situation we find ourselves in. So, pray that God's Spirit would grant you His understanding of what you're reading So That you live it out to the full!

Again, that pattern is Pray, Read, Pray.

You've heard the two reasons for praying prior to reading, and now it's time to...**READ!**

WEEK 1: DAY 2

The Word of God – Part 2

Dig in, and read, and try to read a chapter if it's not too long. Enjoy the Word like you would a meal. It's not supposed to be simply a snack, but a meal! So, dig in!

Then, close out your Bible reading session with another time of prayer. Ask God's Spirit to protect your thought life so that the enemy would not be able to come in and either confuse you with errant thoughts, or distort or twist the Truth to mean something that is not intended. I like praying for "God to take captive every thought within my mind to His obedience!"

Remember this...when we received Jesus into our lives, we were also given the Holy Spirit who now dwells within us. (*1 Cor. 6:19*) Going back to our original passage, we're told that one of the things the Holy Spirit does is to search the depths of God. God doesn't want us to stay in a state of cluelessness about our faith. He wants us to freely know about all that we've been given in Him! So, allow the "ultimate tutor," the Holy Spirit, to empower your Bible reading times that they might become life-transforming and life-giving so that you become a powerful living tool He can use to reach those who do not know Him!

One final question. "What kind of hunger does God see in you?" Or ask it this way, "How much time do I spend praying where I'm asking God's Spirit to help me understand God's Word?"

Hebrews 11:6 says:

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

The writer of Hebrews hits it on the head for us: "Are we diligently or casually seeking after the things of God in our prayer life?" If we want to be rewarded with a greater understanding of **who** God is, and what we can experience in Him, then we need to diligently seek Him.

Combine the discipline of studying God's Word...with the discipline of prayer; and see how much more you walk away with! Keep a journal during these 21 days. How is God speaking to you? What new thoughts are coming to you? Are you acting on them, or putting them off to the side?

Let this 21-day prayer journey accomplish more than just establishing a new discipline (prayer) in your life. As you continue on this journey of prayer, you will discover how the Word is about to come alive with greater poignancy and power in your life. You will also begin to notice other things as well, so write them down. Let God's Spirit bring a whole new level of education and appreciation for the faith we have in Christ!

PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank You for giving me the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in my life. Help me to understand how Your Spirit speaks His thoughts into my life. Lord, as I study Your Word, remove from my thinking anything that stands in the way of me grabbing hold of something that will be helpful to me and my journey with You through life. Empower my thoughts to understand how You want me to live out my life that I might be a compelling example to those who do not know You. May they see YOU in me! God, thank You for your Word, and I'm trusting in You to help me have full access in understanding it, that everything You want my life to accomplish will be fulfilled in accordance to Your Word. May You receive all the praise, glory, and honor.

AMEN!

WEEK 1: DAY 3 The Word of God – Part 3

By: Pastor Mark Jones

Scripture: Joshua 1:6-9

6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Have you ever bought something because additional incentives were offered? Those incentives created the irresistible thought: “I have to get this - **now!**”

Well, what will it take to get you to read your Bible **now** on a daily basis? Is there some “incentive” that could finally help “push” you toward reading every day?

Joshua tells us about two incentives that a person can *expect to happen in their lives* **when**...they take seriously the spiritual discipline to **Read** and **Reflect** on the Bible daily.

In truth, these two things are far more than just incentives, they are *Promises from God* with what **will happen** in your life **when** you seriously study God’s Word. They are:

- 1) For Then you will make your way prosperous
- 2) Then you will have success.

Those are two powerful promises, aren’t they: to see your way be prosperous, and for you to have success. Well, if these are God’s promises to us when we study and meditate on God’s Word, have you asked yourself the question, “Why am I not doing this daily?”

Many people can have great intentions, but what is it going to take to get **you** to transition from “intention” to “action?”

Maybe it starts by looking at the frequency we need to be studying God’s Word. In verse 8, Joshua says, “*you shall meditate in it Day and Night!*” The imagery that comes to mind are two bookends that help keep

books standing tall on a shelf. You have one at the beginning of a row of books, and one at the end. If you don’t have them, the books have that nasty tendency of tipping over.

If we don’t have God’s Word surrounding our lives at both the “beginning” and “ending” of each day, then we are at risk of seeing some area “tip over” leaving us in a world of hurt.

So, what better way to get our minds off to a great start, or to recalibrate our thoughts after a long day of facing difficult situations than feeding upon God’s Word? Let God’s Word inspire you to live well each day. Eat the “Breakfast of Champions,” no I’m not talking about Wheaties, but I am talking about feasting on God’s Word!

After all, the promises from God are that we will experience both prosperous times and be successful! The key is whether we’re willing to learn how to do things “God’s Way” (by studying His Word) or continue in our own efforts and intellect. The choice is yours.

What will you choose? Let’s choose to read His Word!

PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help me to make the time to read a portion of Your Word in the morning, and then at night that my ways will be pleasing to You, and You will make them both prosperous and successful. Lord, help me to establish this new habit of daily reading that I might grow stronger in You. Thank You for Your patience toward me when I've done things my own way. Help me to want to know Your way of doing things, that in all I do, I would glorify You to those around me. Protect my day, go before me, and empower my words, actions, and thoughts to the praise of Your Name.

AMEN!

WEEK 1: DAY 4 The Word of God – Part 4

By: Pastor Mark Jones

Scripture: Joshua 1:6-9

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Yesterday, we read this passage, and looked at the two promises contained in it to create a motivational incentive to want to read God’s Word. Today, let’s look at one more key dynamic contained in the same passage.

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, **for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**”*

God commands us to *“Be strong and of good courage.”* It’s not a suggestion, the language is much stronger. God wants us, His children, to truly and fully walk in an attitude of *“strength and courage.”* Why? Because *“the Lord your God is with you wherever you go!”* Has that thought really hit you...that the God who created the entire universe **is with you wherever you go!**

One of the Names of God is *Emmanuel*, which means *“God With Us.”* We need to “walk” in the knowledge that God is with us wherever we go. If we live our lives governed by that thought, then we should expect to see both strength and courage be our constant companions, not worry and anxiety. Yet

too often, we live with these two companions, and they suck the life out of us.

Okay...sports analogy time (sorry ladies). Have you noticed how the athletes of a team with one or two superstar athletes “walk” into the stadium/arena? There is a “swagger” to their demeanor. Why...because their attitude is impacted by those supremely gifted superstars who are on their team. **They Expect to Win the game because of Them.**

How much more should we “walk through life” with “strength and courage” because we have someone far greater “who is in us” than the supremely gifted athlete on some team? Instead of allowing the challenges of life create fear and tension in our lives, look to the One who can fully supply that need, and every other need we have! Look to the One, Jesus Christ, who is greater than anything you’ll face in life! When you walk with this attitude shaping your perspective, you will “be strong and courageous” because you realize “greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.”

Walk as if you are on the winning team...because you are!

PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

I thank You for being with me wherever I go. Help me to realize I don’t face anything in life I encounter by myself, but when I asked You to come into my life, You are the One who is now with me. Help me to realize this position: I’m never alone, but instead, the Creator of the Universe is now with me. Thank you for the strength and courage you give me. Help me to live my life in a way that shows others this strength and courage I have to face the challenges of life comes from You and not me. May You be honored in all I do to the Praise of Your Name,

AMEN!

WEEK 1: DAY 5 The Word of God – Part 5

By: Pastor Mark Jones

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up wrath.”

Today, let’s look at how practical God’s Word can be for our lives when we trust in its wisdom, and live it out. The above verse is pretty short, but the impact it made on my life was huge. Let me share a quick story involving this verse and how God showed me how practical His Word can be if we first “know it” and then “live it” out!

I was in my early 20s, was working at an Amusement Park in their Live Shows, and was dating a young lady who was also working in the Live Shows. On one particular morning, I read the above listed Proverbs, and was about to discover how practical God’s Word is for everyday living!

Later in the day, I was on a date with this young lady, and let’s just say she was **not** in a good mood. Finally, she blew up at me, and really “unloaded” all her frustrations in one long, uzi machine gun blast. I really can’t say “how” this happened, but if you can believe it, somehow that Proverb popped into my mind, *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh words stirs up wrath.”*

I will never forget this vivid memory. After she was finished “blasting away,” she literally “braced” physically for my “retaliatory” remarks. But instead of the “normal” response (that 99% of the time I would have done), I found myself saying something like, “I don’t know what you’re going through to cause you to act like this, because this is not like you. I just want you to know that I think the world of you, but I don’t deserve to be treated like this. I’m going to leave, and when you want, give me a call and let’s talk.” I could barely finish that last line, when she burst into tears, reached out to hug me, and said, “I’m so sorry...”

I thought...“Wow, this Bible stuff - **Really Works!**”

Seriously, I have never forgotten that lesson on how practical the Bible’s counsel is. It really does help us live well with one another (that’s success in my book)

if we will simply read it, and then live it.

But let me add one last thought with this story, and this Bible verse.

What I didn’t mention is that prayer was included in this situation. My Dad taught me the importance of prayer working with studying God’s Word. We don’t want to simply have a mind filled with a lot of facts from the Bible, but instead, we need to see how the written Word can become a “Living Word” when we take its advice and put it into practice.

So, after I read that Proverbs verse, I prayed that God would help me retain and put into practice His Word so that it would come alive in me. I had no idea how fast of an example He would give me in response to my prayers, but that situation only stoked my fire for more of His Word in my life combined with more active prayer!

PRAYER:

Dear God,

Open my eyes that I might see how practical Your Word is when I “live it out.” Lord, help me to read something from Your Word today that will be exactly what I need later on that I might see the power of Your Word coming alive in me when Your Truth is lived out. Thank You for giving me Your Word. Help those who do not have one copy of the Bible to somehow come across it. Help me to never take for granted the easy access to Your Word that I have. Create within me a hunger to want to know it more, and to then live it out so that others might see You in my actions. May all I do today bring honor and glory to Your Name.

AMEN!

WEEK 1: DAY 6 The Word of God – Part 6

By: Pastor Mark Jones

Scripture: Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. 8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. 20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

I’ll never forget the day in seminary when my Professor used a different title for this parable. Instead of the **Sower and the Seeds**, he called it the *“Parable of the Soils.”* I was like, “What? You can’t call it that!”

Well...years later, I find myself agreeing with him.

The two things that remain the same are the sower, and the seed; but the one thing that changes throughout this parable: **the different types of soil!**

You have:

- a) the wayside,
- b) stony places,
- c) thorns, and
- d) good ground.

So let’s compare these different types of soils to how our mind thinks. The first soil, “by the wayside” is explained as something our mind doesn’t understand, and then satan comes in to steal what that word could do in our lives. How many times have you read something from the Bible that if we’re honest, just didn’t make sense? What did you do with that “Word” you didn’t understand? Too often,

we probably simply dismiss it, and move on. The sad part is maybe there was some critical truth that God wanted to equip us with because of what we’re about to face, but we “gave up” too quickly because we didn’t easily or initially understand it.

Hang in there!

Don’t simply give up if you don’t understand it. Wrestle with that Word for just a bit. Take advantage of “googling” that verse, you will be amazed at all the additional insight and perspective you can gain. Most of all, pray for God’s Spirit to help bring clarity in what that verse means.

The next soil is “stony places.” This is the situation where you understand what the Word means, it brings joy to your life, but then when the first signs of difficulty and trouble come, you cave under the pressure of those challenges. Take the advice of Day 4 and “Be strong and courageous!” After all, “God is with you wherever you go, even when we walk ‘through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me!’ ”

WEEK 1: DAY 6 The Word of God – Part 6

Here's a thought using the apostle James's words with one change. "Consider it all joy my brethren, when you encounter various trials." Let's make one substitution, and reread that verse.

"Consider it all joy my brethren, when you encounter various **opportunities!**"

Puts a different spin on it, doesn't it?

Yet, if God is truly with us (and He is), then trials are no longer these huge mountains that stand in our way, but instead, they are amazing opportunities for us to see how God is going to solve them! Instead of caving in on challenging times, push through to see how God is going to solve these situations...**because He will!**

The next soil is "thorns," and this might be a touchy subject for some. This is the situation where the "cares of the world" or the priorities "of our riches" can choke out the Word's importance to our lives.

Where do you give the best of your time, attention, and effort: to the cares & riches within your life, or to the Word of God? Be honest with yourself. If your answer is that God's Word receives only a small percentage of your attention & effort, then the only way to make it better is to admit you have a problem.

So, where does the Word of God fit into your life?

God gives us talents and abilities to be used for the furthering of His kingdom in a variety of ways. Making money is not a bad thing, but it can and will cross a line if it becomes more important than the things of God. Remember Day 3's lesson: God will make our ways prosperous and we will have success

when we meditate on God's Word day and night and are careful to do what God asks us to do.

Prioritize God's Word as the first source you go to for wisdom and counsel when it comes to the concerns and cares of this world. Show God that you are putting Him first in all things. Let God see in you a love for Him, His Word, and His kingdom over the things you have in your life. If you realize God is a distant second or third compared to the things in your life that receive the best of you...make a change.

Put God first, and let Him show you how He can bless these things in a far greater way when He's Lord of your life!

Finally, we come to the last soil: "Good ground." This is the mindset where a person really believes God is Who He says He is, and that He's faithful to fulfill His Word in every situation we encounter. **Now, that's the way to approach life.**

If you think about it, if that is our mental approach, then whatever we face in life, "*In Faith*" we look at how God will resolve the situation. Also, while we wait for His solution to come about, we live in a spirit of strength and courage...because we undeniably know that God is with us wherever we go, and whatever we face.

Finally, as we see and experience more of God's Word coming true in our lives, it builds our faith and creates an unshakable belief to trust Him more. We find ourselves looking forward to discovering more from God's Word because we see how true His promises are!

PRAYER: Dear God,

We thank You for Your Word and how it produces amazing things in our lives. Lord, protect us from having a mindset of the first three soils, and help us to have only "Good Ground" as our way of thinking. Forgive me when I've allowed myself to get swept up by my pursuit of things at the expense of You. Lord, help me to balance the pursuit You and the pursuit of my career or other things in my life. May I place You first in all things, and show me that when I do this, this will be the way I see You making my ways prosperous and giving me success in life to the praise of Your Name.

AMEN!

WEEK 1: DAY 7 The Word of God – Part 7

By: Pastor Mark Jones

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

For this last devotional on the Word, this is a great passage to look at because it exposes something that's hidden to those around us: "the thoughts and intentions of the heart." We can keep to ourselves these two key ingredients of our lives, yet their impact is profound.

Who are you?

Simple question, yet when you look in the mirror, how do you view yourself?

There are at least two directions you can go with this verse. The first, being the more common one, shows how the Word shines a light on "why we do what we do." When we take our thoughts and intentions, and compare them to what the Word of God says, it shows us whether we're living in a godly manner or a sinful one. We can no longer "hide" our thoughts and intentions, but instead, God's Word shows us whether we're on the right track or not. Challenge yourself to have a real moment of honest transparency with the Lord. Take a good, long look at your thoughts and intentions and "hold them up" to the Word of God. What does God's Word say to you? If change is in order, repent and ask the Lord to empower a new line of thinking to take place. We are "transformed by the renewing of our mind" as Paul says in Romans 12. Let the Word of God shape your thoughts, which impacts your intentions toward living a godly life.

The second area to share is one that's close to my heart: how your thoughts impact your self-esteem, ie the way you view yourself. Do we base our "self-esteem" or "image" on God's Word or some outside source? We're bombarded with all kinds of messages/thoughts every single day. Depending on the research source, we're told that our minds have between 50,000 to 70,000 thoughts every day!

Proverbs 23:7 says "*as a man thinks, so he is.*"

So, what "thoughts" are you listening to that have shaped your self-image? Have you encountered a hurtful word from someone, and tragically, you replay that word over and over without realizing how it's impacted you and your self-esteem? My Grandmother when she was in her early teenage years "won" the affections of some guy, "beating out" another girl. The "rejected" girl said, "I can't believe he picked you, **you're so homely!**"

Here's the sad and stunning reality for my Grandmother. She lived to be 103, and up to the very end she would say, "I was such a homely girl."

She carried these hurtful words that shaped her self-image for 90 years! God's Word could have shown her a very different picture. She's a Child of the King (and the King doesn't create junk!). She's part of a Royal Priesthood. She's a City set on a Hill!

Unlike my Grandmother, you need to wage war against thoughts that would speak an ugly, negative picture of who you are! God has created you, a "One-of-a-Kind" creation, uniquely made to serve His Sovereign Kingdom purposes...**that's who You are!**

So, let God's Word judge your thoughts and intentions in this critical area of self-esteem. If you don't feel good about "who you are"...you need to let God's Word remind you of "*Who You Are in Christ!*" God desires you, His Child, to live a glorious, amazing life while serving Him here on Earth.

PRAYER:

Dear God,

I thank You for Your Word and how it helps and empowers me to see myself the way You see me. Remove from my thoughts and my being, any thought that “steals, kills, and destroys” the person you’ve created me to be. Help me to live my life with purity in my thoughts and intentions that in all I do, I would glorify Your Name through my life. Thank you for setting me free, and showing me how You see me! May today be a brand new, beautiful day where I see myself the way You see me that I might bring Your love, life, and light to all I encounter to the Praise of Your Name,

AMEN!