

March 8/9, 2025

"From Invisible to Invaluable"

Pastor Brad Holmes



Beyond the
Weekend

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [John 5:1-9](#) | Jesus Heals

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" John 5:6

Jesus is in Jerusalem for a religious festival. Hundreds of thousands of people poured into the city for these events. It's the Sabbath, a day dedicated to rest and reflection on God's provision. However, the religious leaders turned the Sabbath into a list of rules and regulations that weighed on people. Jesus steps into this environment as part of his plan to rescue humanity. As Jesus moves through Jerusalem, he sees a man who has been disabled for thirty-eight years. He asks him a simple question, "Do you want to get well?" Then Jesus heals the man on the Sabbath. This healing points to Jesus's power to heal and his identity as God-in-flesh.

Jesus's question rings true for us today. Do we want to get well? John makes it clear that Jesus is God ([John 1:1](#)). This man's healing points to a future time when all that is wrong with the world will be healed. There will be no more crying or pain ([Revelation 21:4](#)). But this healing also points to Jesus's identity as God. God himself came to rescue us from our greatest need, our sin. So, the question remains: do we want to get well? Do we want Jesus to rescue us from our sin?

TODAY: Talk to God about whether you want to be healed from your sin. If you've never admitted you are a sinner and asked God to rescue you from sin, make that decision today. Reach out to us at btw@adabible.org to discuss what it means for Jesus to rescue you. If you have accepted Jesus's free gift of life, thank him for rescuing you from your sin.

Day 2 [John 5:1-15](#) | Jesus's Instructions

Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." John 5:14

Jesus heals a man who was disabled for thirty-eight years. A little later, he finds the man again, this time in the temple. It's an interesting exchange. Jesus points out that the man is indeed healed. Then, Jesus tells him to stop sinning or something bad might happen. It's like Jesus is saying, "You have a new shot at life. Please don't waste it." He wants what is best for the man. Jesus knows sin only destroys; it doesn't bring life. He wants the man to truly live. It's a warning, but a warning out of love.

It can be easy for us to forget about the dangers of sin. We excuse our sin as "not that serious." But sin is destructive. As Jesus warned this man, sin brings harm. It harms our character. It harms our relationships and our future. That's not what Jesus wants for us. Jesus says he wants us to live life to the full ([John 10:10](#)). The full life can only be found through the way of Jesus. The path to true life is found in the Bible. The God of the universe, the one who created us, has told us the best way to live. Not to control us but to offer us true life.

TODAY: Confess the sins you do not take seriously. Admit to God the danger of sin. Acknowledge that it can be easy to just excuse your sin and ask for forgiveness. Come up with a plan to turn from sin and invite the Holy Spirit to help you follow Jesus's instructions instead.

Day 3 [John 5:8-18](#) | The Aftermath

For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. John 5:18

Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath. This is a problem for the religious leaders. They begin to persecute Jesus for it. Instead of backing down, Jesus uses the healing as an opportunity to tell them who he really is. Through a back and forth, he makes it clear that he's God. The religious leaders are not happy. Because Jesus claims to be God, and does miraculous things, they come to an inflection point. It seems like they have two choices: they can admit Jesus is from God or they can label him dangerous and try to get rid of him. They choose the second and plot to kill him.

We can find ourselves at inflection points with Jesus on a regular basis. We have to decide whether we are going to trust that he is God or do our own thing. John writes his gospel to convince people that Jesus is the Messiah and the way to life ([John 20:31](#)). Choosing to believe that Jesus is the Messiah means giving Jesus authority over our lives. It's not a simple one-time decision, but the driving factor behind every decision we make. Believing in Jesus means intentionally building our lives around discovering what God says and putting that into practice.

TODAY: Reflect on who God is and what he's done for you. Choose to give him authority over your life and follow him. Return to the worship of the weekend service through the song "[Love of God](#)" led by the Ada Bible Worship team.

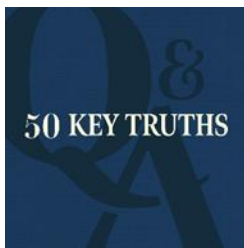
Day 4 [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#) | Communion

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

This weekend, we celebrated communion as a church community. Communion is a tangible corporate reminder of Jesus's finished work. The bread and cup represent Jesus's broken body and shed blood for the forgiveness of sins. Taking it together symbolizes what Jesus did for his people and affirms faith in what he accomplished. When a church sets aside time to obey Jesus by taking communion, believers "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." Communion declares who Jesus is, what he did for his church and what he will do when he returns.

Communion is an opportunity to obey Jesus by remembering his death together. We join thousands of years of Christians in this simple step of obedience. We're a busy culture. We don't spend much time reflecting on the past, let alone events that happened 2,000 years ago. If a photo doesn't automatically pop up as a memory in our digital feed, we are unlikely to think about it. So, communion is not an empty religious ritual. Nor is it something we do to earn grace. Communion slows us down to remind us of the life God offers because of Jesus. It is God's love poured out on the cross that we remember and celebrate. Communion also gives us a moment to mindfully recommit to following Jesus with whole hearts.

TODAY: Reflect on God's great love for you. It is so great that he sent Jesus. Remember that Jesus actually died for you, that his death is an event that really happened. Thank Jesus for doing that. Recommit to following him with your whole heart.



Day 5 [Matthew 5:18](#) | Question 10: Reliability

Question: Is the Bible reliable?

Answer: Yes, the Bible is reliable and trustworthy as God's Word, accurately preserved throughout history.

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Matthew 5:18

Jesus makes a stunning claim about Scripture's authority and reliability, declaring that even the smallest details of God's Word are preserved and trustworthy. Speaking to people who deeply revered the Hebrew Scriptures, Jesus affirms that not even the tiniest mark or letter would be lost. This wasn't just about preservation—it was about God's faithfulness to maintain his Word perfectly. The common belief in Israel was that God's Word is fully true, trustworthy and righteous. Jesus himself submitted to these Scriptures as authoritative and true, demonstrating their complete reliability. The text's preservation wasn't left to chance but was guided by God's sovereign care.

This reliability extends to our Bibles today. The manuscript evidence is robust, with over 5,000 copies of Greek New Testament portions existing—far more than any other ancient writing. The number of Old Testament manuscripts is fewer, but they are highly accurate and continually confirmed as reliable by archaeology. But the reliability of Scripture isn't merely about historical accuracy. It's about God's commitment to preserve his message for every generation. Because God is truthful and faithful, we can trust that his Word remains reliable. This gives us confidence to build our lives on Scripture's teachings, knowing we have accurate access to what God has said.

TODAY: Thank God for preserving his Word faithfully through history. When you read Scripture, remember you're reading the same truths that have guided believers for generations. Consider sharing with someone how the Bible's reliability has strengthened your faith. Read our We Believe section on the Bible [HERE](#).