

Lesson 25

- Reading the bible
- A new heaven and a new earth
- Prayer to acknowledge our dependency

Lesson 25a

Reading the bible

If we want to live with God, reading the bible will have to become an important part of our lives. The bible is not like the other books we read. In the bible God speaks. For that reason we need to try and read the bible in such a way that we start to understand what God is saying to us. How do we do that? In this lesson we will give a number of suggestions as to how to read and understand a bible passage.

Studying the bible is vital

The bible is more important than any other book. In it we find everything we need for life. That is why it is important for everyone to read the bible and to apply it to their lives. The bible is not a book that can be read in a few days and then be put aside. Rather, it is a book we need to read every single day.

The bible can be compared to food, our daily bread. We need to eat to stay alive. It would be foolish to say: 'I have eaten today so I will never need to eat anymore'. The same is true for reading the bible. We cannot say: 'I have read the bible so I don't need to read it anymore'. The bible is our spiritual food. We need to read it every day or else we will suffer spiritual starvation.

It is important to study the bible thoroughly

- First of all, studying the bible is important because it is the best way to come to know God. If we want to know who God is and what He has done for us, we need to read the bible. People make up a lot of stories about God. Because of that, the world is full of misconceptions, confusion and false teaching about God and about Jesus Christ. One misconception is that God is powerless in the face of the suffering in the world. Another misconception is that Jesus is not God but merely a good man whom we should see as an example to us. Another one is that Jesus has not paid

for our sins. We can only recognise these and other misconceptions if we regularly study the bible.

- Studying the bible is also important because the bible helps us to get to know ourselves. It is the only book that can tell us who we are, where we come from and what our future holds. The bible shows us the way to eternal life.
- The bible also teaches us what our attitude should be towards God and our fellow men and how we should conduct ourselves in our daily lives.

Asking questions

It is important to read the bible daily. But how should you go about it? As we said in previous lessons, the bible can be difficult at times. How can we come to a good understanding of what a certain passage says? A good way to come to understand a passage is to ask a number of questions.

Bible study

If you want to thoroughly look at a passage, you should first of all read it, preferably out loud and then ask the following questions:

1. What book of the bible is the passage in?
2. Is it in the Old Testament or the New Testament?
3. Who wrote the book? (We do not know the who the writers are for all books. If we do know you will mostly find it in the table of contents of your bible or at the very beginning of the book.)
4. What type of passage is it? Is it a:
 - History
 - Parable
 - Law
 - Proverb
 - Psalm (a royal psalm, psalm of praise, a psalm of penance, a lamentation or another type of Psalm)
 - Prophecy
 - Warning

- Prayer
- Letter (to a church or to a person)
- An exposition about a certain subject
- Revelation (visions)
- Something else...

It is important to know this because a history should be read in a different way from a parable or a Psalm. In order to understand a passage you should know what genre it is.

5. In what time is the passage set?

The exact date is not so much important but an indication such as: in the time of Abraham/Moses/King David/the captivity/Jesus' life on earth/the apostles. It is not always possible to know in what time the passage is set.

6. Where is the passage set? (in Israel or outside Israel)

7. Who were the first readers of the passage?

Obviously, we are not the first readers of the bible. It is important for us to realise that and to find out who a certain book originally was written for. Was it for the Jews in captivity? For people who had just become Christians and were finding it difficult to hold on to their faith?

8. Who or what is it about?

Do we know more about these people or habits?

9. What happens? (or, if it is not a history, what is said?)

10. Can you see how the passage relates to the previous or the next passage?

11. Does the passage teach us something about God? If so, what?

The aim of reading the bible is to get to know God. It is therefore important to continually ask yourself if a passage teaches you something about God. One passage might show something of God's great power or of his love for the world. Another passage might show how God is always faithful to his promises or how God rules over history.

12. How does the passage speak to me personally?

The bible is not an ordinary book, it is the Word of God. God has a message for you. It is important to realise that when you

read the bible. Finding this specific message is not always easy but it is good try and find an answer to this question.

It will not always be possible to find an answer to all these questions. The more you get to know the bible, the easier it will be to get a grip of a passage whether through these questions or others.

Daily reading

In your normal, daily bible reading, you do not always have to answer all these questions. However, it is good to answer these three questions about the passage you read:

1. What is the passage trying to say? What is the meaning of the passage?
2. What does it teach me about God? (For example about his greatness, his love, the way He works, his compassion, his patience).
3. What does it have to say to me personally? How should I apply it in my life?

If you look for an answer to these three questions you are using the bible in a fruitful way. It will cause you to experience the reading as uplifting rather than futile.

You can close your time of reading with a prayer about what you have read and learned. This way your prayer forms an answer to what God has just said to you. Reading and praying is like a conversation between God and his children. A living relationship will grow, which is exactly why God has given us the bible.

Tools

To be able to understand a certain passage you might sometimes need to use a certain tool. One example is a *biblical dictionary*. Such a dictionary is like the list of vocabulary in the Helping Hand. It contains names and terminology that you find in the bible and explains them.

Reading the bible

Obviously, a biblical dictionary is more comprehensive than the Helping Hand.

Another tool can be a bible with *explanatory footnotes*. These footnotes will contain a lot of explanatory information. It will provide answers to all sorts of questions that might come up when reading the bible. The answers are brief, but no less helpful because of it.

If you want to know more about a specific book of the bible you can by reading a *commentary* on that book. Your course leader will be able to give you more advice in this matter.

Another tool that can be useful is a *concordance*. This is a book that lists all words that the bible uses alphabetically. You can use a concordance to find out in what way a certain word is used and where it can be found in the bible.

If you don't know where to begin as it comes to reading the bible, it can be good to use a *reading schedule*. For every day you will find a passage to read. A *biblical diary* can also be helpful. Such a diary does not only tell you which passage to read but it also explains the passage. It is obviously important to choose a good diary. Your course leader can help you with this.

Prayer

We have mentioned a number of tools. However, we have not mentioned the most important help you will get: the Holy Spirit. When you study the bible you will need help from the Holy Spirit. You need to continue to ask God if He will help you, through the Holy Spirit, to read the bible in such a way that you will hear what He has to say to you. Only that way you will increasingly get to know God and Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will certainly help you. God's Son promised us:

'But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.'

John 16:13

Studying together

A Christian should read the bible alone but also together with others. As a believer, a child of God, you will never be alone. You belong to the family of God. Through Jesus Christ all believers are brothers and sisters to one another. For that reason they need to help one another to grow in faith by going to church together and also by studying the bible together. This way the Holy Spirit will guide you *'together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge'* (Ephesians 3:18-19). 3:18 *saints*: believers

Questions

1. Read Marc 12:1-12 and try to answer as many questions are possible from the list in this lesson.

Lesson 25b

A new heaven and a new earth

In paradise God already promised that one day the power of Satan would come to an end. Whatever God promises will happen. Satan has been defeated by Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, he still has power in the world. From the book of Revelation we know that it will not always be like that.

John on the island of Patmos

Soon after Pentecost it is clear that Satan still has power. Again and again persecutions arise against Christians. Many are imprisoned by the Jews and the Romans or cruelly killed. The apostle John is also arrested in his old age. He is not killed but banned to Patmos, a small island for the coast of Turkey. The ban is meant to silence John for good. However, Jesus Christ makes it possible for John's voice to be heard to this very day. John has visions when he is on Patmos. He sees Christ in all his power and his letters to the seven churches in Asia Minor, the western part of present-day Turkey. He also shows John what will happen in the future. Christ tells John to write a book about all the visions he sees when he is on Patmos. The book is called the Revelation* of John, or simply Revelation.

The book of Revelation

In some ways the book of Revelation is like the some of the Old Testament prophets. The book Daniel for example also contains a lot of imagery. We read about a lamb, a lion, a dragon, horses, locusts that look like horses, a scroll with seven seals, a sea of glass, seven bowls containing disasters that are poured out over the earth. None of these things should be understood literally but rather symbolically. Typical for Revelation is also the use of numbers that have a symbolic meaning. For example the numbers three and four* and combinations like seven* (three and four) and twelve* (three times four).*

Because of its use of symbolic language Revelation is often difficult to understand. A bible with explanatory notes can be a very useful tool when reading Revelation.

Revelation is book of comfort for Christians in times of difficulty, for example in a time of persecution. Whoever reads Revelation will be reminded that Christ reigns. Nothing is outside of his control. Everything happens the way He wants it to happen. Revelation is also a book that keeps the church alert. The church should always be prepared for the return of Christ and look forward to it. The book of Revelation encourages this.

In this lesson we will look into a number of passages from Revelation.

An encouraging vision

Read: Revelation 1:9-20

1:10 *the Lord's Day*: the day on which the Lord was raised, Sunday.

1:18 *Hades*: Greek name for the place where the dead go.

John writes his book for people who are going through a hard time. He is going through a hard time himself. He has suffered from the persecution in Asia. Nevertheless, the things he gets to see when he is in a spiritual trance are an enormous encouragement. Not only to him but also to all Christians in his time and ours.

John sees Jesus Christ. He looks very different from when He was still on earth. John tries to describe Jesus' overwhelming appearance.

Christ wears a long robe like a high priest would. A golden sash around his chest shows that He is king. His face and his hair are white, the colour of heaven. His eyes seem to be made of fire; He looks right through everything. No one can hide anything for Him. His feet are like glowing bronze. His voice is like the thundering sound of a waterfall. From his mouth comes a sharp sword that cuts on both sides. This sword refers to Christ's words. His words are powerful. With a

single word He can defeat his enemies. His face shines like the sun at its brightest.

When John sees Jesus Christ like that, he falls for dead on the ground. This is not the Jesus to whom he related as a friend when He was on earth. This is the Son of God who after his ascension into heaven has received all power. John thinks his end has come, just like the prophet Isaiah when he saw God in a vision. No sinful man can see God without dying. However, the Lord lays his hand on John's shoulder and tells him that he does not need to be afraid. He does not want to kill John but rather has a task for him. Christ tells John who He is: the first and the last. He is the one who is before all things and in whom all things end. He is the Living, who has been dead but now lives forever. He has power over everything even over death.

Christ explains to John what the seven stars are that He holds in his right hand. They are the angels of the churches. With the word 'angels', Christ means the pastors, the leaders of the churches.

We said that numbers have a symbolic meaning in the book of Revelation. The number seven is always related to the idea of fullness. In this case you could say that the seven leaders of the churches stand for all the leaders of the churches. All the leaders of the church can know that Christ holds them in his right hand. That means that through them Christ reigns over his churches.

The fact that the leaders of the churches are in Christ's hand also means that they are totally dependent on Christ. They can only fulfil their task because Christ holds them in his hand. They would be meaningless to the church if they would let go of Christ.

The seven golden lampstands surrounding Christ are symbolic for the seven churches that this book was originally written for. Lampstands bring forth light. The churches bring forth light

because the church is about Jesus Christ who has called Himself 'the light of the world'.

Again the number seven is symbolic. It means to include all churches. What Christ shows John is meant for all churches. Church members of all times can know that the book of Revelation is also for them. They can know that Christ, who is all-powerful even over life and death, is with them. He is in the midst of the lampstands, the churches. They may not see it but John saw it and can tell them about it.

The history of the world

Christ shows John a glimpse of the history of the world. He sees different images of how God's kingdom is coming and how God protects his church against the power of Satan. God already told Adam and Eve that there would be a war between 'the descendants of Satan' and 'the descendants of the woman'. In the book of Revelation we see something of this war. John sees for example in a vision how Satan tries to destroy Jesus as soon as He came to earth and how Jesus was saved. He sees how the angels throw Satan from heaven and how Satan then continues to work on the earth. He tries to destroy the church.

The Christians have to undergo terrible things but Satan does not manage to gain the victory, because Jesus is endlessly more powerful than him. He reigns over the world and makes sure his church is not defeated.

Disasters

The book of Revelation shows us that there will many disasters. John sees how God commands seven angels to bring seven punishments over the earth. When the angels do so the water of the sea changes into blood so that fish and birds can no longer live; huge fires come and the earth is covered in darkness; a heavy earthquake causes numerous deaths.

These disasters are God's way to try and wake people up. It is as if He cries out to the people to return to Him because only in Him is life.

A new heaven and a new earth

Satan's destruction

In another vision John sees how one day there will be an end to Satan's power. Eventually, after he has had the time and opportunity to do his destructive work on earth, God will condemn Satan. God will throw Satan and his companions in a sea of fire and sulphur. That will finally be Satan's end. It will also bring an end to sin and all its consequences: misery, illness, war, pain and death.

Judgement

John sees how all people who have ever lived have to come before Jesus Christ. Christ acts as judge. He judges people on basis of their deeds that have been written down in all sorts of books. But besides the books with the deeds of men, there is another book: 'the book of life'.

This book contains the names of all people who have believed in Jesus Christ during their lives. All people who believe that their debt before God has been cancelled and their sins have been forgiven because of the work of Jesus, will be pardoned. Not because of their good deeds, because if it was for their good deeds they would also be condemned. No one can deserve eternal life through his own efforts. The only way for a person to be pardoned is for Jesus Christ to pay his debts.

A new heaven and a new earth

Read: Revelation 21:1-22:5

21:6 *the Alpha and the Omega*: the first and the last letter of the Greek alphabet; the beginning and the end.

The water of life: an image for true life: salvation

21:9 *plagues*: punishments

the Lamb: signifies Jesus Christ

21:16 *stadia*: 1 stadia equals 185 metres

21:17 *cubits*: 1 cubit equals 50 centimetres

Finally John gets a glimpse of the wonderful future that awaits all God's children. He sees the heaven and the earth after God

has made them new. The world is very different from what it used to be. The sea that separated so many people and took so many lives, no longer exists. From heaven, the residence of God, a new Jerusalem comes down – as beautiful as a bride on her wedding day.

The city shines like a diamond and is transparent like glass. The city gates are made of precious stones and the streets are made of gold. The sun no longer needs to shine because Christ, the Lamb that has been killed for the sin of the world, gives light. There will never be darkness. There will be no more night.

This new Jerusalem is not only the place where believers can live, it also signifies God's people themselves. We know this because the new Jerusalem is called '*the bride, the wife of the Lamb*'.

When He was on earth Jesus already compared his second coming with a wedding. That image is continued in this passage. Jesus Christ who has been killed like a lamb for the sacrifice, will become one with his church to such an extent that it can be compared to a marriage.

A voice from heaven describes how wonderful it will be on the new earth. God Himself will live on earth. All nations will belong to Him. God will comfort all people who have known sadness. Everything that makes life difficult will be gone: death, mourning, sadness and pain will no longer exist. We can be certain that the new earth will come. God promises: '*I am making everything new*'. And if He says so, it is true.

Everyone who wants to can be part of it. Everyone who is thirsty can drink from the well of the water of life for free. He will receive the salvation that he asks from God. God promises a wonderful future to everyone who overcomes. That means, to everyone who holds on to his faith in Him, whatever happens. At times it can be difficult to keep our trust in God. But God will hold on to us. We can always ask Him for faith and He will always give us the power to believe.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 21 and 22 are full of imagery. You do not need to understand everything to see that life on the new earth will be one great celebration to the glory of God. When Jesus returns the earth will be a paradise once again, a paradise that will remain forever and where Satan cannot come. Everyone who believes in Jesus can live there forever.

At the end of the book of Revelation Jesus promises that He will return soon. We don't know when that will be, but just like John we can look forward to it full of expectation and pray: '*Yes, come, Lord Jesus*'.

Questions

1. Explain how God fulfilled his promise and will fulfil his promise to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15.
2. Why is the book of Revelation important for Christians?
3. Should we fear Jesus' return and his judgement? Explain.

Prayer to acknowledge our dependency

Lesson 25c

Prayer to acknowledge our dependency

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus teaches us that our prayers should primarily be focussed on God. We need to ask God if his name may be honoured, his kingdom may come and if people may do his will. But we can also ask God for things we need ourselves: our daily bread, forgiveness of sins and the power to resist Satan. In this lesson we will discuss this part of the prayer.

Give us today our daily bread

The second part of the Lord's Prayer starts with the request for food. Jesus teaches us that we should ask his Father every day for 'our daily bread'. That means, the things we need to stay alive and to function properly. We do not only ask for food but also for health, clothing and a roof over our heads.

Jesus shows us in the Lord's Prayer that we can ask God for these ordinary things. God is not too lofty to be concerned with our every day needs. In every aspect of life He wants to be a Father to us. Also in this aspect He wants to ensure that we lack nothing.

God takes care of his children

God showed how much He wants to take care of his children in the time that the Israelites were travelling through the desert to Canaan. The desert was a vast, dry plain where nothing would grow that would help the Israelites to stay alive. Very soon after they had left Egypt the Israelites became aware of this. When they had only travelled for six weeks they were already short of food. They complained about it to Moses and Aaron but they could obviously not provide food for them. The only one who could help the Israelites was God and that is what He did. Every day from that moment onwards He caused 'manna' to come down from heaven: grains that could be made into bread.

God also took care of his children in other aspects of life. He gave them water when they were thirsty; He prevented their

clothes from wearing out and their feet from swelling. God gave his children everything they needed in that situation. During the forty years of their journey to Canaan He gave the Israelites every day their 'daily bread'.

The freezer

It is very clear how God took care of his children during their journey through the desert. Every single day. But how about our time? Isn't it a bit backward in our time to ask God every day for bread? Why would you ask God for bread if there is three loaves in the freezer? Why would you ask for drink if you have enough milk in your fridge to last for a week? Even if we run out of food there is no problem. You only need to go to the supermarket and you can buy everything you need.

For us there is generally no problem to get our daily bread. Still, Jesus taught us to ask God for it, every day. It is not a natural thing that we have enough to eat. It remains a gift from God.

Our bread does not fall down from heaven but we are as dependent on God for our living as the Israelites were. God is the one who provides rain and sunshine, fertility of the land, the growth of the grain, the vegetables and the rice. It is God who gives us bread. It is very important that we continue to realise that and we acknowledge it by asking Him every day to provide for us.

No poverty and no wealth

Jesus teaches us that our attitude towards God should be modest. In the Lord's Prayer we only ask for our daily bread. We ask God to provide a living for us for only one day. We do not ask Him for wealth or luxury. We only ask Him for what is strictly necessary. No more and no less. To use the words of the Proverb writer Agur:

Proverbs 30:8-9

*'Give me neither poverty nor riches,
But give me only my daily bread.
Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
And say, "Who is the Lord?"'*

*Or I may become poor and steal,
And so dishonour the name of my God.'*

A rich person is in danger of forgetting God. The chances are that he will trust his money and think he does not need God. It can also be dangerous to be poor. If a person does not have anything he might be tempted to steal for food and that way a Christian would dishonour God's name. Therefore we should not ask God for riches and we should not ask Him for poverty. Ask God for what you need to be able to serve in his kingdom.

Our

In the Lord's Prayer we say: '*Give us today our daily bread*'. We do not only pray for ourselves but also for other people. We should not only be concerned with our own needs. God wants us to look around us and be concerned for other people. That concern should not be limited to our prayers. We should also help other people who are in need, either with deeds or with money. Paul wrote in one of his letters:

1 Timothy 6:8

'But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.'

Most people in our country have much more than only food and clothing. When we ask God to provide what is necessary for people in this world, we are obliged to help others with the money He gives us.

Forgive us our debts

If we believe in God, we can know that the debt we had with God has been paid because of Jesus. Despite this, Jesus teaches us that we need to ask God every day in our prayers to forgive us our sins.

Someone who believes in God does not stop sinning. As we saw before, a child of God will have to struggle all his life with his 'old man', his sinful nature. He will often have the wrong thoughts and often do the wrong things. For that reason he has to go to God every day to ask forgiveness for his sins.

A believer who asks God truly for forgiveness of his sins, can know that God will give him that forgiveness. Jesus is his guarantee.

As we also have forgiven our debtors

When we ask God to cancel our debts, we add to it '*as we also have forgiven our debtors*'. In other words: just as we also forgive those who have wronged us. At first sight that seems a very strange thing to add. Are we pointing our good deeds out to God? Should God take an example of our forgiving nature? Obviously, that is not what Jesus meant.

What is meant here is that we can know from our willingness to forgive other people that God is changing us. It is very difficult for us to forgive other people who have treated us wrongly. Only because of the Holy Spirit we are beginning to do it. If God is making us willing to forgive, how much more can we count on his forgiveness!

Becoming forgiving

Being prepared to forgive is a gift from God. Jesus commands us to be forgiving. One day when Peter asks Him: 'How often should I forgive someone who continues to wrong me? Seven times?' Jesus answers him: 'No, not seven times but seventy times seven times.' For a follower of Jesus it should be natural to forgive people. Why? Jesus explains it in the following parable:

Matthew 18:23-35

'Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.'

The servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him

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and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded.

His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back."

But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.'

Jesus wants to explain to his followers: the debt you had with God was so large that you would never have been able to pay it all. God has cancelled your debts. It would be very ungrateful if that would not influence your attitude towards other people.

Lead us not into temptation

In the sixth part of the Lord's Prayer we ask God not to lead us into temptation but to deliver us from the evil one.

Satan knows he does not have much time left. He knows his destruction is not far off. Until that time he tries to cause as much harm as possible. He tempts the people who belong to God. He tries to persuade them to sin, to leave God.

No one can resist Satan's temptations in his own power. The apostle Peter, who knows from experience how a believer can fall when Satan tempts him, warns Christians in his letter to be self-controlled and alert. Their opponent, the devil, goes around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

God's children should always be on their guard for Satan.

However, they do not need to be afraid; they can trust in God who is stronger than Satan. They can call on his help and they

can be sure that God will help them. God does not leave his children alone.

For yours is the kingdom...

The Lord's Prayer ends in praise: '*for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever.*'

With these words we praise God and show our trust in Him.

We acknowledge that He is king and has all things in his power. He can give us everything we have asked Him for and He will give it to us.

He wants the best for us. We did not want to know anything about Him but He has saved us and adopted us as his children. Now that He has done that, we can trust that He will take care of us in everything else. That is why we praise Him forever.

Amen

We trust God. We show it when we end our prayer with the word 'amen', which means certain and true. With the word amen we say: I know that God has listened to me and that He will give me what I need.

Other prayers

The Lord's Prayer is a prayer that Jesus taught us Himself. It is an important prayer that we should pray regularly. It is not the only prayer we can pray. We can pray to God using our own words. We can tell God about everything that is on our minds: our problems, our worries, certain sins and our weak faith. We can be assured that God listens to all our prayers.

Jesus has taught us that we can pray to Him *in his name*. We do not deserve that God will give us what we ask for and therefore we can ask God to give it to us because of what Jesus has done.

Ask and it will be given to you

At the start of this course we have encouraged you to pray. We hope you have done so or else that you will. Prayer is important.

God wants you to speak to Him and He will listen. Jesus promises it to you:

Matthew 7:7

*'Ask and it will be given to you;
Seek and you will find;
Knock and the door will be opened to you.'*

You will not knock on God's door in vain. God is waiting for you with his arms open wide.

Questions

- 1a. During the time in the desert God provided 'daily bread' for the Israelites in a special way. In the New Testament we find a similar miracle. Summarise what happens in John 6:1-15.
- 1b. How do the people react to this miracle? Read John 6:14-15 and 6:22-26.
- 1c. According to Jesus there is something that is more important than ordinary bread. Read John 6:26-59. What is it?
2. Does Jesus not ask for something impossible when he tells us to forgive other people seventy times seven (Matthew 18:21-22)? Read Galatians 5:22.