

RANDY J. SCHUM

# BIG-HEARTED PEOPLE



*Study Guide*

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY  
LIVING SIMPLY, GIVING FREELY,  
*and*  
LOVING DEEPLY





BIG-HEARTED  
PEOPLE

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STUDY GUIDE

RANDY J. SCHUM

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## PREFACE

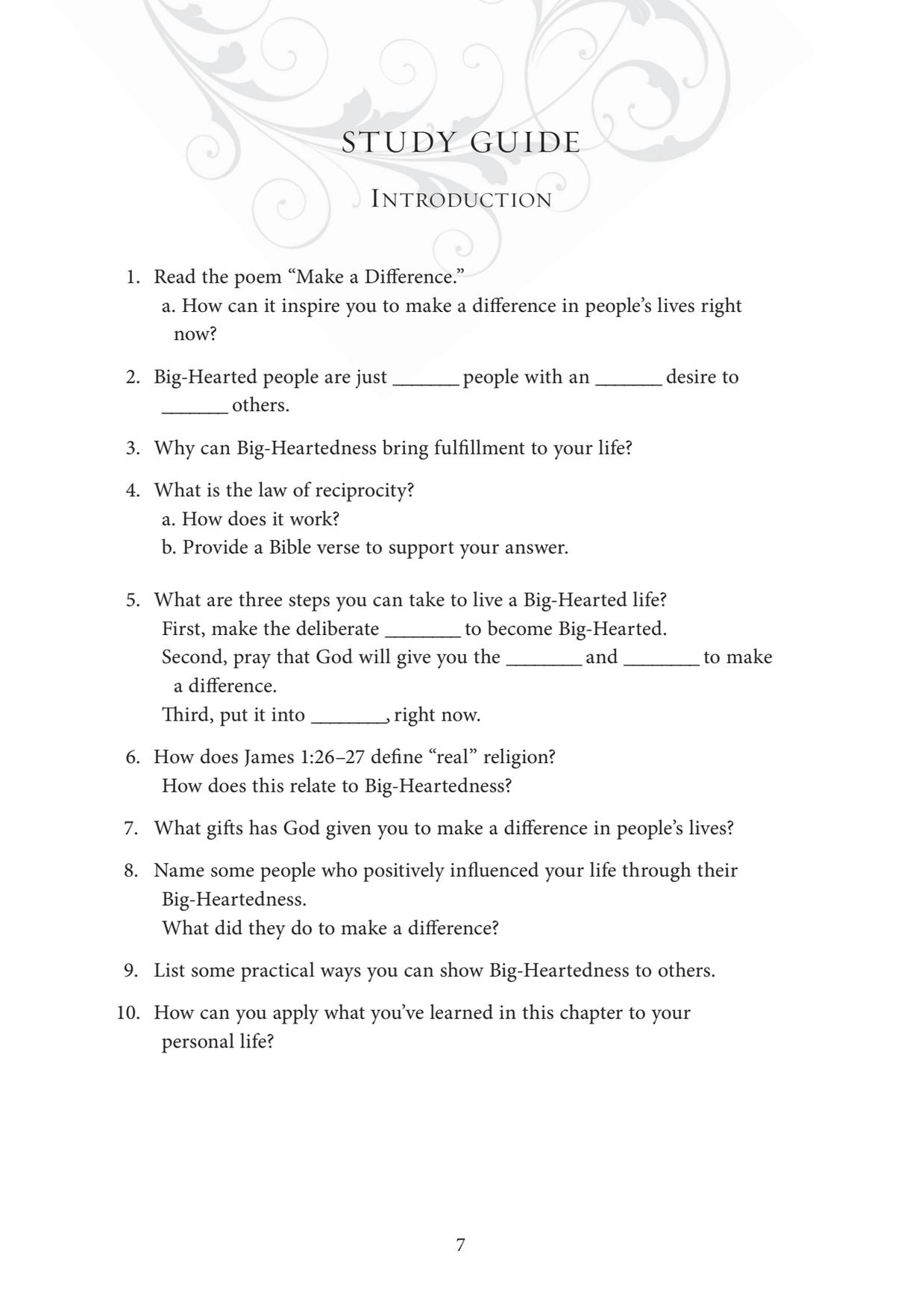
First and foremost, I wish to thank you for purchasing my book and for your desire to live your life as a Big-Hearted Person. This companion study guide may be used for either self-study or group discussion. I have designed it to increase learning retention by highlighting the most important truths from each chapter and asking questions which will make you look deep inside your heart for the answers. I'm certain the Holy Spirit will give you special insight as well. I encourage you to intently and prayerfully take the time to respond to each question.

My sincere desire is that this study guide, in harmony with the book, will motivate you to reach out to others with Big-Heartedness, and inspire you to develop a more intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

In His peace,

*Randy J. Schum*





# STUDY GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

1. Read the poem “Make a Difference.”
  - a. How can it inspire you to make a difference in people’s lives right now?
2. Big-Hearted people are just \_\_\_\_\_ people with an \_\_\_\_\_ desire to \_\_\_\_\_ others.
3. Why can Big-Heartedness bring fulfillment to your life?
4. What is the law of reciprocity?
  - a. How does it work?
  - b. Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
5. What are three steps you can take to live a Big-Hearted life?

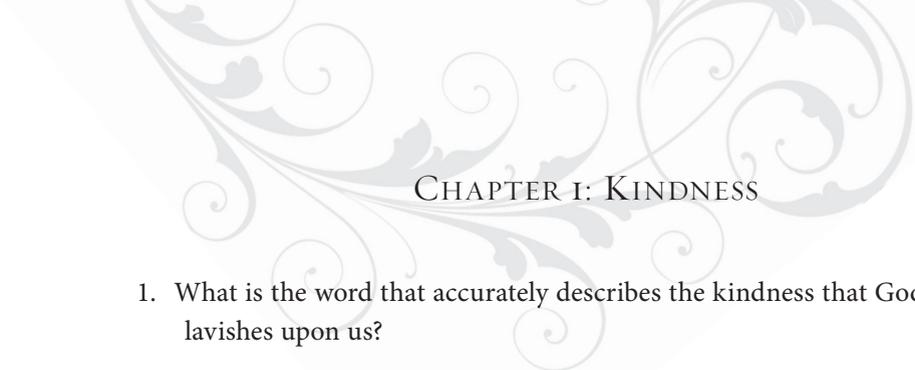
First, make the deliberate \_\_\_\_\_ to become Big-Hearted.

Second, pray that God will give you the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to make a difference.

Third, put it into \_\_\_\_\_, right now.
6. How does James 1:26–27 define “real” religion?

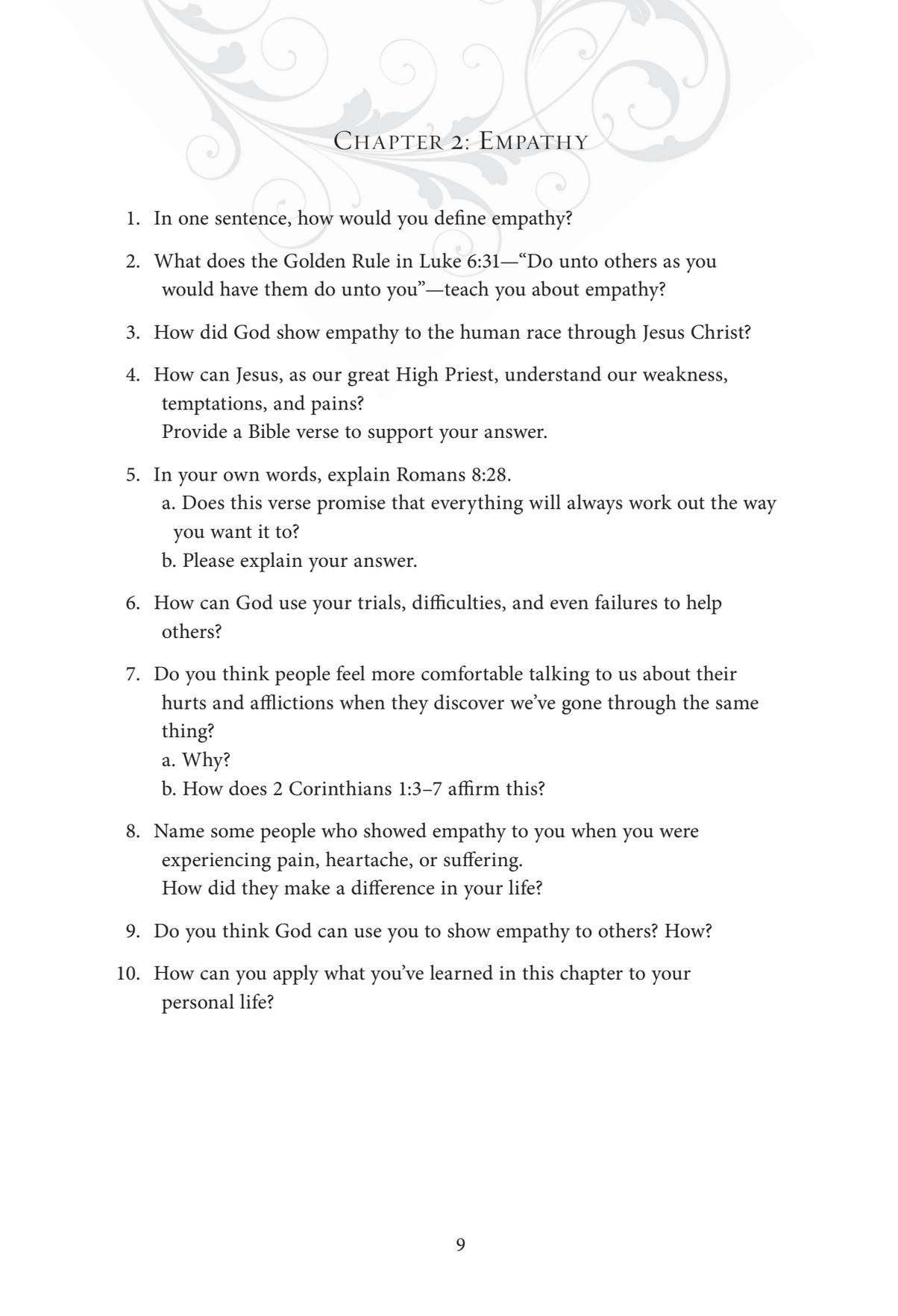
How does this relate to Big-Heartedness?
7. What gifts has God given you to make a difference in people’s lives?
8. Name some people who positively influenced your life through their Big-Heartedness.

What did they do to make a difference?
9. List some practical ways you can show Big-Heartedness to others.
10. How can you apply what you’ve learned in this chapter to your personal life?



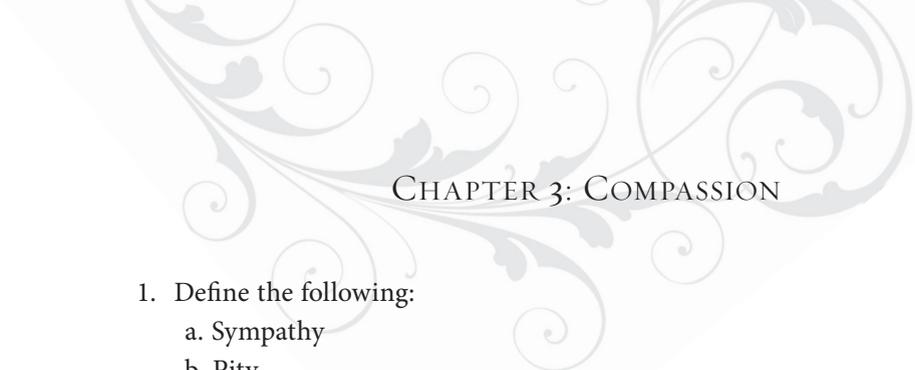
## CHAPTER I: KINDNESS

1. What is the word that accurately describes the kindness that God lavishes upon us?
2. In the parable of the Good Samaritan:
  - a. What caused the Samaritan's heart to move with compassion?
  - b. What did the Samaritan do to show kindness to the injured man?
  - c. Why do you think the priest and Levite avoided him?
  - d. What was the moral lesson that Jesus was trying to teach to the religion scholars (leaders) through this parable?
3. What do Jesus' words "love your neighbor as you love yourself" mean to you personally?
4. Does God look on our outward appearance or our hearts?
  - a. Please explain your answer.
  - b. Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
5. In what ways did Bishop Bienvenu show kindness to Jean Valjean?
  - a. How was Valjean's life changed?
  - b. How does this story demonstrate the effect of "sowing kindness" (good things) into a person's life?
6. Why is it important to daily pay attention to the Holy Spirit's prompting?
7. Name some people who showed kindness to you in a significant way. How did their kindness make a difference in your life?
8. List some practical ways you can show kindness to others.
9. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?



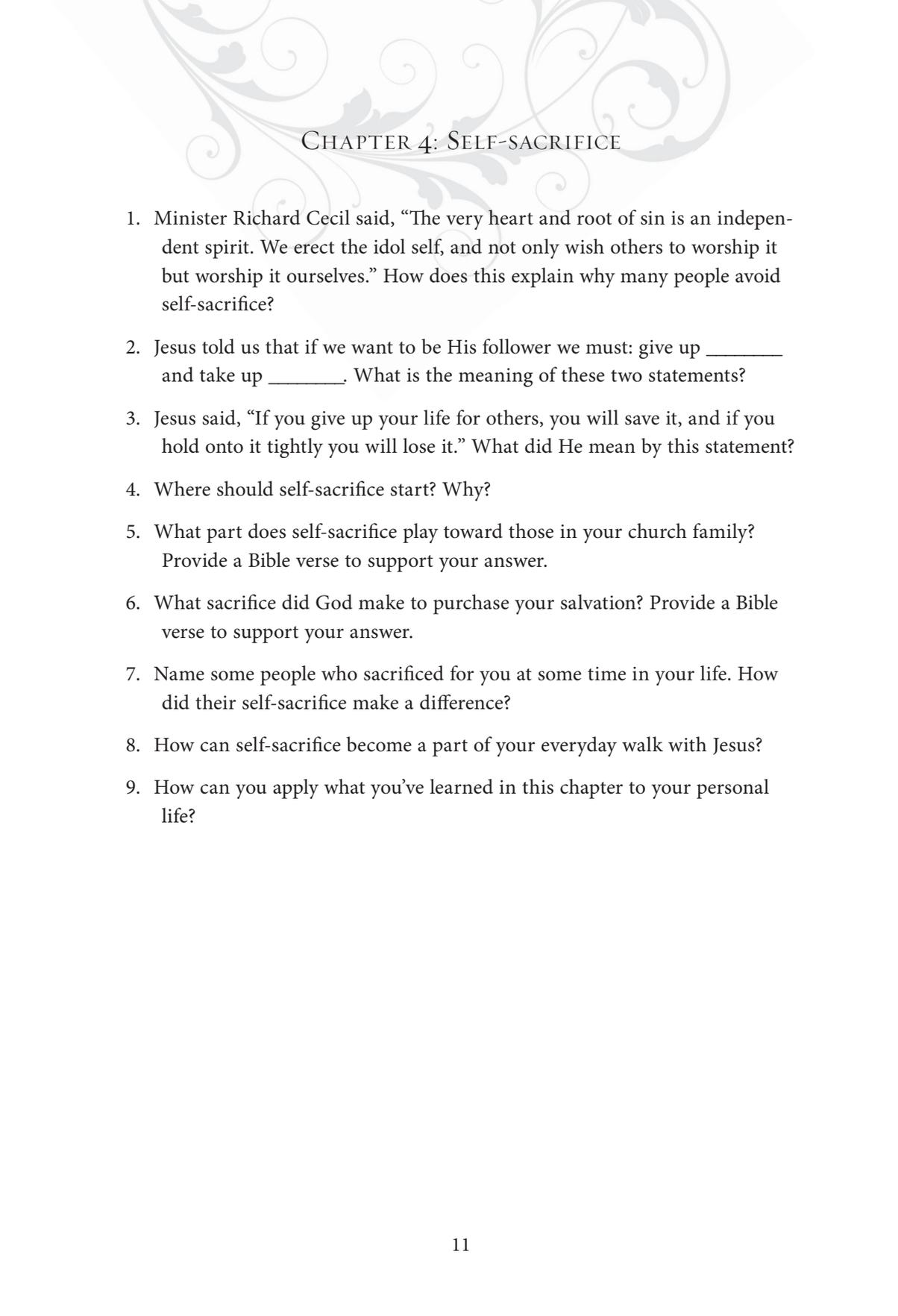
## CHAPTER 2: EMPATHY

1. In one sentence, how would you define empathy?
2. What does the Golden Rule in Luke 6:31—“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”—teach you about empathy?
3. How did God show empathy to the human race through Jesus Christ?
4. How can Jesus, as our great High Priest, understand our weakness, temptations, and pains?  
Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
5. In your own words, explain Romans 8:28.
  - a. Does this verse promise that everything will always work out the way you want it to?
  - b. Please explain your answer.
6. How can God use your trials, difficulties, and even failures to help others?
7. Do you think people feel more comfortable talking to us about their hurts and afflictions when they discover we’ve gone through the same thing?
  - a. Why?
  - b. How does 2 Corinthians 1:3–7 affirm this?
8. Name some people who showed empathy to you when you were experiencing pain, heartache, or suffering.  
How did they make a difference in your life?
9. Do you think God can use you to show empathy to others? How?
10. How can you apply what you’ve learned in this chapter to your personal life?



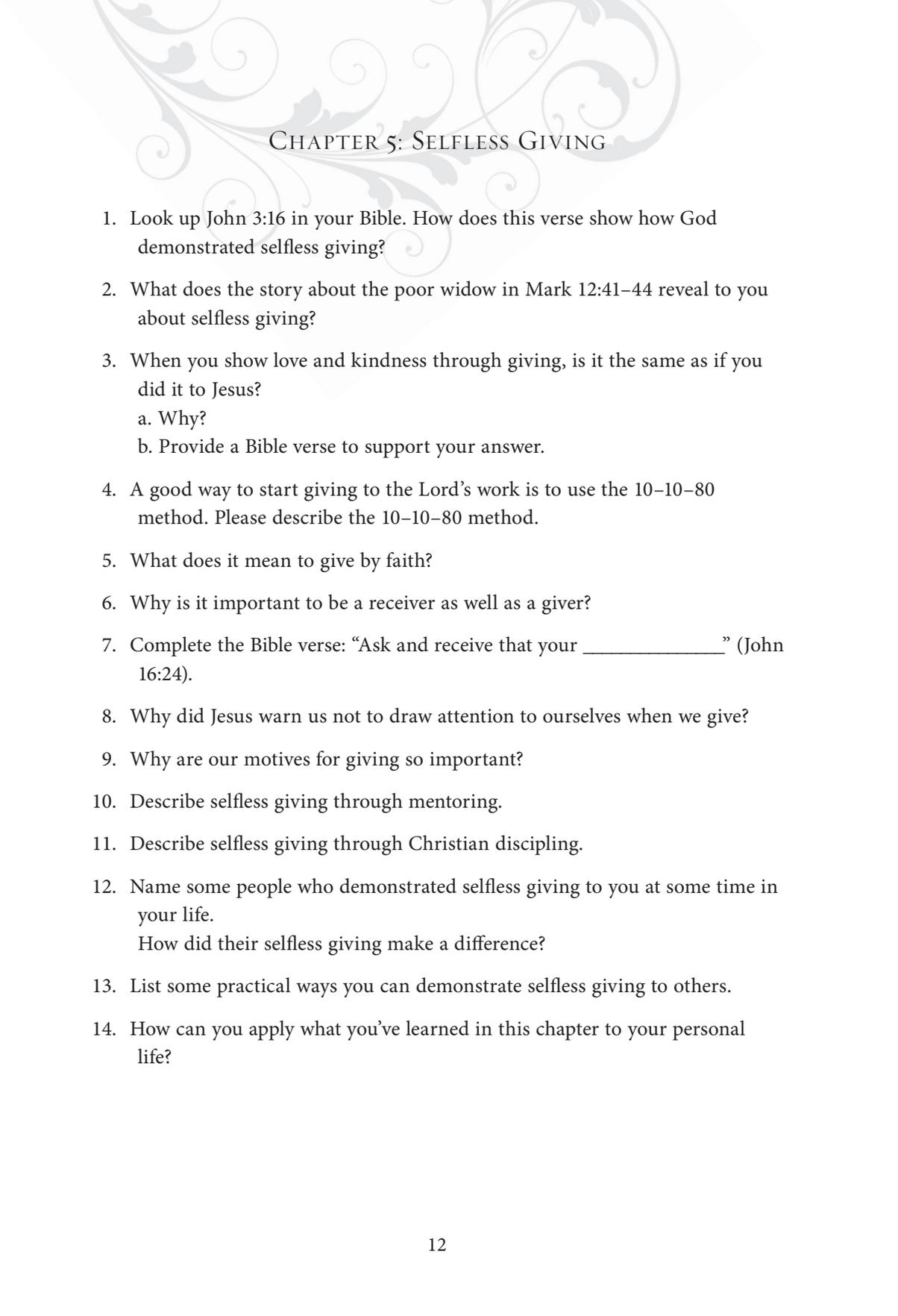
## CHAPTER 3: COMPASSION

1. Define the following:
  - a. Sympathy
  - b. Pity
  - c. Compassion
2. In the Prodigal Son parable, how did the father show compassion despite his son's squandering and immoral lifestyle?
  - a. Should the father have told his son to first "clean up his act" before he came home?
  - b. Explain your answer.
  - c. How does this parable show that compassion and forgiveness go hand-in-hand?
3. Give an example of how Jesus showed compassion.  
Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
4. Why is it important to teach people what God's Word says about learning how to trust the Lord themselves?
5. When you reach out to people with compassion, it is important not to let your emotions dictate your decisions.
  - a. Who should you rely on to give you wisdom when making decisions about how to best help people in need?
  - b. Why?
6. How did Jochebed and Pharaoh's daughter each show compassion to the baby Moses?  
Describe the far-reaching effects of their compassion.
7. Name some people who showed compassion to you at some time in your life.  
How did their compassion make a difference?
8. How can you show compassion to those whom God places in your life?
9. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?



## CHAPTER 4: SELF-SACRIFICE

1. Minister Richard Cecil said, “The very heart and root of sin is an independent spirit. We erect the idol self, and not only wish others to worship it but worship it ourselves.” How does this explain why many people avoid self-sacrifice?
2. Jesus told us that if we want to be His follower we must: give up \_\_\_\_\_ and take up \_\_\_\_\_. What is the meaning of these two statements?
3. Jesus said, “If you give up your life for others, you will save it, and if you hold onto it tightly you will lose it.” What did He mean by this statement?
4. Where should self-sacrifice start? Why?
5. What part does self-sacrifice play toward those in your church family? Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
6. What sacrifice did God make to purchase your salvation? Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
7. Name some people who sacrificed for you at some time in your life. How did their self-sacrifice make a difference?
8. How can self-sacrifice become a part of your everyday walk with Jesus?
9. How can you apply what you’ve learned in this chapter to your personal life?

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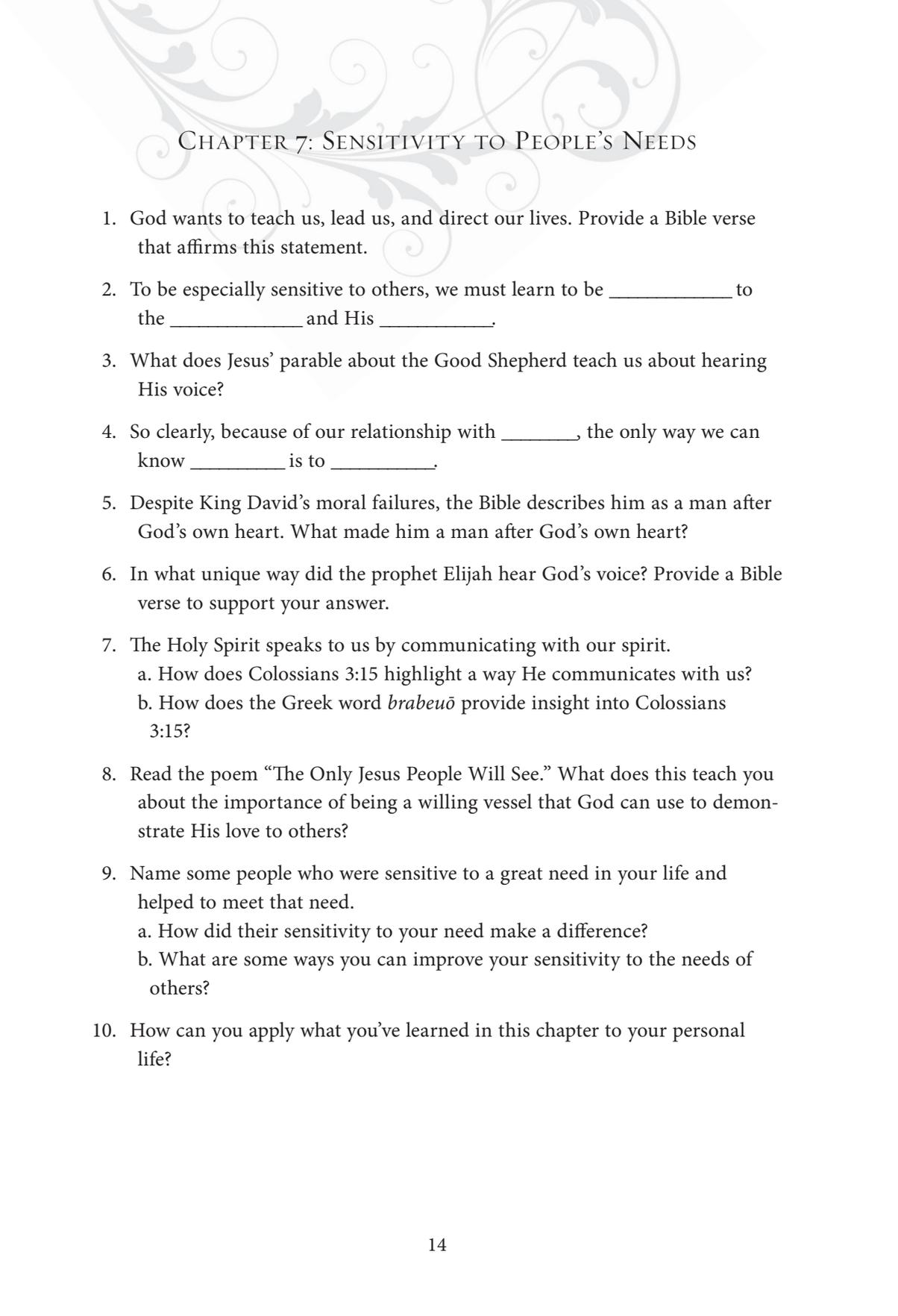
## CHAPTER 5: SELFLESS GIVING

1. Look up John 3:16 in your Bible. How does this verse show how God demonstrated selfless giving?
2. What does the story about the poor widow in Mark 12:41–44 reveal to you about selfless giving?
3. When you show love and kindness through giving, is it the same as if you did it to Jesus?
  - a. Why?
  - b. Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
4. A good way to start giving to the Lord's work is to use the 10–10–80 method. Please describe the 10–10–80 method.
5. What does it mean to give by faith?
6. Why is it important to be a receiver as well as a giver?
7. Complete the Bible verse: “Ask and receive that your \_\_\_\_\_” (John 16:24).
8. Why did Jesus warn us not to draw attention to ourselves when we give?
9. Why are our motives for giving so important?
10. Describe selfless giving through mentoring.
11. Describe selfless giving through Christian discipling.
12. Name some people who demonstrated selfless giving to you at some time in your life.  
How did their selfless giving make a difference?
13. List some practical ways you can demonstrate selfless giving to others.
14. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?



## CHAPTER 6: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

1. Define *agapē* love?
2. Define *phileō* love?
3. Define *storgē* love?
4. Define *ērōs* love?
5. Can we earn God's love? Explain your answer.
6. According to John 13:33–35, how do people know that we are followers (disciples) of Jesus?
7. If you know God, you desire to love; if you refuse to love, you don't know God. Provide a Bible verse that affirms this statement.
8. Fear is tormenting, but perfect love is the antidote for fear.
  - a. Explain why this is true.
  - b. Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
9. What does it mean to love or be loved unconditionally?
10. Are Christians only to love those who show love to them? Provide a Bible verse to explain your answer.
11. Explain Romans 12:18–21 in your own words.
12. How would you define *tough love*?
13. For what reason does God chastise us? Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
14. Name some people who showed unconditional love to you at some time in your life. How did their unconditional love make a difference?
15. List some practical ways you can show unconditional love to others.
16. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?

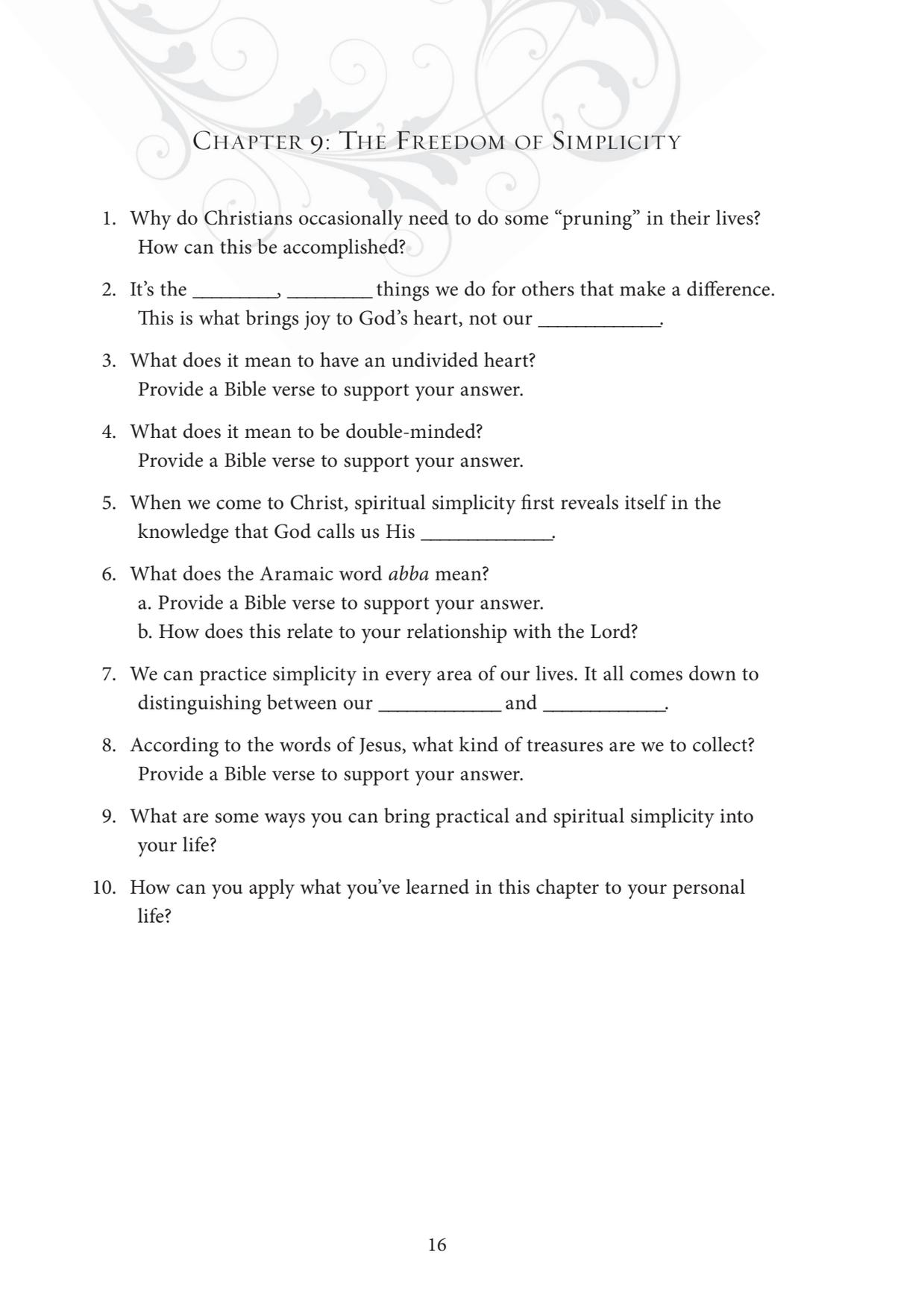


## CHAPTER 7: SENSITIVITY TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS

1. God wants to teach us, lead us, and direct our lives. Provide a Bible verse that affirms this statement.
2. To be especially sensitive to others, we must learn to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What does Jesus' parable about the Good Shepherd teach us about hearing His voice?
4. So clearly, because of our relationship with \_\_\_\_\_, the only way we can know \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Despite King David's moral failures, the Bible describes him as a man after God's own heart. What made him a man after God's own heart?
6. In what unique way did the prophet Elijah hear God's voice? Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
7. The Holy Spirit speaks to us by communicating with our spirit.
  - a. How does Colossians 3:15 highlight a way He communicates with us?
  - b. How does the Greek word *brabeuō* provide insight into Colossians 3:15?
8. Read the poem "The Only Jesus People Will See." What does this teach you about the importance of being a willing vessel that God can use to demonstrate His love to others?
9. Name some people who were sensitive to a great need in your life and helped to meet that need.
  - a. How did their sensitivity to your need make a difference?
  - b. What are some ways you can improve your sensitivity to the needs of others?
10. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?

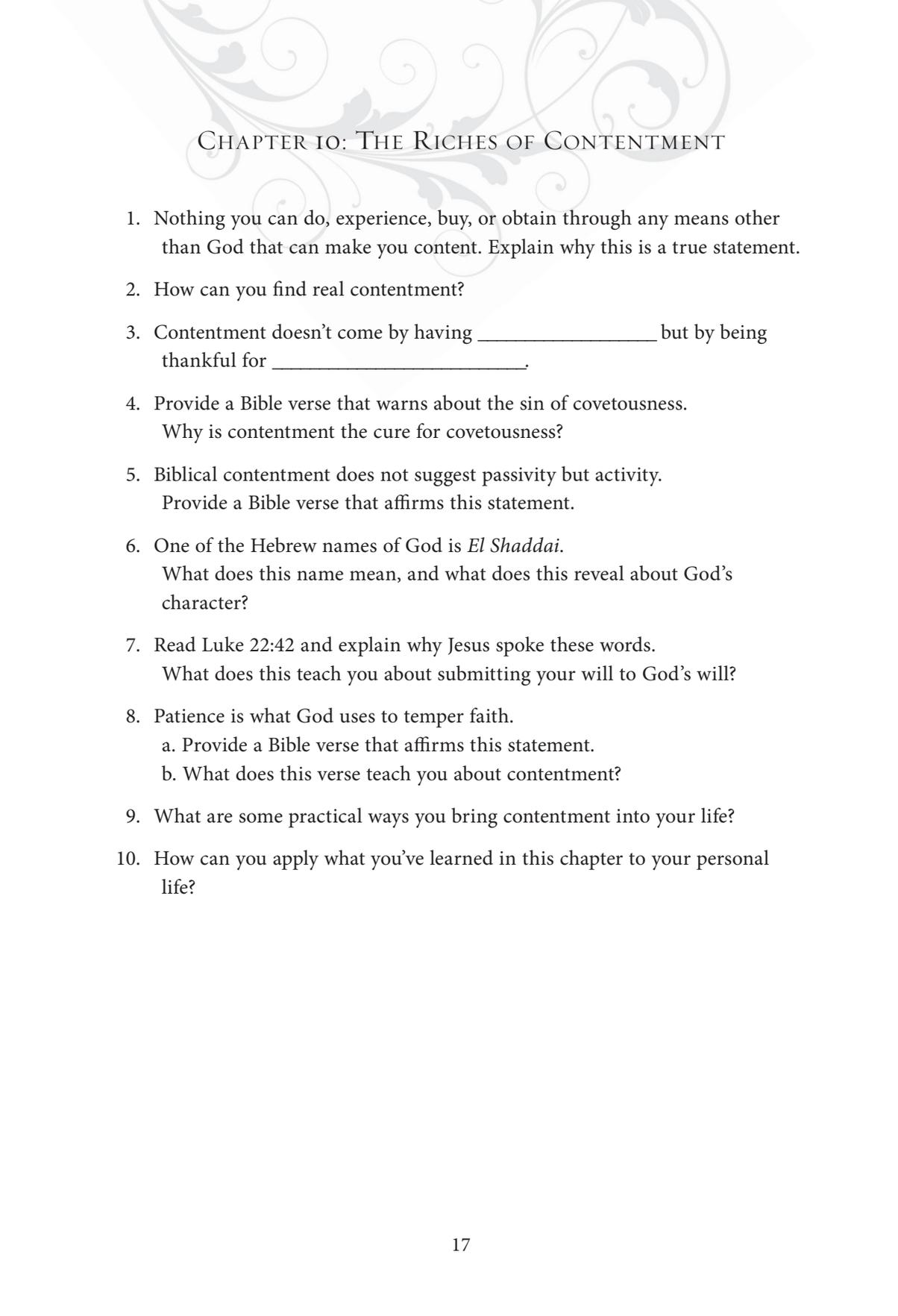
## CHAPTER 8: THE HEALING POWER OF FORGIVENESS

1. What can be the physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences of holding on to unforgiveness and bitterness?
2. What does the Lord's Prayer reveal to you by the words, "Forgive us our debts (sins) as we forgive our debtors (those who sin against us)"?
3. Is there a limit to how many times you should forgive someone? Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
4. How did Jesus demonstrate forgiveness as He was being crucified?
5. Explain 1 John 1:9.
6. Should you wait until you *feel* like forgiving before you forgive someone who has wronged you?  
Please explain your answer.
7. Forgiveness is a matter of two things—an act of the \_\_\_\_\_, and an act of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The first step to freedom from unforgiveness and bitterness for some people includes helping them understand what the Bible says about:
  - a. Why they must \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Jesus' example of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Relying on God's \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive.
  - d. The \_\_\_\_\_ of forgiveness.
9. Name some people who showed forgiveness to you for having wronged them.  
How did their forgiveness make a difference?
10. Pray and ask God to reveal any hidden bitterness or unforgiveness in your life.
11. If you have harbored unforgiveness, did you confess it to God as sin and forgive the person(s) who hurt you?
12. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?

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## CHAPTER 9: THE FREEDOM OF SIMPLICITY

1. Why do Christians occasionally need to do some “pruning” in their lives?  
How can this be accomplished?
2. It’s the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ things we do for others that make a difference.  
This is what brings joy to God’s heart, not our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What does it mean to have an undivided heart?  
Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
4. What does it mean to be double-minded?  
Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
5. When we come to Christ, spiritual simplicity first reveals itself in the  
knowledge that God calls us His \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What does the Aramaic word *abba* mean?
  - a. Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
  - b. How does this relate to your relationship with the Lord?
7. We can practice simplicity in every area of our lives. It all comes down to  
distinguishing between our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
8. According to the words of Jesus, what kind of treasures are we to collect?  
Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
9. What are some ways you can bring practical and spiritual simplicity into  
your life?
10. How can you apply what you’ve learned in this chapter to your personal  
life?

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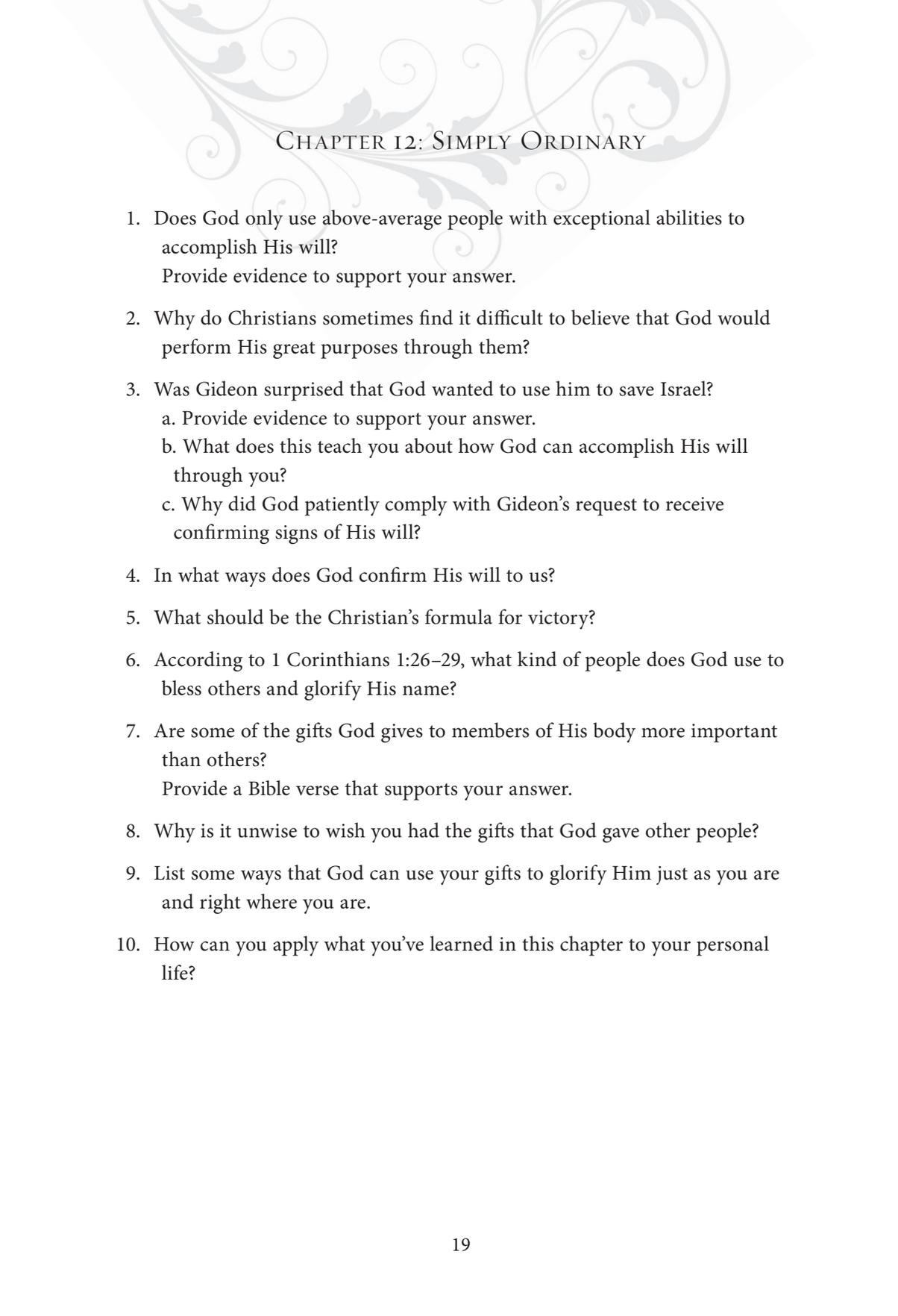
## CHAPTER 10: THE RICHES OF CONTENTMENT

1. Nothing you can do, experience, buy, or obtain through any means other than God that can make you content. Explain why this is a true statement.
2. How can you find real contentment?
3. Contentment doesn't come by having \_\_\_\_\_ but by being thankful for \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Provide a Bible verse that warns about the sin of covetousness.  
Why is contentment the cure for covetousness?
5. Biblical contentment does not suggest passivity but activity.  
Provide a Bible verse that affirms this statement.
6. One of the Hebrew names of God is *El Shaddai*.  
What does this name mean, and what does this reveal about God's character?
7. Read Luke 22:42 and explain why Jesus spoke these words.  
What does this teach you about submitting your will to God's will?
8. Patience is what God uses to temper faith.
  - a. Provide a Bible verse that affirms this statement.
  - b. What does this verse teach you about contentment?
9. What are some practical ways you bring contentment into your life?
10. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?



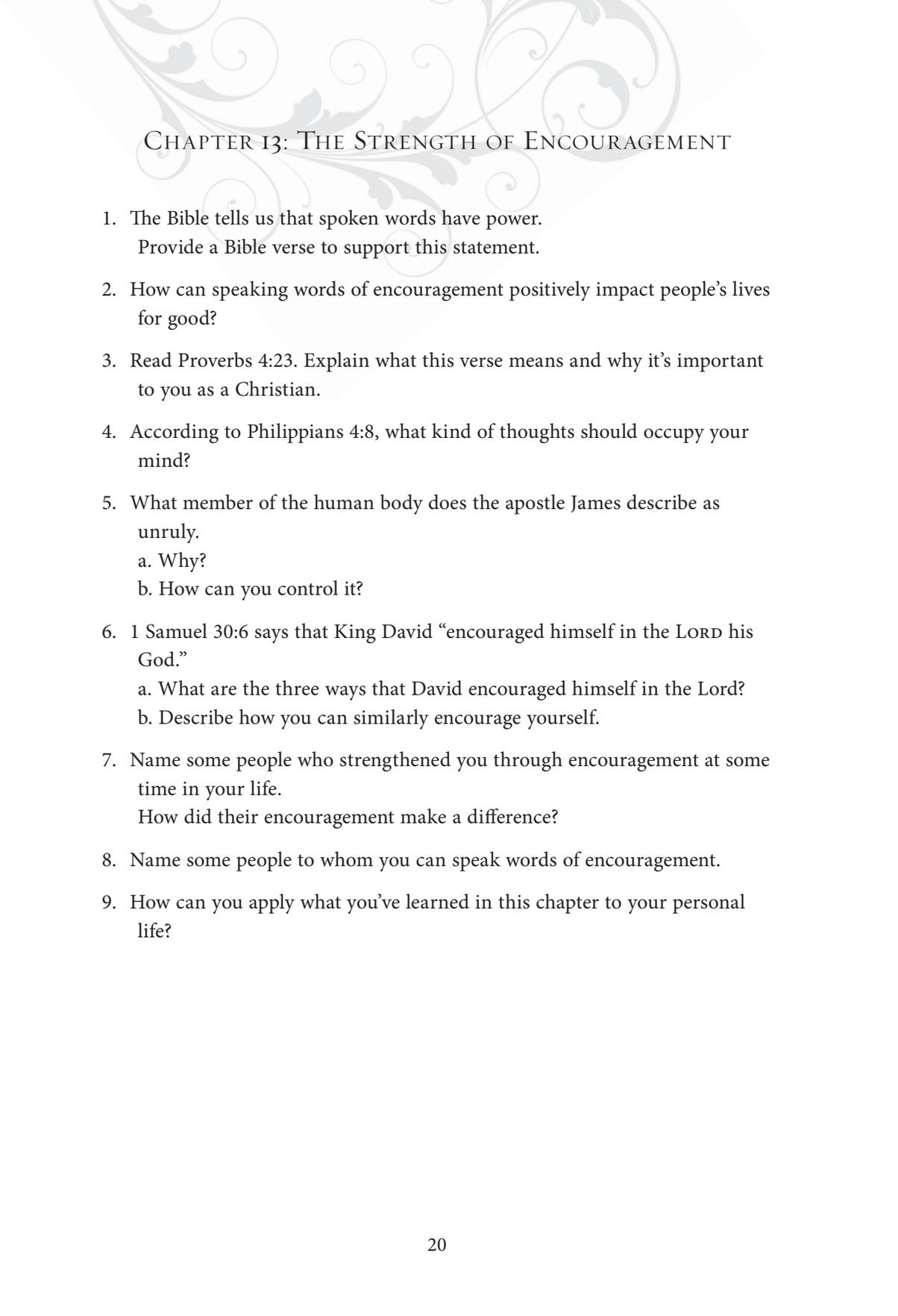
## CHAPTER II: IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

1. Small acts of Big-Heartedness hold more value in God's eyes than great deeds recognized by the world.  
Provide a Bible verse that affirms this statement.
2. Read the parable of the mustard seed in Matthew 13:31–32.  
What does this reveal about the value of sowing little things?
3. According to Luke 16:10, how is faithfulness established in our lives?
4. How can taking the time to actively listen to someone be an act of Big-Heartedness?  
List some ways you can incorporate active listening into your everyday life?
5. God places great value on the “behind the scenes” things you do for others.  
Provide a Bible verse that affirms this statement.
6. Name some people who positively influenced your life by doing little things to bless you.  
What did they do to make a difference?
7. Read the poem “It's the Little Things.”  
How does this poem stress the importance of little acts of Big-Heartedness?
8. List some little things you can do to show Big-Heartedness to others.
9. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?



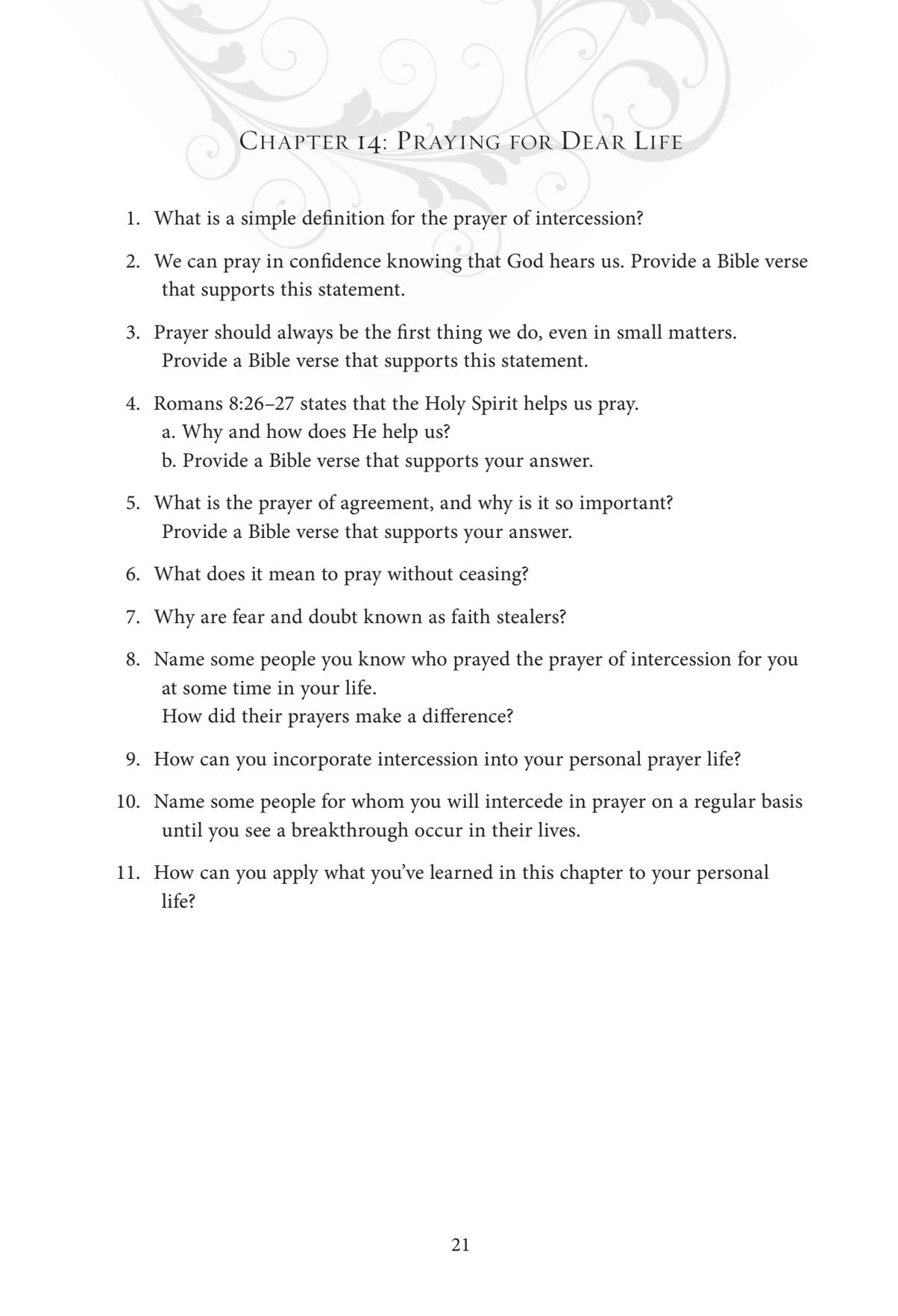
## CHAPTER 12: SIMPLY ORDINARY

1. Does God only use above-average people with exceptional abilities to accomplish His will?  
Provide evidence to support your answer.
2. Why do Christians sometimes find it difficult to believe that God would perform His great purposes through them?
3. Was Gideon surprised that God wanted to use him to save Israel?
  - a. Provide evidence to support your answer.
  - b. What does this teach you about how God can accomplish His will through you?
  - c. Why did God patiently comply with Gideon's request to receive confirming signs of His will?
4. In what ways does God confirm His will to us?
5. What should be the Christian's formula for victory?
6. According to 1 Corinthians 1:26–29, what kind of people does God use to bless others and glorify His name?
7. Are some of the gifts God gives to members of His body more important than others?  
Provide a Bible verse that supports your answer.
8. Why is it unwise to wish you had the gifts that God gave other people?
9. List some ways that God can use your gifts to glorify Him just as you are and right where you are.
10. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?

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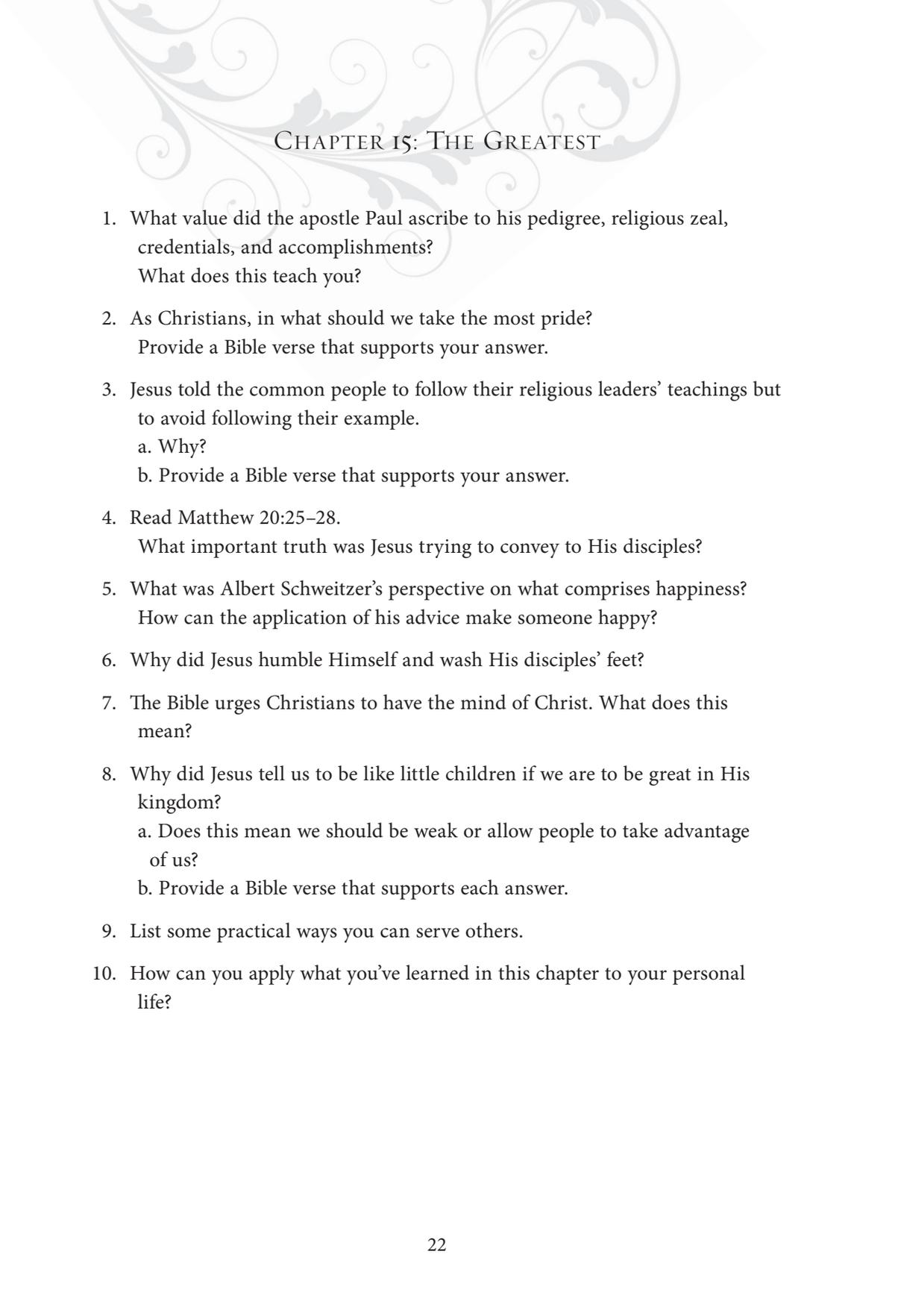
## CHAPTER 13: THE STRENGTH OF ENCOURAGEMENT

1. The Bible tells us that spoken words have power.  
Provide a Bible verse to support this statement.
2. How can speaking words of encouragement positively impact people's lives for good?
3. Read Proverbs 4:23. Explain what this verse means and why it's important to you as a Christian.
4. According to Philippians 4:8, what kind of thoughts should occupy your mind?
5. What member of the human body does the apostle James describe as unruly.
  - a. Why?
  - b. How can you control it?
6. 1 Samuel 30:6 says that King David "encouraged himself in the LORD his God."
  - a. What are the three ways that David encouraged himself in the Lord?
  - b. Describe how you can similarly encourage yourself.
7. Name some people who strengthened you through encouragement at some time in your life.  
How did their encouragement make a difference?
8. Name some people to whom you can speak words of encouragement.
9. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?

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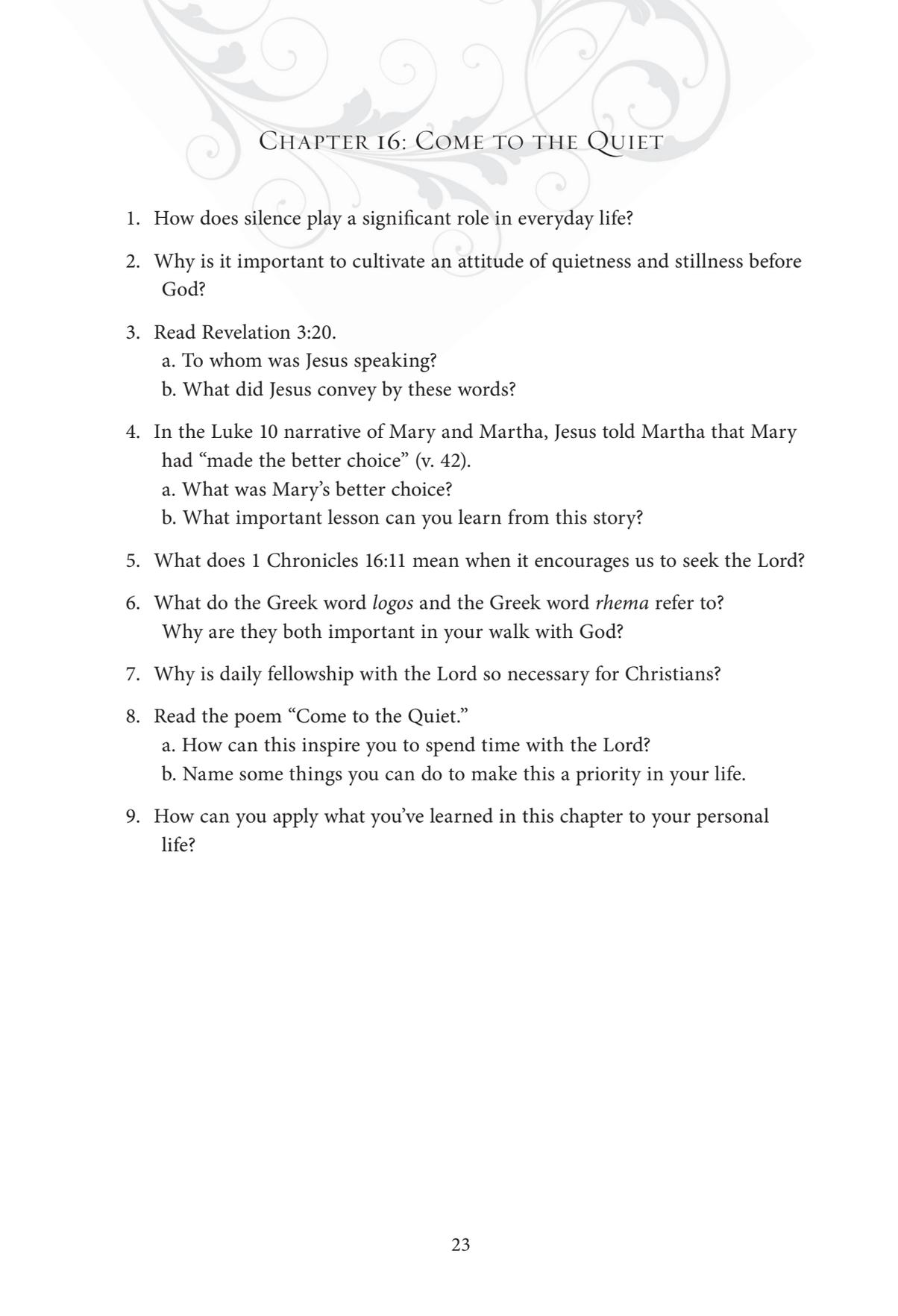
## CHAPTER 14: PRAYING FOR DEAR LIFE

1. What is a simple definition for the prayer of intercession?
2. We can pray in confidence knowing that God hears us. Provide a Bible verse that supports this statement.
3. Prayer should always be the first thing we do, even in small matters. Provide a Bible verse that supports this statement.
4. Romans 8:26–27 states that the Holy Spirit helps us pray.
  - a. Why and how does He help us?
  - b. Provide a Bible verse that supports your answer.
5. What is the prayer of agreement, and why is it so important? Provide a Bible verse that supports your answer.
6. What does it mean to pray without ceasing?
7. Why are fear and doubt known as faith stealers?
8. Name some people you know who prayed the prayer of intercession for you at some time in your life. How did their prayers make a difference?
9. How can you incorporate intercession into your personal prayer life?
10. Name some people for whom you will intercede in prayer on a regular basis until you see a breakthrough occur in their lives.
11. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?

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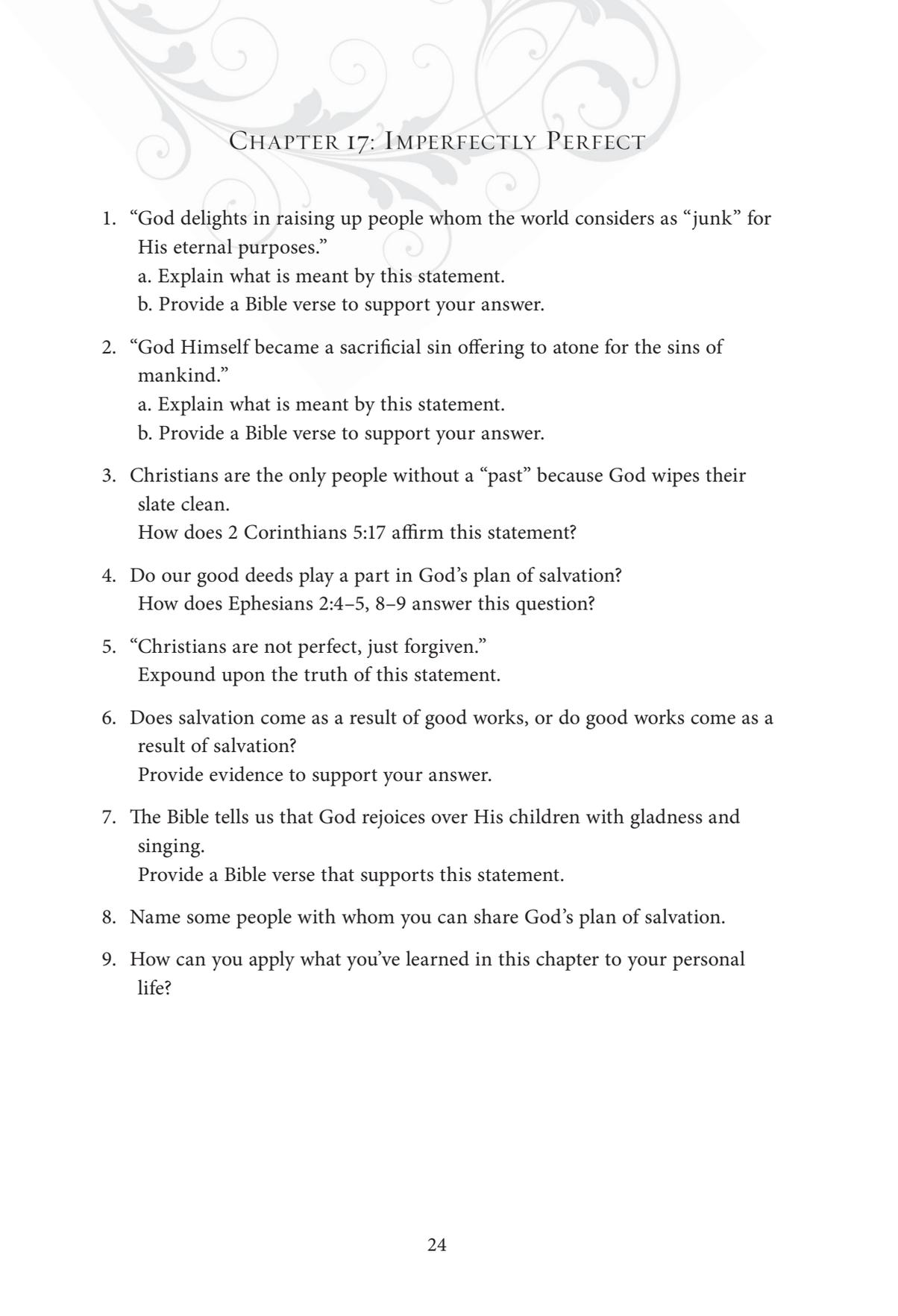
## CHAPTER 15: THE GREATEST

1. What value did the apostle Paul ascribe to his pedigree, religious zeal, credentials, and accomplishments?  
What does this teach you?
2. As Christians, in what should we take the most pride?  
Provide a Bible verse that supports your answer.
3. Jesus told the common people to follow their religious leaders' teachings but to avoid following their example.
  - a. Why?
  - b. Provide a Bible verse that supports your answer.
4. Read Matthew 20:25–28.  
What important truth was Jesus trying to convey to His disciples?
5. What was Albert Schweitzer's perspective on what comprises happiness?  
How can the application of his advice make someone happy?
6. Why did Jesus humble Himself and wash His disciples' feet?
7. The Bible urges Christians to have the mind of Christ. What does this mean?
8. Why did Jesus tell us to be like little children if we are to be great in His kingdom?
  - a. Does this mean we should be weak or allow people to take advantage of us?
  - b. Provide a Bible verse that supports each answer.
9. List some practical ways you can serve others.
10. How can you apply what you've learned in this chapter to your personal life?

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## CHAPTER 16: COME TO THE QUIET

1. How does silence play a significant role in everyday life?
2. Why is it important to cultivate an attitude of quietness and stillness before God?
3. Read Revelation 3:20.
  - a. To whom was Jesus speaking?
  - b. What did Jesus convey by these words?
4. In the Luke 10 narrative of Mary and Martha, Jesus told Martha that Mary had “made the better choice” (v. 42).
  - a. What was Mary’s better choice?
  - b. What important lesson can you learn from this story?
5. What does 1 Chronicles 16:11 mean when it encourages us to seek the Lord?
6. What do the Greek word *logos* and the Greek word *rhema* refer to? Why are they both important in your walk with God?
7. Why is daily fellowship with the Lord so necessary for Christians?
8. Read the poem “Come to the Quiet.”
  - a. How can this inspire you to spend time with the Lord?
  - b. Name some things you can do to make this a priority in your life.
9. How can you apply what you’ve learned in this chapter to your personal life?

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## CHAPTER 17: IMPERFECTLY PERFECT

1. “God delights in raising up people whom the world considers as “junk” for His eternal purposes.”
  - a. Explain what is meant by this statement.
  - b. Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
2. “God Himself became a sacrificial sin offering to atone for the sins of mankind.”
  - a. Explain what is meant by this statement.
  - b. Provide a Bible verse to support your answer.
3. Christians are the only people without a “past” because God wipes their slate clean.

How does 2 Corinthians 5:17 affirm this statement?
4. Do our good deeds play a part in God’s plan of salvation?

How does Ephesians 2:4–5, 8–9 answer this question?
5. “Christians are not perfect, just forgiven.”

Expound upon the truth of this statement.
6. Does salvation come as a result of good works, or do good works come as a result of salvation?

Provide evidence to support your answer.
7. The Bible tells us that God rejoices over His children with gladness and singing.

Provide a Bible verse that supports this statement.
8. Name some people with whom you can share God’s plan of salvation.
9. How can you apply what you’ve learned in this chapter to your personal life?



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*making a difference*

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