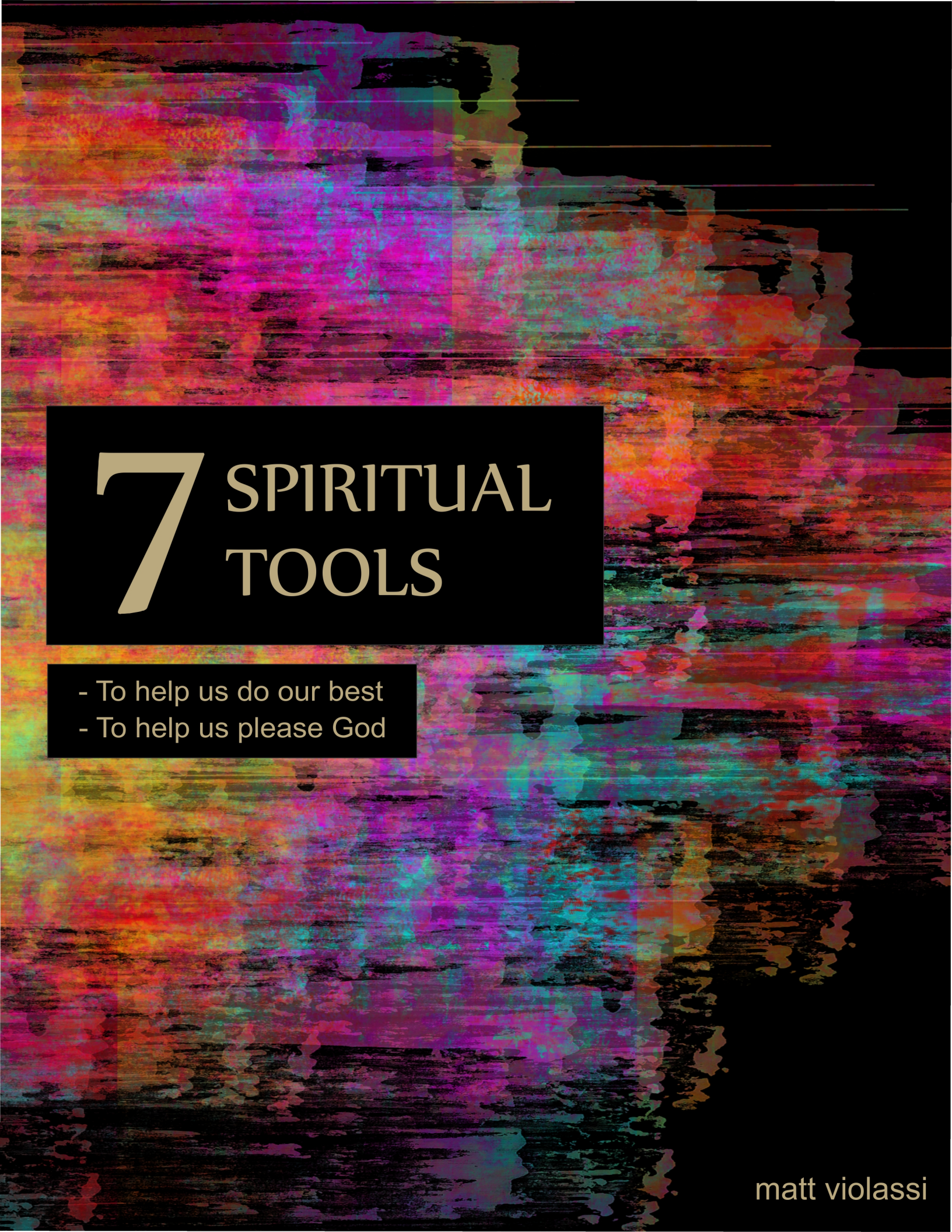
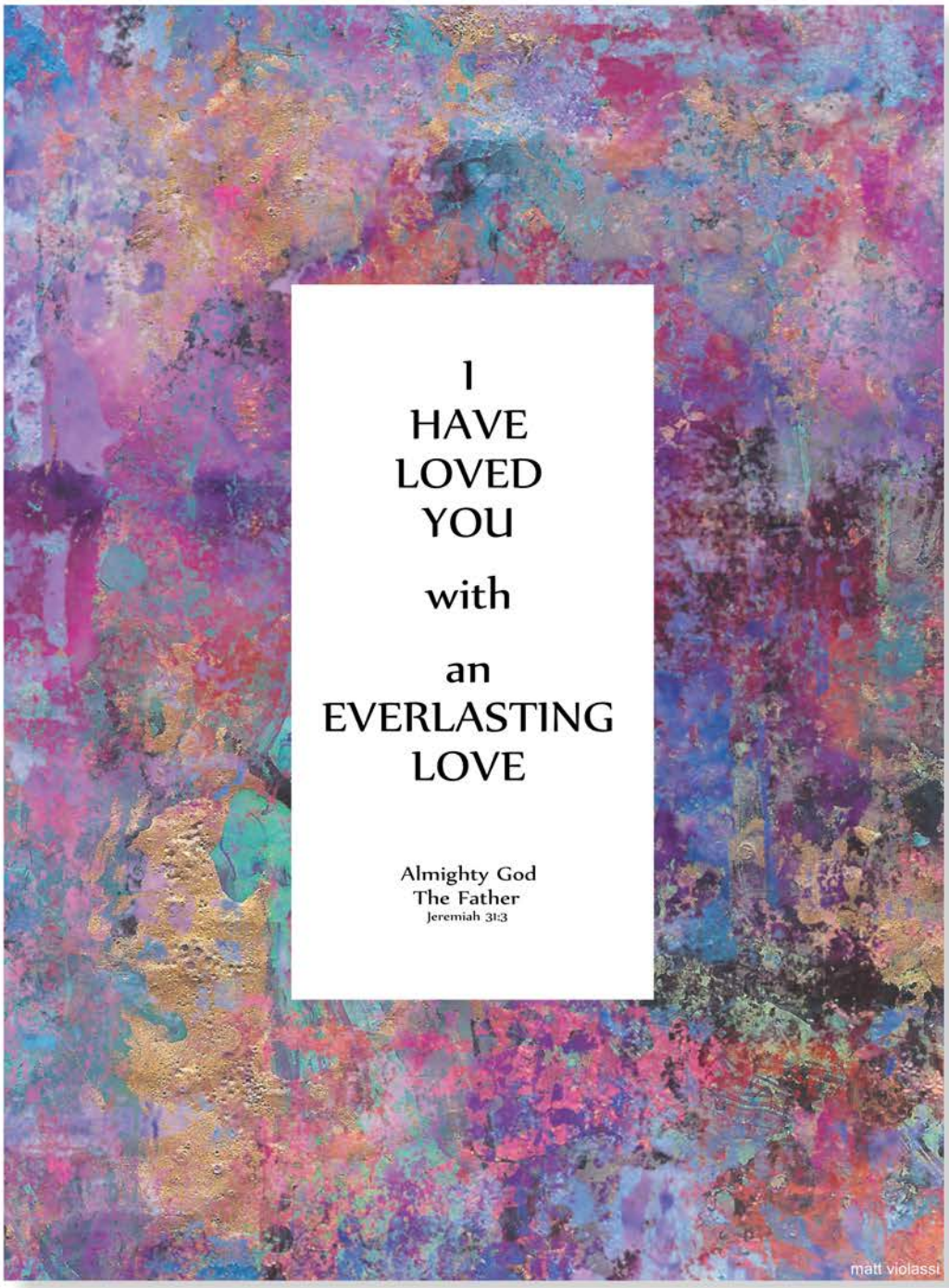
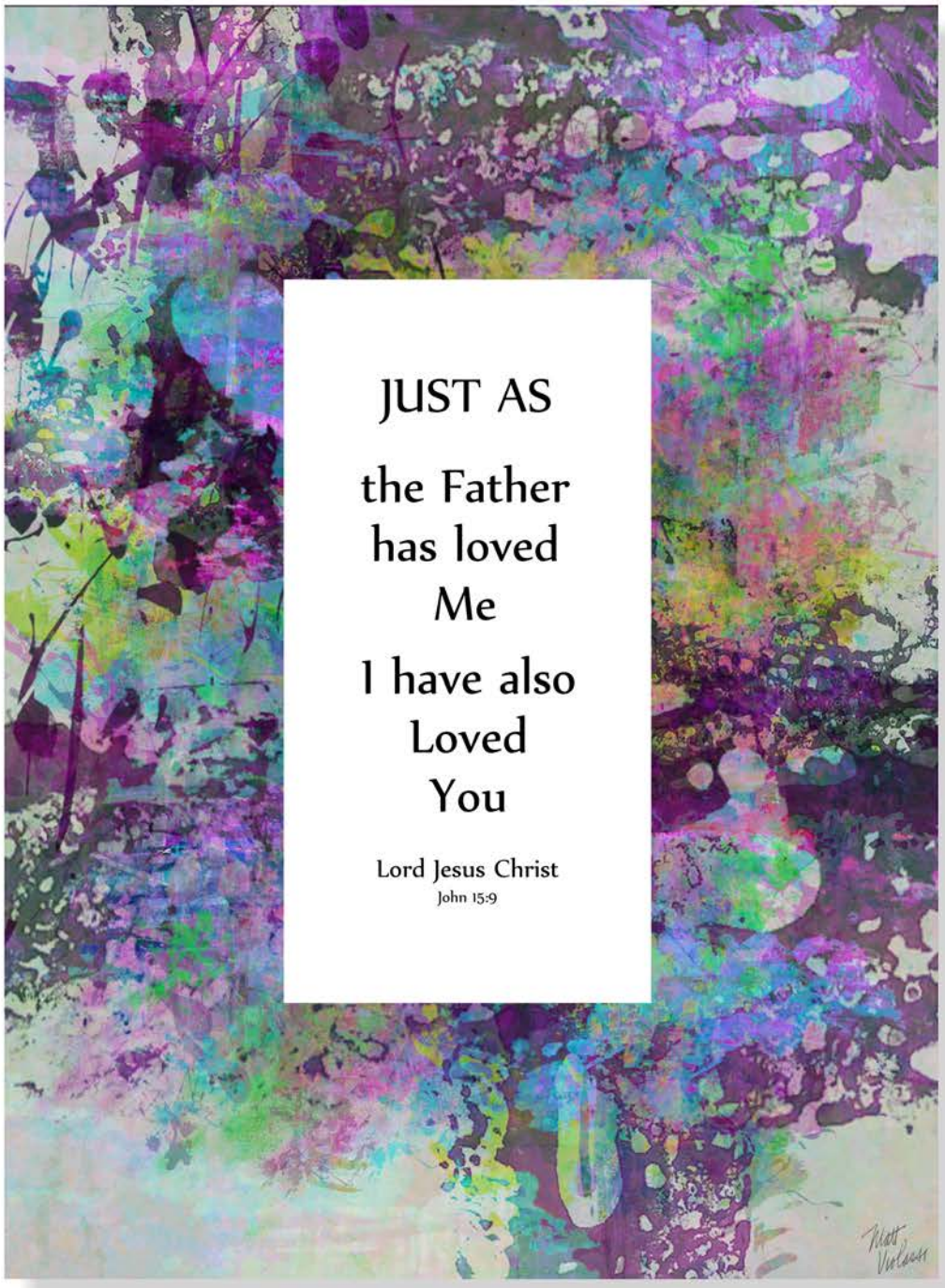
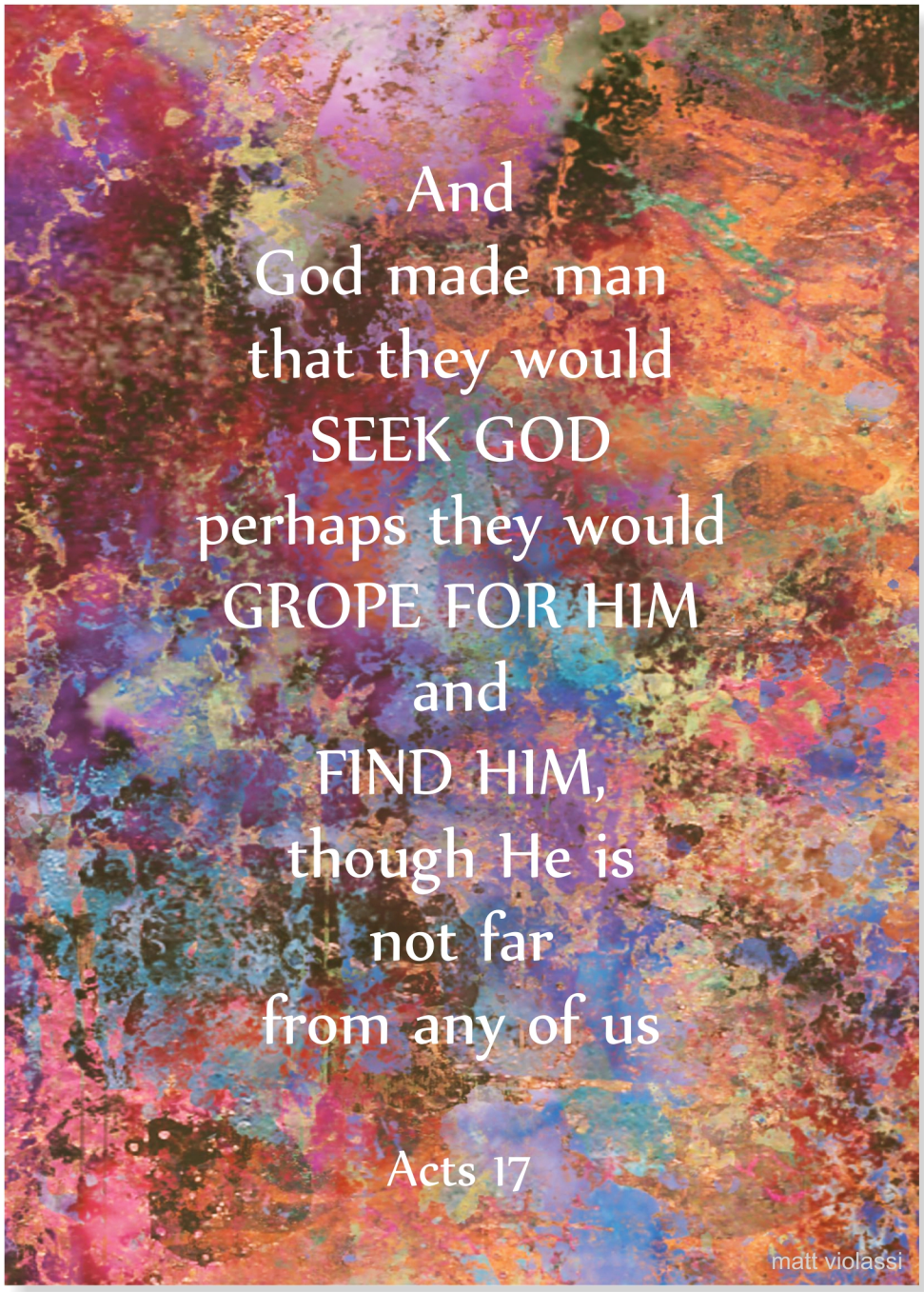
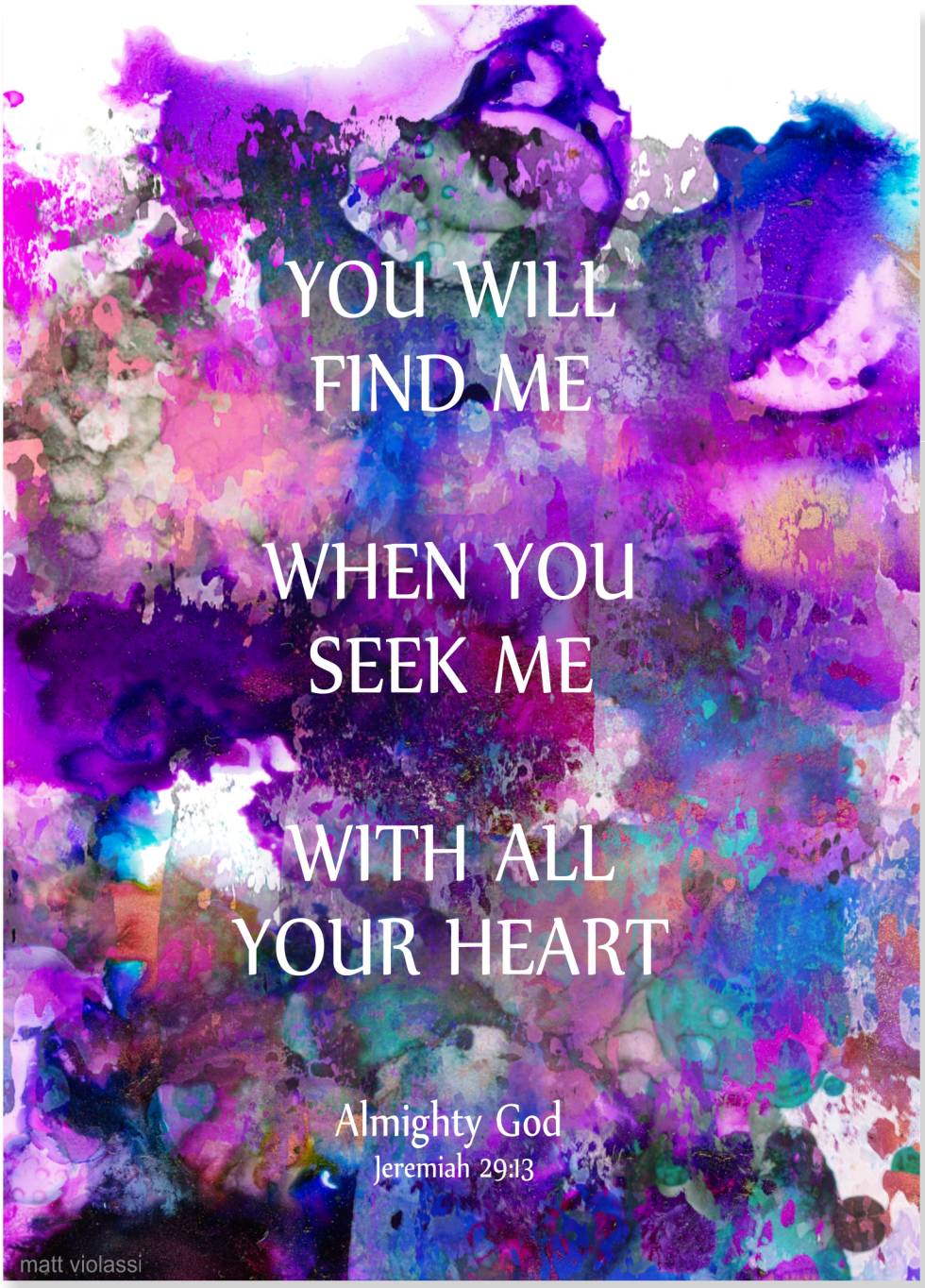

7 SPIRITUAL TOOLS
- To help us do our best
- To help us please God
matt violassi


Come to Me
all you
who are weary
and burdened
and I
will give you
rest
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 11
matt vidlassi

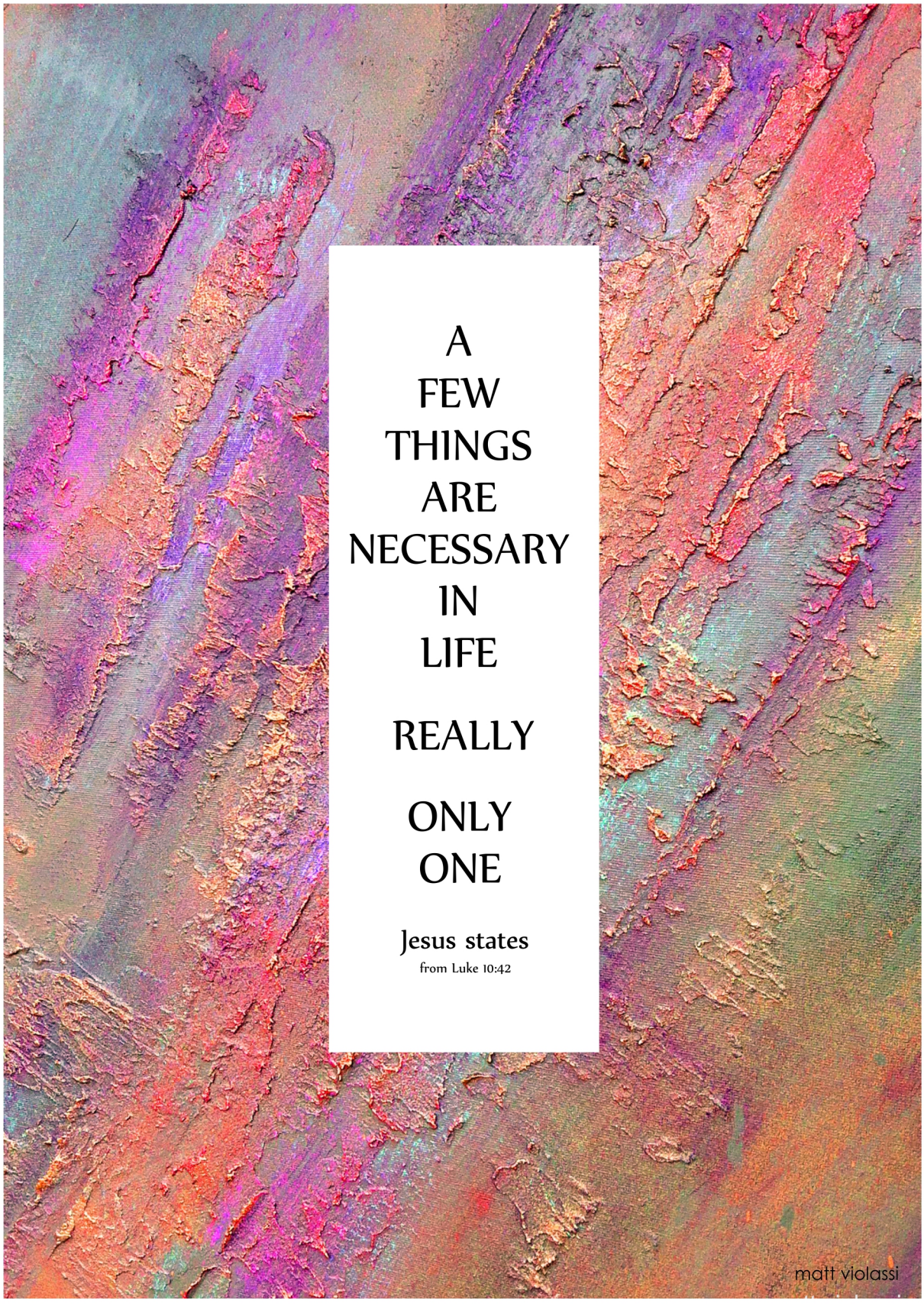

I
HAVE
LOVED
YOU
with
an
EVERLASTING
LOVE
Almighty God
The Father
Jeremiah 31:3
matt violassi

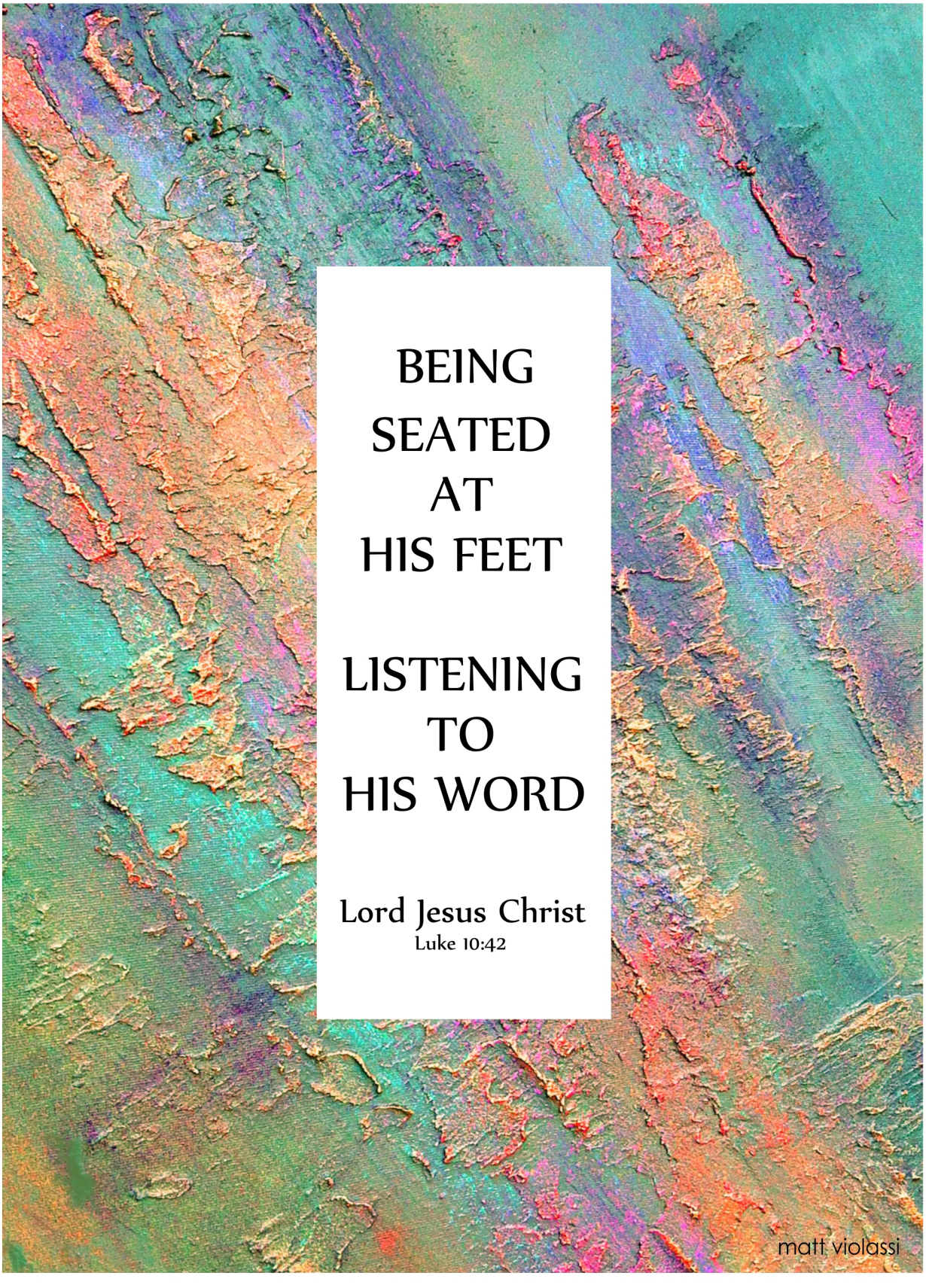

JUST AS
the Father
has loved
Me
I have also
Loved
You
Lord Jesus Christ
John 15:9


And
God made man
that they would
SEEK GOD
perhaps they would
GROPE FOR HIM
and
FIND HIM,
though He is
not far
from any of us
Acts 17
matt violassi


YOU WILL
FIND ME
WHEN YOU
SEEK ME
WITH ALL
YOUR HEART
Almighty God
Jeremiah 29:13
matt violassi


BLESSED IS THE MAN
who listens to me,
Watching DAILY at my gates,
Waiting at my doorposts.
Almighty God
Proverbs 8:34
matt violassi


A
FEW
THINGS
ARE
NECESSARY
IN
LIFE
REALLY
ONLY
ONE
Jesus states
from Luke 10:42
matt violassi


BEING
SEATED
AT
HIS FEET
LISTENING
TO
HIS WORD
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 10:42
matt violassi

TOOL 1 - GOOD THINGS TO DO IN OUR PRIVATE GOD-TIMES

"When you pray, go into your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father"
- Jesus Christ (Matt. 6:6)

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1. SEEK and FIND GOD and then TALK TO HIM ABOUT STUFF. There are many things we can do in our personal, private God-times. I believe the thing that brings God the most joy and pleases Him the most (in the context of an obedient lifestyle) is for people to: (1) Seek Him, (2) Find Him, and then (3) Talk to Him about stuff. **This was never intended to be a one-time experience:**

And God made man, "that they would SEEK God, if perhaps they might GROPE for Him and FIND Him, though He is not far from each one of us." (Acts 17:26-7)

Can you imagine being absorbed in any or every kind of Christian activity, but neglecting this one?

2. PRAYERFULLY READ and STUDY THE BIBLE.

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me." (John 14:21)

Jesus defined the kind of person who loves Him: *the person who knows and does His commands*. We want to be known in heaven as a person who loves God - so, we need to find, study, memorize, and do His commands. It is wise to concentrate on the "red letters" (Bibles that contain Jesus's words that are printed in red.) We also find ***God's promises*** and ***knowledge about God*** while prayerfully reading the Bible. God frequently will communicate specific things to us to do or to believe while we are prayerfully reading the Bible. (*Prayerfully reading* the Bible is more powerful than just *reading* the Bible)

3. PRAY-THROUGH THE 7 TOPICS OF THE LORD'S PRAYER. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray; the "Lord's Prayer" was His answer. The Lord's Prayer contains an outline of the things He wants us to learn to dialogue with Him about. It is wise to pray about the things *He thinks* we should pray about:

- **Our Father who art in heaven.** Praying and meditating about how God is our Father and we are his children. I am a child of God? Wow. I can go talk to my Father, the Maker of the Universe? Wow.
- **Hallowed be thy name.** May His name be honored as it should be in our lives and in the lives of others around us. The results from human effort without prayer are many times minimal.
- **Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** Lord, what do you want accomplished today? In my life? Around me? How would this be done/run in heaven? More can be accomplished in prayer than by human endeavor and effort. Through the Holy Spirit, our prayers can stop wars, stop famines, change lives. . .
- **Give us this day our daily bread.** Jesus taught to include this request when we prayed. We can lack provisions because we neglect to ask for them. He has linked provision with relationship.
- **Forgive us our trespasses *as we forgive those who trespass against us*** (sins). He has linked getting His forgiveness to the manner we forgive others. He will forgive us quickly for our wrongdoing if we forgive others quickly for their wrongdoing. What if they keep offending us, hurting us, damaging us, etc., and won't stop? Then we are to ask God to talk to them - and even spank them if necessary. "Vengeance is mine," God says (Duet. 32:35). He wants us to turn them over to him, rather than us do the paying-back.

  It is wise to have self-examination time every day. We need to get "reality checks" from God. We need to repent from our sins every day and get clean and stay clean. The human heart

perpetually thinks it is okay, and it is okay with God (Prov 21:2). It is wise to ask and *make sure* we are okay with God.

- **Lead us not into temptation**. We need to pray that the Lord will lead us every day, and that He will lead us away from temptation. We need to make sure we are doing *our* best, however, to stay away from temptations.
- **Deliver us from evil.** We probably walk alongside the brink of disaster more than we realize. Praying to ask God to deliver us from all the evil around us, in all its various forms and manifestations, is wise.

4. THANK and PRAISE GOD for A WHILE: Tool 2. Cultivating a Thankful Heart - Entering into a Spirit of Thanksgiving. God likes us to come to Him with a thankful heart,

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise." (Psalm 100:4)

Being a thankful person is a quality that is very important to God. More important than thanking Him for the fact that most of us enjoy more luxuries and live at a higher standard of living than the riches kings of history, God wants us to be thankful for our ***salvation***. Jesus told His disciples to rejoice foremost over their salvation as opposed to the fleeting thrills of Kingdom exploits (Luke 10:20). In His mind, we should be thankful for this over all other things. We can enter a "wow" state of thanksgiving that can carry us more highly above the trials and troubles of the day. It can also keep us from the dangerous sin and mindset of grumbling and complaining, which brings unwanted disciplines from heaven (1 Cor. 10). The Israelites got seriously "whacked" with some very serious disciplines from God for participating in grumbling and complaining. The New Testament warns us to not make the kinds of mistakes they did. We don't want to have to rely on calamities and mission trips to make us thankful and to help us fulfill the commandment, **"Always give thanks for all things."** (Ephes. 5:20).

5. REVIEW OBEDIENCE LIST: Tool 3. Can you imagine having a son or daughter that you would periodically find studying a list of all the things you want them to do? No more needless reminding and nagging! No more needing to administer disciplines that could have easily been avoided. What a complete pleasure they would be, and what a joy to be around!

Have you every heard of a child like this? ***We can be this kind of child to God!*** That is what this tool is all about.

6. PRAY AWAY ANXIETIES AND FEARS.

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life." - Jesus (Matt 6:25)
"So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." - Jesus (Matt 10:28)

These are ***commands*** out of *concern and care for us!* It is wise to pray worries and fears *away.* God does not want us walking around bummed out, so He commands us to not be fearful or depressed. Every command is a promise in reverse. If He gives us a command not to worry, He gives us the power and strength to not worry. It is wise to "find" God and unload our stuff everyday. It is hard to be "otherly" and think about other people's problems when our own hearts are bogged-down with anxieties and fears. It is wise to daily unload our fears and troubles to God. Oftentimes, we need to "pray-through" issues and problems to find God's perspective on them, or to find *God's solutions to them*. This takes time. Many times, God allows trials in our lives that are normally not needed to drive us closer to Him. Why lead a lifestyle that needs a whip and rod for discipline all the time?

7. **PRAY OVER OUR FLOCKS.** God gives us people to take care of: spouses, children, employees, family members, church folks, congregations, etc. The biggest thing we can ever do for those people God has given us to take care of - is to pray for them. Prayer is the most powerful thing. **God will do things for others through our prayers, that He would otherwise not do if we had not asked**. Praying for them gets us thinking about them. Praying for them postures us to get God's perspective and heart for them - and helps us direct actions and words toward them that are supernaturally energized. A 3-minute heart-to-heart conversation with a person can be way-more powerful than a 3-day canoe trip that contains little or no meaningful heart-to-heart communication.

8. **PRAY FOR ALL AUTHORITIES AND ALL MEN. -** We are supposed to pray for "all who are in authority" and "on behalf of all men" (1Tim. 2:1-2). Bosses, the president, cabinet, congress, world leaders, sheriffs, army, generals, governors, mayors, city councils, business leaders, FBI and CIA guys, spiritual leaders, etc. There is a blessing and reward and promise for doing this:

"**so that we may lead a tranquil and quite life in all godliness and dignity.**" (1Tim. 2:2)

We are also suppose to be on the alert praying for *all the saints*. (Eph. 6:18)

9. **SEEK TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.** The Bible says we are to "get filled" with the Spirit:

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but *be filled with the Spirit*." (Ephes. 5:18)

This is not a one-time experience:

"The disciples were *continually filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit.*" (Act 13:52)

God will help us and lead us in getting filled with the Spirit as often as *we want to*. We just need to see our need and then start asking and seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Finding God, and then asking and seeking to be filled with the Spirit, is a wise place to start. It is a lot easier being a Christian - and accomplishing all that being a Christian entails - if we are filled with the Holy Spirit versus being spiritually dry, dead, or empty. It is wise to try to get filled with the Holy Spirit *everyday.*

10. **RENEW OUR EMOTIONAL LOVE FOR GOD.** Obedience TELLS God and speaks to God loud and clear - "I LOVE YOU!"

Jesus said, **"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."** (John 14:15)

So, **OBEDIENCE means I LOVE YOU** to God. **Obedience = I love God.** But it is also wise and good to *emotionally love God* too. It is hard to obey God if we have become emotionally detached from Him, just as it would be hard to love and serve a spouse if we have become emotionally detached from them. As we "love on" God, by telling him we love Him over and over again in a somewhat repetitive way, we begin to feel His love for us. This allows us to fall emotionally in love with God all over again. *Renewing our emotional love for God empowers us to love Him through action and obedience.* We don't need music playing to do this.

11. **MAKE A PRAYER LIST: Tool 4.** This is a list of the things we are asking God for. Reviewing this list reminds us of what to keep asking and trusting God for. Reviewing our list of answered prayers elevates our faith and trust in Him.

12. **REVIEW OUR ULTIMATE DAY FOR GOD: Tool 5.** This is a list of things we personally would do to give God our ultimate day, with the attitude that we only had a few months to live. How much daily prayer? Bible reading? Evangelism? Making amends? Fasting? Giving? Review this list to help prioritize these activities.

13. **RELOAD / REVIEW / RE-EXPERIENCE OUR LIFE VERSES: Tool 6.**

14. **INTERCESSION / PRAY IN THE SPIRIT FOR AWHILE.** Cry out to God for others, world events, our cities, etc. Jesus lives now - today - to make intercession for the saints. (Hebrews 7:25) W e can join Him in this "flow." Jesus spoke in Hebrew and Aramaic. The languages of Germanic peoples gave rise to the English language. The English language has undergone extensive changes over the years, and even Old English is unintelligible to us nowadays. Jesus prays now. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us now (Rom 8:26). They both live inside of us now. It is somewhat ludicrous to think They pray in Modern English! We can get in more touch with Them if we want to.

15. **ASK GOD OUR LIFE'S QUESTIONS.** He is not offended, nor does He mind. Many times, He enjoys these questions - just as an earthly father enjoys answering questions to his children. Many times, it is a sign of an honest and truth-seeking heart - which He also likes.

    Many times, asking and seeking answers to our questions is actually the pathway to our continued spiritual growth, *and* the major pathway to our better knowing and trusting God. Like questions concerning the loss of a loved one, or enduring a lengthy sickness or infirmity, or financial hardship. It is not wise to let unanswered questions or lack of closure obstruct us from getting-up and serving God everyday (Rather than living in a state of fog and chaos for years). We cannot get-up and serve a loving Father - whom we really don't trust and believe is a good and loving Father - because of unanswered questions or lack of supernatural closure. Let us attack our questions - rather that living in darkened *no-man's land* for years or decades.

    Often perhaps, we can be fearful or intimidated to question our doctrine and/or our church leaders - and carry this mindset over to our relationship with God. Not good. It is wise to be aware of our questions - deep or small - and to be seeking answers to them.

    Sometimes the answers come "in time." Because of their complexity, some answers take time to be explained. (Like teaching calculus to a kindergartner.)

    However, many times we *CAN* obtain quick supernatural understanding, revelation, and answers to our questions. It is wise *to expect* to receive quick understanding, but we should always be testing it and discerning wisdom, **"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy."** (James 3:17) Understanding from God will not break these rules.

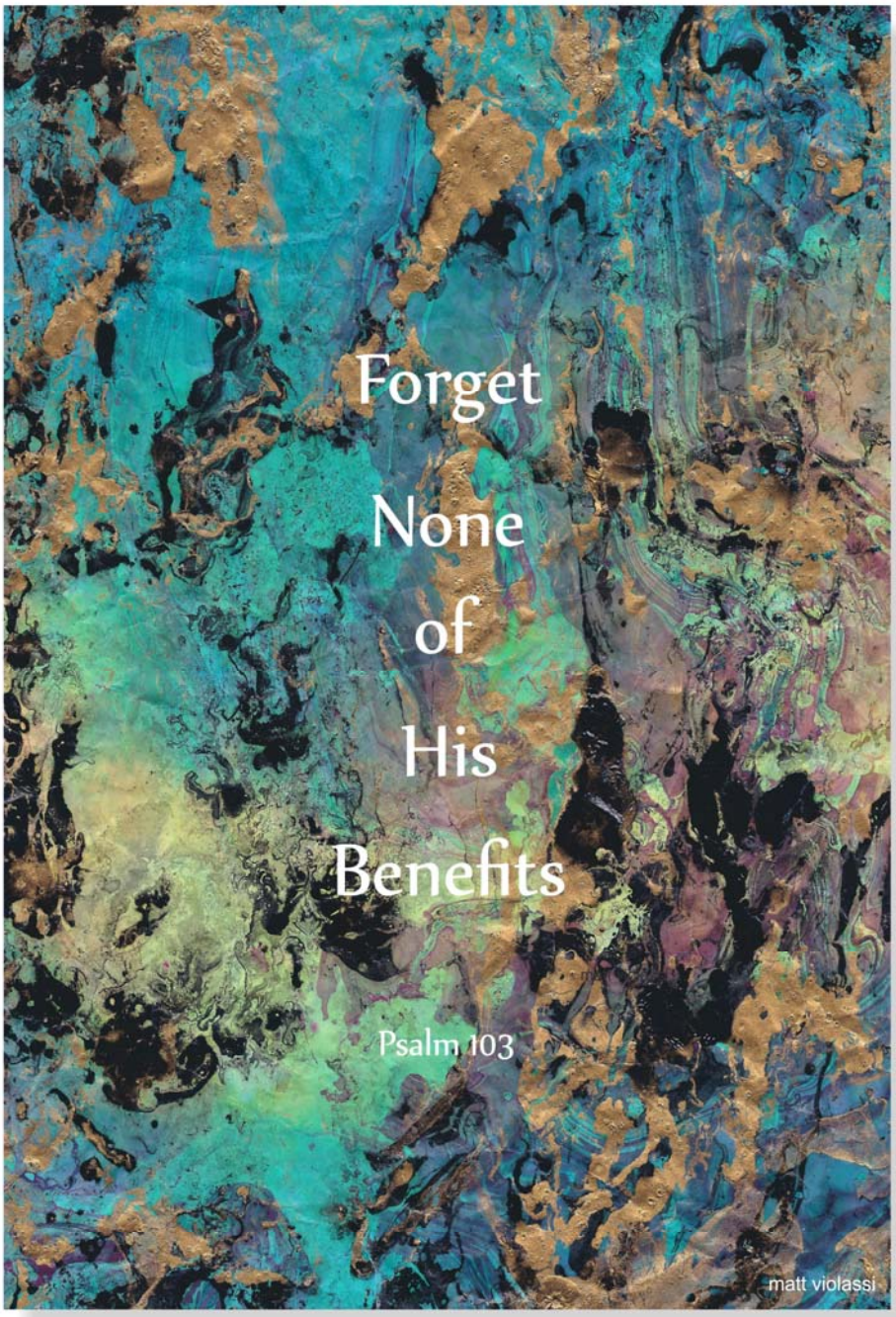
    Sometimes God will not give us answers to our questions, because the answers or understanding will

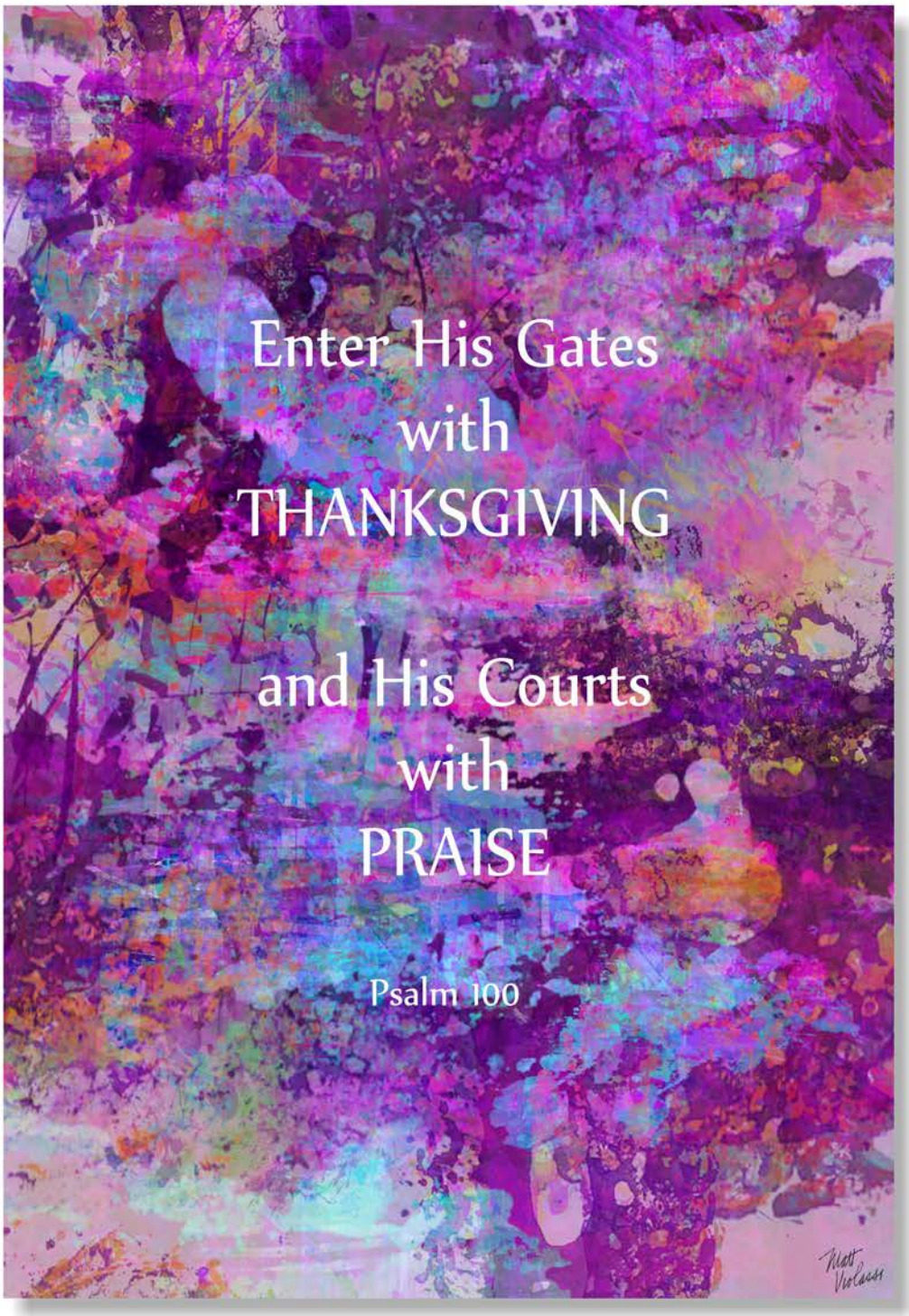
only bring us into more misery and pain - pain that He does not want us to experience, **"Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain."** (Eccles 1:18)

Some deep things God will not reveal to man. (Deut 29:29)

16. **THE LORD'S TOP 1-2 PRIORITIES FOR ME TODAY**. These priorities could be a general mindset to possess, particular things to do or accomplish, or be about getting-with a certain person or people, etc. - something to overall concentrate-on or be focused-on **TODAY**. ***THIS ACTIVITY IS TREMENDOUSLY POWERFUL***. By asking this simple question "What are your top priorities for Me today, Lord?" we align our whole day (and life) around God and His top Kingdom purposes. Asking God what His one or two top priorities for us to concentrate on **TODAY** and accomplish **TODAY** - really moves God - and cultivates a closer friendship and intimacy with Him.


Always
give
thanks
for
all
things
Ephes. 5:20


Forget
None
of
His
Benefits
Psalm 103
matt violassi


Enter His Gates
with
THANKSGIVING
and His Courts
with
PRAISE
Psalm 100

TOOL 2 - BECOMING A THANKFUL PERSON

One item at a time. Connect with each one. Then thank God.

"Always give thanks for all things." (Ephes. 5:20)

"Forget none of His benefits" (Psalm 103)

"Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and His courts with Praise" (Psalm 100:4)

1. PRICELESS ETERNAL THINGS: (These cannot be taken from us.)

- What a Great Person He Is: All-Knowing, All-Powerful, Perfect in everything and in every way, Omnipresent, Majestic, Eternal . . .

- **Possessing**: All Authority Knowledge, Wisdom, Dominion, and Glory…

- **Full Of**: Graciousness, Compassion, Loving-kindness, Truth (God explains Himself – Exodus 34) Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control Mercy, Humility (Gal. 5:22) God is a very nice person, whom anyone *would want* to Love and Serve.

- **A Perfect Ruler, A Perfect Leader, A Perfect Ruler Father…**

- **Rejoice that our names our written in Heaven!** (Luke 10:20)

- **No Hell! Get to go to Heaven!** (Luke 10:20)

- **We are a son or daughter of the Maker of the Universe!! A CHILD OF GOD!** (1 John 3)

- **We can come to God anytime, come into His actual presence,** come before His throne anytime and talk to Him! (Hebrews 4:16)

- **HIS FEROCIOUS, BURNING, VIOLENT, BURNING LOVE FOR ALL HIS CHILDREN** (Jer. 31:3) (This is displayed and seen in His creation of the momma bears ferociously guarding their cubs)

- **JESUS LOVES US IN THE SAME WAY, MANNER, AND DEGREE - THAT THE FATHER LOVES HIM."** (John 15:9)
  What?

- **Overall, we have a Happier, more Peaceful and Joyful Heart!**

- **The God of the Universe lives inside of us!** (1Jn 4:13)

- **God's Provision, Protections, Guidance, and Deliverances** (The Lord's Prayer – Matt 6)

- **God gives us His Wisdom & Perspective, especially when we ask for it.** (James 1:5)

- **Ongoing forgiveness of sins, and freeing us from sin!** (1 John 1:9)

- **We continually get changed into His image and character!** (2 Cor 3:18)

- **God *Likes Us*! God Loves Us!**

- **Our God is a good God**, who does no evil, wrong, or make mistakes.

- **King Jesus will be our Friend** when no one else will. (John 14:21)

- **God grants requests and answers prayer**. We can get help from God! "Everyone who Asks Receives." (Matt 7:8)

- **Partake in His Eternal Ministry** - Work with God and partake in the joy of His Work.

- **Depth of Biblical Revelation**! "Many prophets and kings longed to see what you see…" (Luke 10:24 NET)

- **Thanks to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for being tortured and dying for me –** instead of me.

- **The option of a heart free from troubles and fear. A command, really.** (John 14:27)

- **The option to be continually filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit** (Acts 13:52, John 15:11, John 16:24) A command, really. (Ephes. 5:18)

- **All those people God sent into our life to help us . . .**

- **You came and got each of us…when we were lost and in darkness… AND ALL THE PAIN YOU EXPERIENCED AND EXPERIENCE. . .**

- **All the pain You endure as you oversee the millions of Your children…**

- **All the pain You endure as You work to save all the millions who are lost and in darkness. . .**

- **Because God now lives inside of us, we now have the power over all sin**, power to control ourselves, power to completely obey all of Jesus's commands (and thus obey "The Law"), and power to fully please God - through Him! **WE HAVE GOD INSIDE OF US.**

- We are now the walking miracle of a changed person who now wants to do what is right 24/7.

- *WE ARE ABLE TO "FIND HIM!" – make "contact" with Him!* (Matt 11:28, Jer. 29:13)

- *The Loving Command* - to not only Come to Him and before His Throne (Hebrews 4:16). . . **BUT, TO EMBRACE, CLEAVE, CLING, HUG HIM – WITHOUT SHAME OR FEAR!** (Deut 13:4)

2. OTHER PRICELESS THINGS: (These can be taken from us.)

- **Good Health** - Physical? Emotional? Mental? Spiritual?

- **Get up daily and be able to Walk and Talk**?

- **Good friend(s)?** Do you have any good friends?

- **Good spouse**? Priceless!

- **Is our spouse also a good friend?** Priceless!

- **Is our spouse still our boyfriend/girlfriend?! *Priceless*!**

- **Children?** Abraham had to wait until his late 90's for his first child from the Lord.

- **Good Children?** Are your kids pretty good kids? ("I have no greater joy than to hear my children walk in the truth." (3John 1:4)

- **Enjoy your Job/Work?** "A gift from God." - Eccles. 3:13

- **Freedom to worship** without being jailed, tortured, etc.?

- **Good church leadership?** Wise, God-filled leadership with integrity? Priceless.

3. PERSONAL JOYS GOD LETS US DO/HAVE: (These can be taken from us.)

Examples:

- **Fun Spouse or friends. *Fun dates? Trips?***
- **Watch good movies.**
- **Enjoy beautiful scenery**.
- **Drive vehicle that doesn't break down all the time**.
- **Have air conditioning.**
- **Have my favorite foods or desserts.**
- **Do my favorite hobby.**
- **Safe Neighborhood? Infrequent break-ins/ robberies?**

4. DELIVERANCES - 4 TRIALS of LIFE

- Health? How has God delivered you or your loved ones in this arena? Write these instances down and be able to recite them easily.

- Finances? Besides just steadily providing for us, how has He bailed us out in particularly large financial crises? List and review.

- Relationships? How has He intervened in our loneliness, strained relationships, broken relationships, lost relationships, etc.?

- Demonic Oppressions/Depressions?

5. LUXURIES THAT THE KINGS OF HISTORY DID NOT HAVE:

- **Electricity!** - Provides tons of conveniences and pleasures!

- **Air Conditioning** - It is a gnawing burden to live, work, and try to sleep in hot climates without air conditioning!

- **Abundant Food** - even most poor street people in our Western cities can easily get a meal from the multiple soup kitchens, food banks, food pantries, Salvation Army centers, churches, Federal food stamps, etc.

- **5-Star Restaurant Food Recipes** & how to make them - easily available on the internet/TV

- **Modern Heating Systems!** - The traditional chore of heating a home through the gathering and preparing of firewood can be a ton of work!

- **Light Bulbs!** Flick a switch for bright light!

- **Window Screens!** - *Said to be the largest contribution to the sanity of man!* Not invented until early 1800's!

- **Clean Water** - Many in the world do not enjoy this luxury and suffer not having it through increased sickness & diseases, and poorer health.

- **Indoor Plumbing** - Need a drink, turn the tap. Need a nice hot shower, turn the dial. So nice.

- **Sewer Systems** - Flush and it's gone!

- **Appliances** - Refrigerators, Freezers, Ice Makers/Ice Cube (Emperors made runners run up mountains to fetch them their ice for a cold drink),

- **Washing Machines, Dryers, Microwaves, Stoves, Garbage Disposals**

- **DVD Players and Digital Music Players**

- **Symphonies on Demand! Quality Motion Pictures** on demand!

- **Cars, Boats, Motorcycles, Airplanes, and Trains** - And the fun of riding in them!

- **Television** - Travel the world from your living room!

- **Computers and the World Wide Web!**

- **Glass** - Magnifying glass, Microscopes, Windows, Telescopes, etc.

- **Eye Glasses and Contacts!** Surgeries. To be able to see well! ***Fantastic!***

- **Photography and Home Moviemaking.** No one dreamed to become a common luxury.

- **Telephones and Smart Phones** - Talk to anyone on earth in real-time!

- **SMART PHONES** - ONE DEVICE: Phone, Clock/Watch, Calculator, GPS, Music, Movies, Quality Camera, Video Recording, Mail, Texting, Book Library, Flashlight, Live News from around the world, Photo Album, Encyclopedia Set, Live Weather/Radar Map, Calendar, Internet, etc…and tons more!…What?...*INCREDIBLE*.

- **Video Gaming!** A ton of fun!

- The Gasoline Engine - allows for Lawn Mowers, Chain Saws, inexpensive Boats, Motorcycles, Snowmobiles, Generators, Cement Mixers and more!

- The Electric Motor - allows for Vacuum Cleaners, Electric Drills, Electric Saws, Kitchen Mixers, Can Openers, Sewing Machines and more!

- **The Bicycle**! (Remember your first bike?)

- **Book Binding and The Printing Press** vs. hand written scrolls. (Everything had to be laboriously hand-copied)

- **Calculators** - the first commercial pocket calculators were very expensive.

- **Dentistry** (alleviates a lot of misery!)

- **Medicines & Pharmaceuticals** - Many children died prematurely from the common cold that progressed to inner ear infections then to the brain - incurable until the invention of antibiotics. Other diseases and plagues dominated through field of medicine: leprosy, polio, typhus, typhoid, measles, etc.

- **Plastics** (Allows for creation of inexpensive toys and all types of things for everybody)

- **Ice Cream!** Jokingly said to be able to solve most of the world's problems.

- **The Match!** (Instant fire!)

- **Inexpensive Paper, Ink, and Pens !**

- **Radios. Now, advanced space communication technologies.**

- **Rubber and Rubber Balls!** Fairly difficult to manufacture.

- **Inexpensive Watches.** These used to cost a lot of money. Now cheap.

- **Batteries.** Not long ago difficult to store electricity cheaply & easily.

- **Guns!** (Lions and other big cats once ruled the night and struck fear into the hearts of men for ages. Guns helped end this.)

- **Elevators** (allowing for high-rise construction, the decrease of heart attacks, and laborious stair climbing.)

- **Welding.** A fantastic invention of fusing many materials together.

- **Photocopying!** Instant replication of documents!

- **Nuclear Power**

- **Transistors and Solid-State Electronics**

- **Vitamins**

- **Aerosol Cans** (We are now able to propel many atomized materials)

- **Commodes/Toilets and Toilet Paper**

- **The Hot Water Heater - Hot Showers!**

- **Amusement Parks and Rides!**

- **Concrete!** (Inexpensive man-made rock!)

- **Concrete and Asphalt Roads** (vs. mud roads)

- Cardboard and Cardboard Boxes

- **Vinyl Flooring and Vinyl Products**

- **Anesthetics!** (Imagine surgeries without these!)

- **Tape** (Clear wrapping tape, duct tape, packaging tape - all types!)

- **Aspirin** - a very inexpensive pain reliever

- **The Mirror!**

- **Sound Amplification** (Imagine innumerable meetings and gatherings without this luxury)

- **Microscope** (Opened up new galaxies to explore, and the germ world to be exposed, identified, and dominated)

- **Zipper** (vs. having to hand-button everything)

- **Shoe Technologies** (inexpensive, quality footwear)

- **Foam Rubber** (We spend a lot of our time sitting)

- **Fiberglass and Fiberglass Insulation**

- **Wealth of Dental and Medical knowledge**, skill, and expertise (Alleviating tons of pain and misery) (quackery also minimized)

- **MRI and CAT Scan Technologies** (to help see through tissues and better diagnose ailments)

- **Inexpensive Wall-to-Wall Carpet and Carpet Technologies**

- **Cotton Usage from the Cotton Plant** (allows for inexpensive clothing)

- **Weaving, Loom, and Textile Machine Technologies** (Inexpensive clothing)

- **Inexpensive 4-Color Home Printers!**

- **Plastic Garbage Bags and Twist Ties**

- **Online Educational Classes of All Types** (The knowledge of how to do almost anything more easily and quickly)

- **Inexpensive Safety Razors for Shaving**

- **The Fax Machine** (Almost instant document transmission around the world)

- **Glass, Plexiglas, Safety Glass, and Acrylic Glass**

- **The Rubber Band, The Scissors, The Stapler, the Paper Clip**, and other practical tools. Easy to take these for granted.

- **Wire Technologies!** (Allows for the ability to produce wiring for everything from paper clips, sewing needles, dental braces, window screens, much- needed inexpensive fencing - to wire for the transmission of electricity, etc.)

- **Our Own Personal Set(s) of Holy Scriptures** (Centuries ago a luxury; few could own their own Scripture)

- **Innumerable Bible Study Guides, Study Aids, Commentaries, Translations, Classes**, etc.

- **Bronze Age to Iron Age to Steel Age to Stainless Steel and Aluminum and Metal Alloys** (Cars used to rust away quickly.)

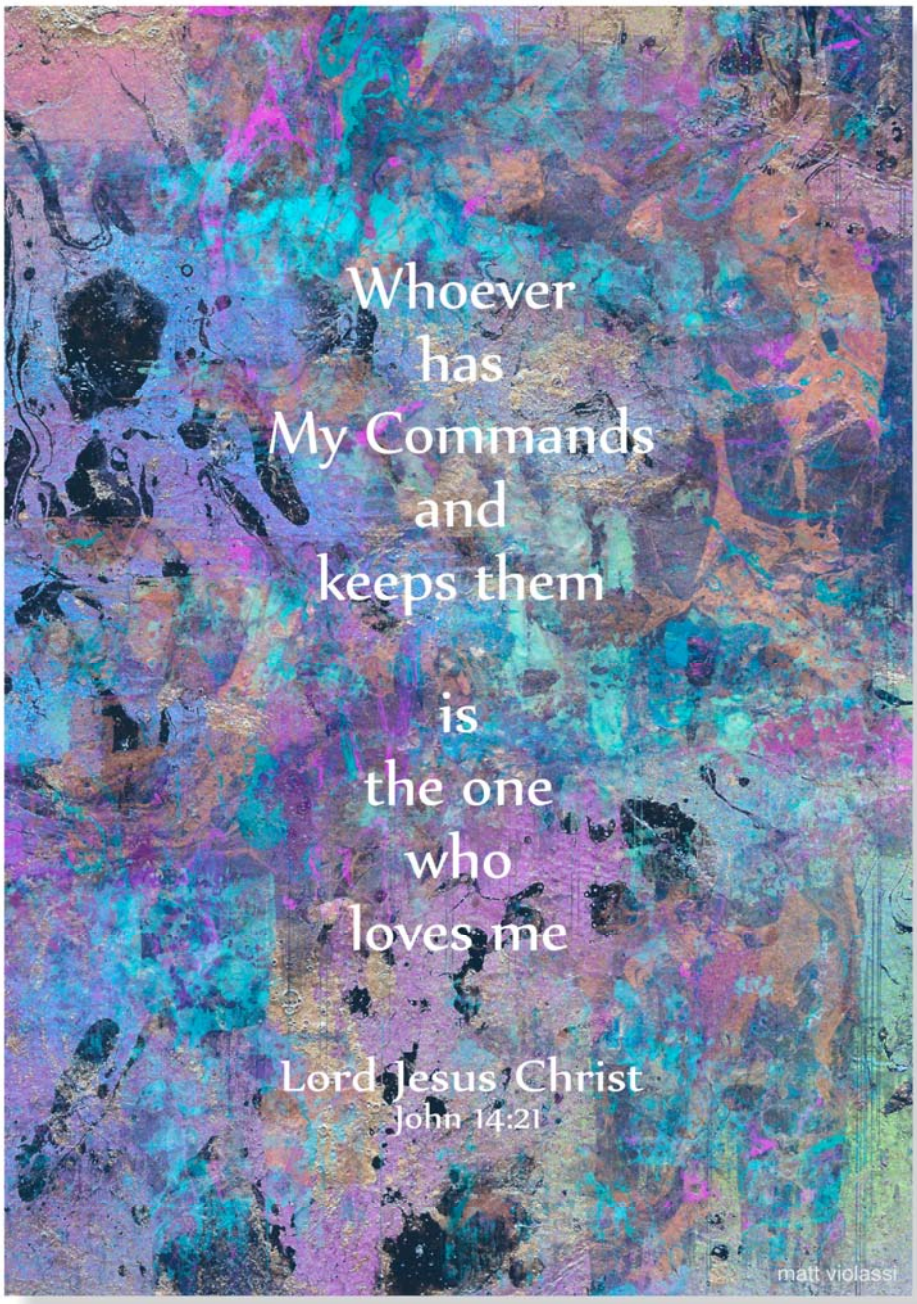
- **Machine Design & Construction** (allows for inexpensive mass-production of almost every type of product - so more people can enjoy them)

- **Instant Messaging & Email** (No more waiting days or weeks for a telegram or a conventional letter in the mail - once coming by horseback and/or by sea! Communicate to almost anyone almost instantaneously!)

-

6. My Book of Remembrance

- Document, Date, Write-down & Remember - the momentous things God did for us Individually. Things that He did that really helped us. . . Thank Him forever.


Whoever
has
My Commands
and
keeps them
is
the one
who
loves me
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:21
matt violassi

TOOL 3 - MY OBEDIENCE JOURNAL

" If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

- Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:15)

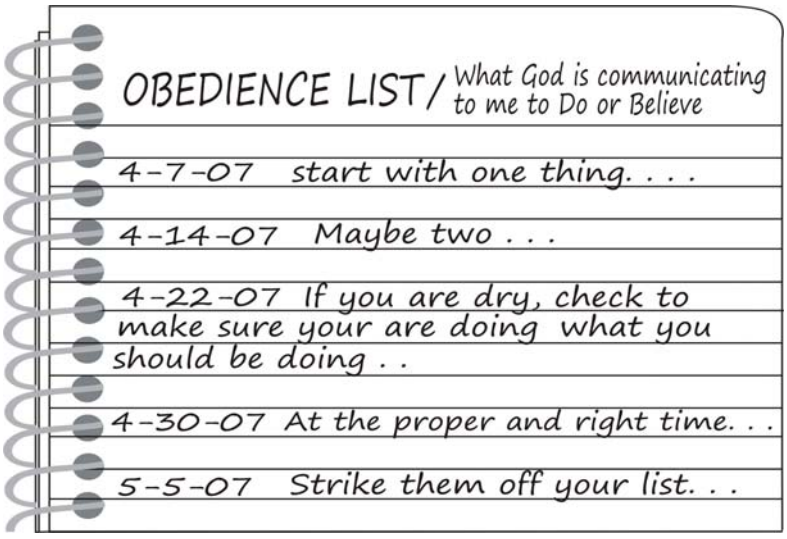
Obedience defines if we love God or not. What is God communicating to you *to do* or *believe?*

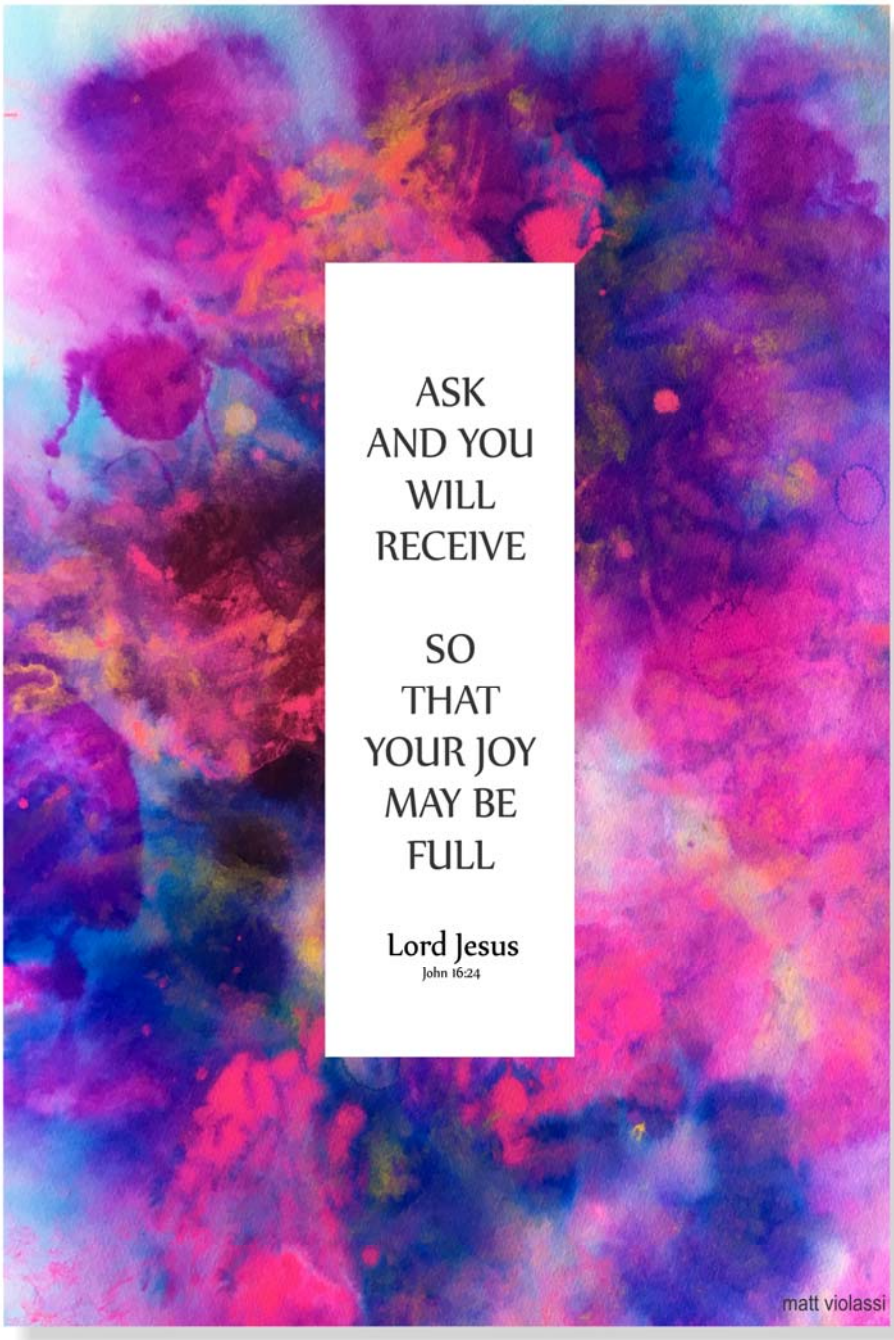
Benefits of This Tool:

- Can you imagine having a son or daughter that, on their own initiative, ***constructs*** and ***studies*** a notebook with a list containing everything you want them to do - make their bed, keep their room clean, keep clothes off the floor, brush their teeth after every meal, eat right, sleep right, do their homework and chores cheerfully and on time and carefully, be nice and looking out for their siblings and people, etc. - so you don't have to remind and nag them all the time? This kind of child would blow everybody's mind! Who has ever heard of such a son or daughter?
  We can be that kind of child to God. That is what this tool is about.
- At the end of our days, we will all have to give an account to God. It will all boil down to this - Did we obey Him? Did we accomplish what He had for us to do on earth in our lifetime? Did we walk close Him and do the things He was telling us to do? This simple, humble journal is a testimony to ourselves - and to God - that we walked with Him and obeyed Him.

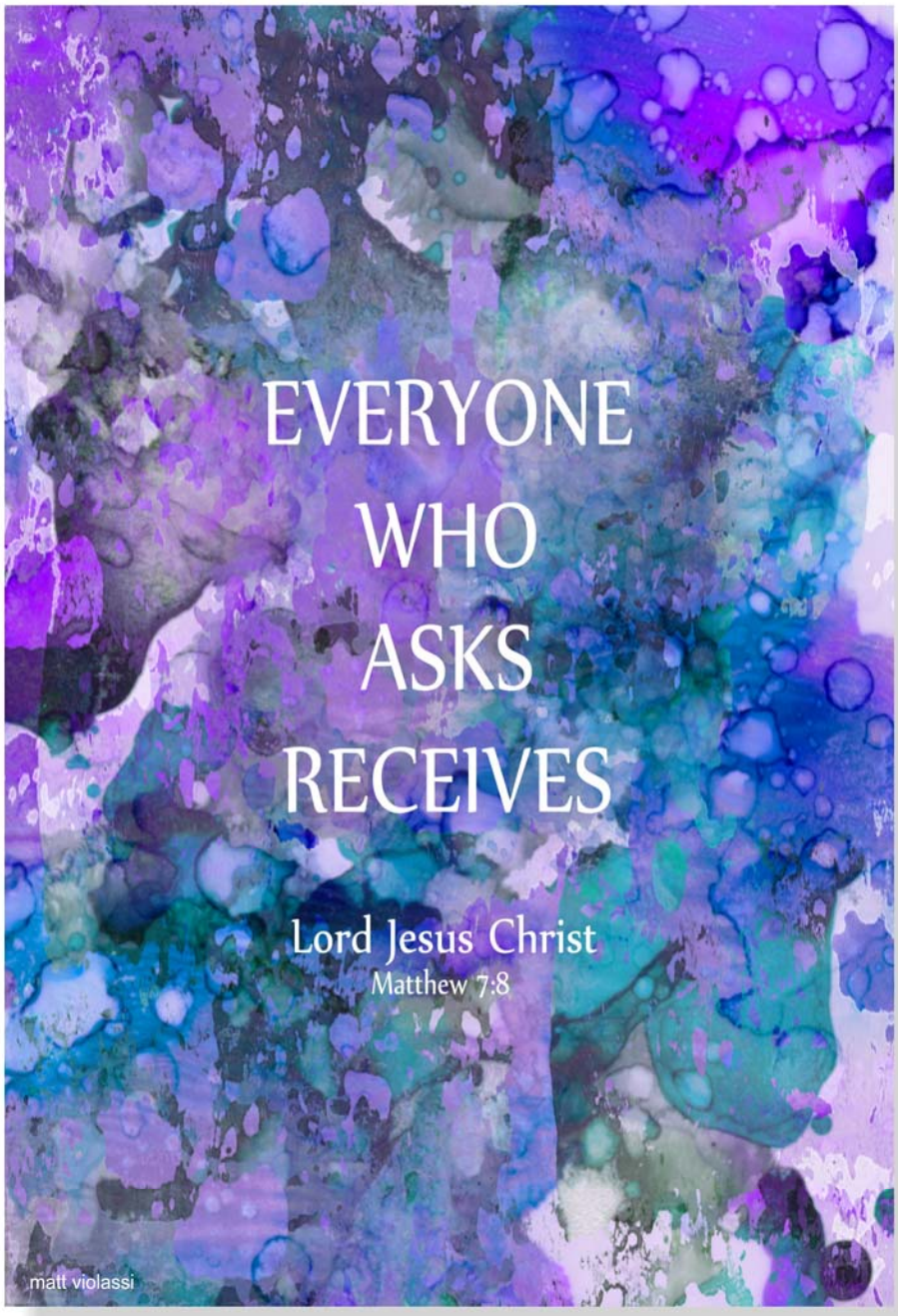
Directions for Use of This Tool:

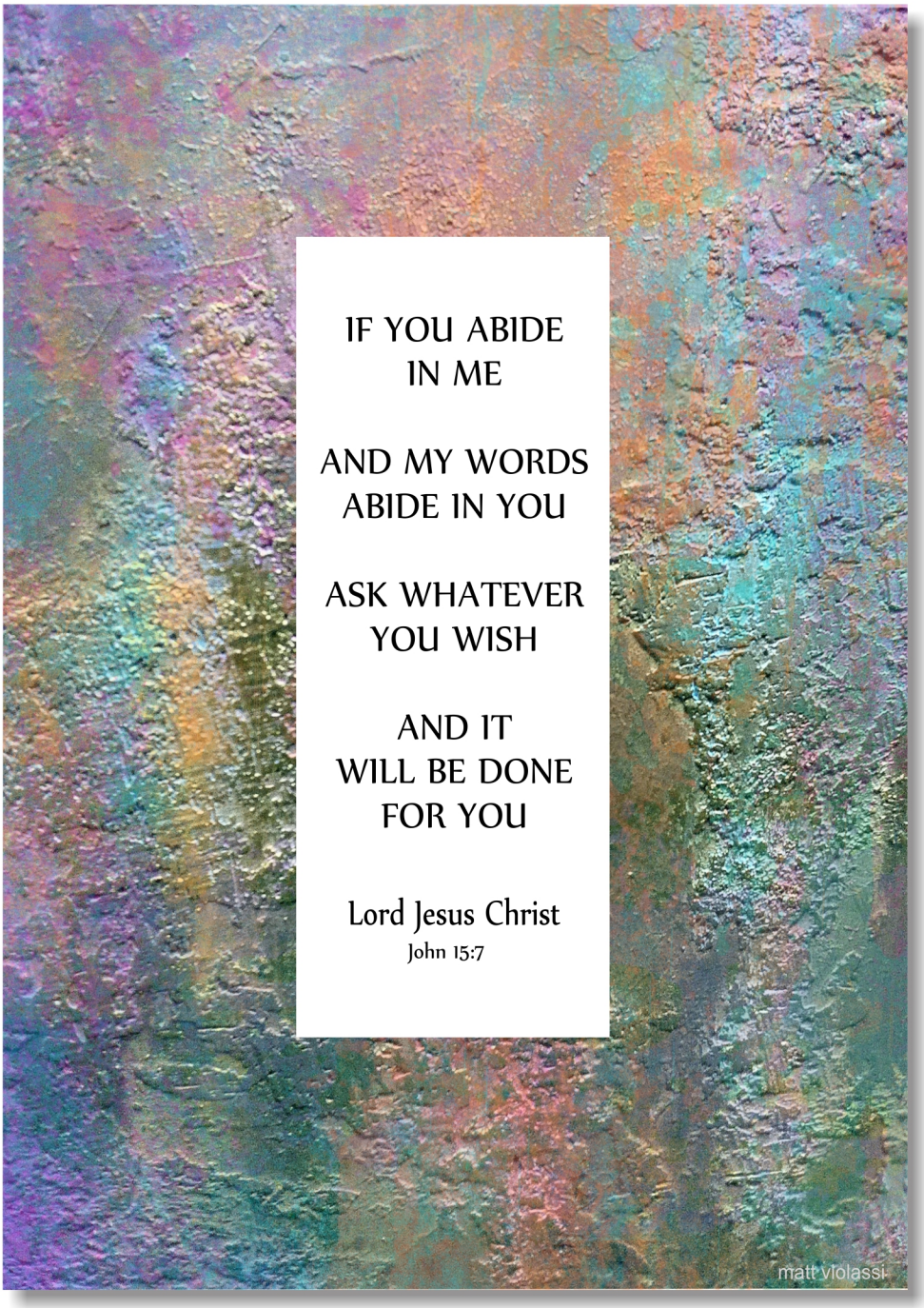
1. Create a list of all the things God is communicating for you to do or believe. This tool is the list of that stuff He is telling us to do each week, each month - throughout our lifetime. This list can contain both general commands of the Bible in addition to personal things God commands us to do, obey, or believe.
2. Be prepared to record God's commands. We would bring a notebook and pen to the Oval Office if we were summoned by the president of the United States for service. We know to bring a notebook and pen to any college class we desire to excel at. This is God we are serving; let's not take Him for granted!
3. Try to review the list daily.
4. Pray about the things on the list.
5. Ask God to help you accomplish the things on the list. Ask God to ***transform you*** into the character commands on the list.




ASK
AND YOU
WILL
RECEIVE
SO
THAT
YOUR JOY
MAY BE
FULL
Lord Jesus
John 16:24
matt violassi


All things
you ask for
in prayer,
believing,
you will
receive
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 21:22
matt violassi


EVERYONE
WHO
ASKS
RECEIVES
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 7:8
matt violassi


IF YOU ABIDE
IN ME
AND MY WORDS
ABIDE IN YOU
ASK WHATEVER
YOU WISH
AND IT
WILL BE DONE
FOR YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
John 15:7
matt violassi

TOOL 4 - MY PRAYER JOURNAL

"And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

- Jesus Christ (Matt. 21:22)

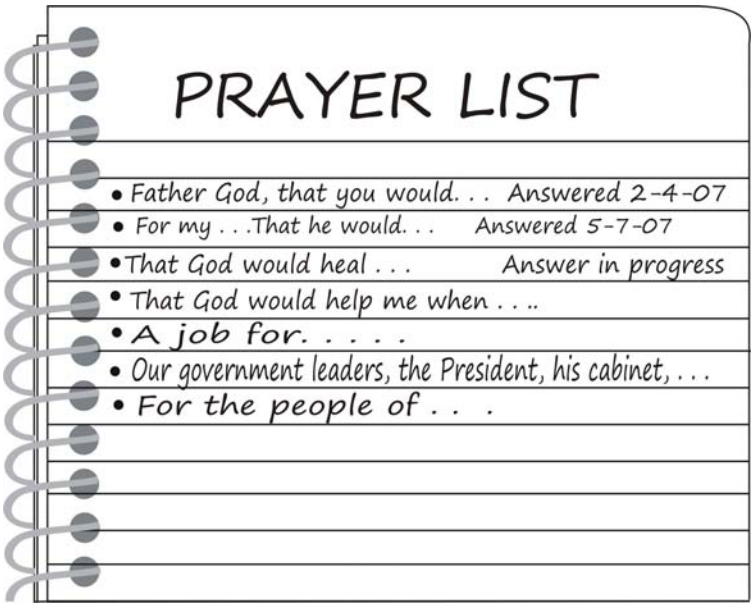
Benefits of This Tool:

- It helps us persevere in prayer for the things we are currently trusting God for.
- As we see the list of answered prayers increase over the years, it builds our trust in God.
- We can be more in tune with the things that cause us anxiety, making us better able to unload those concerns in prayer to God.

Directions for Use of This Tool:

1. Write down the things you are praying to God and trusting Him for. I recommend a spiral notebook.
2. Review the list as often as possible, re-asking and believing God for each item.
3. When a prayer is answered, write "answered" next to it with the date.
4. Thank Him.

Example. . .




On
your
own
initiative
judge
what
is
right
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 12:57

TOOL 5 - PLANNING MY ULTIMATE DAY FOR GOD

On your own initiative, judge what is right

- Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 12:57)

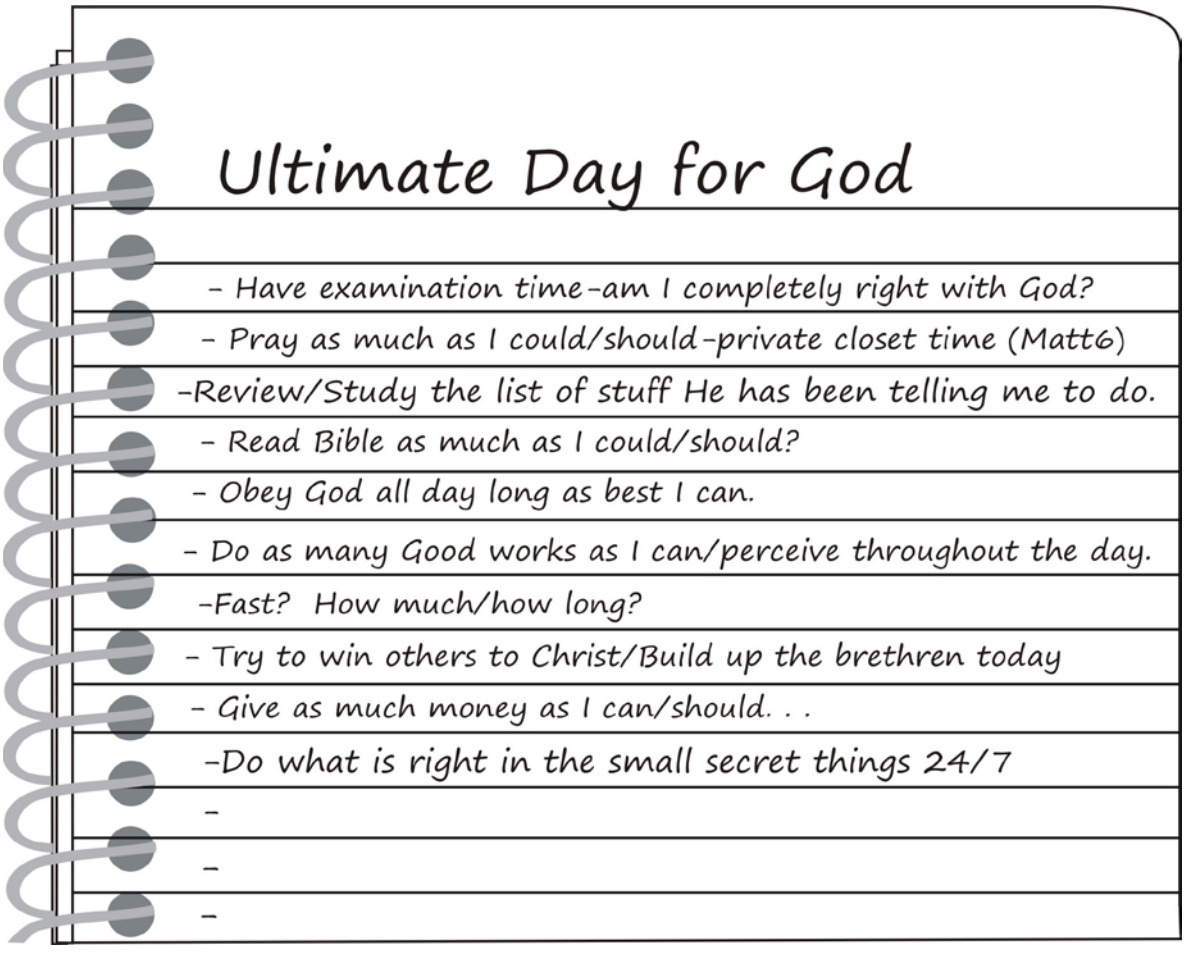
Benefits of This Tool:

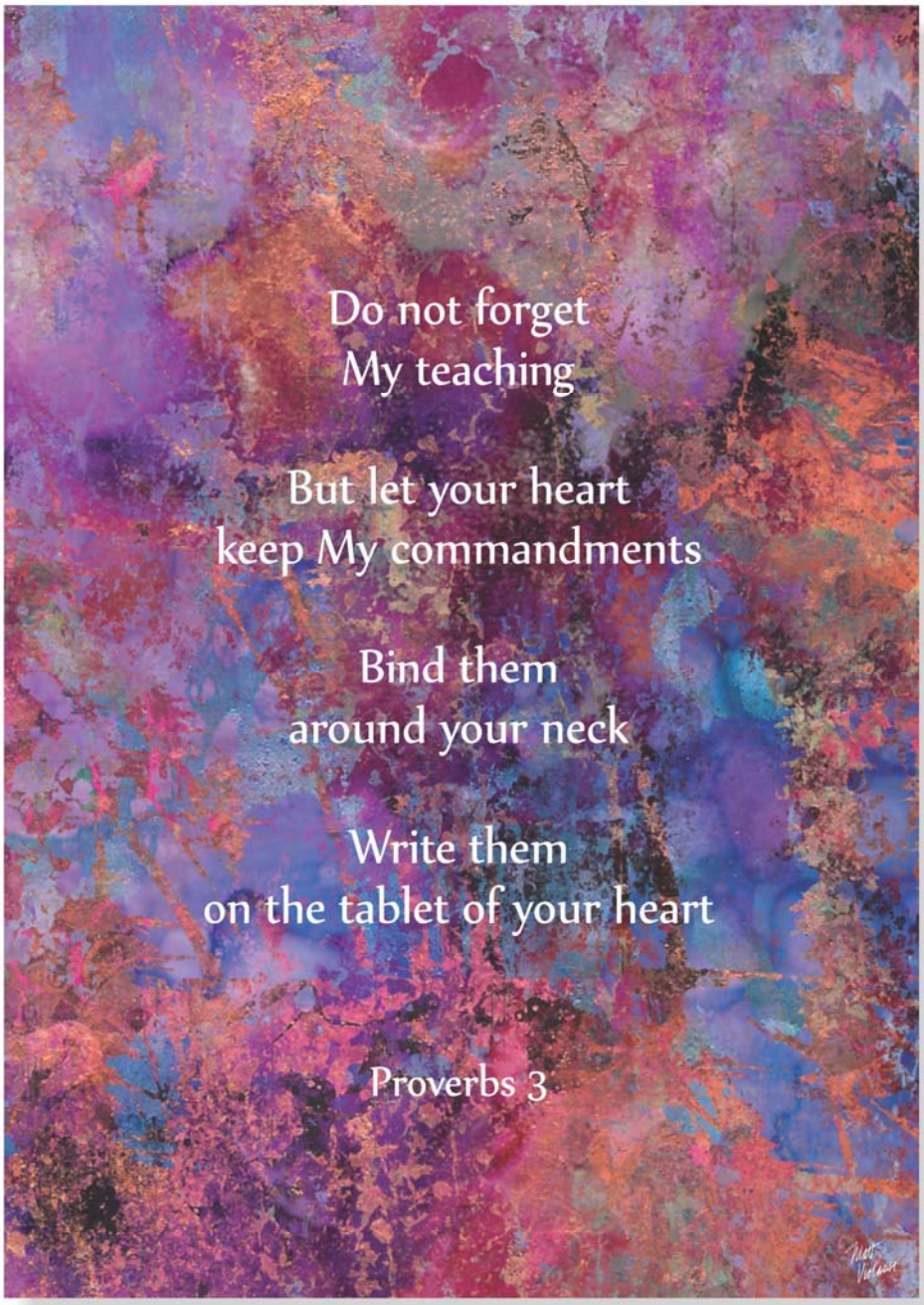
- Planning our ultimate day helps us give God our best day, one day at a time, by reminding us of what our best day looks like. Then we can purpose to do it and ask God to help us give Him our best day.

Directions for Use of This Tool:

1. Prepare a list of what your ultimate day for God would look like. Prepare it using the viewpoint that it could be your last day(s) on earth - maybe your last month or months. **I suggest this because this strips away all of our own current short-term personal goals.** This allows us to identify the personal goals that are actually driving us. We need to be able to identify heart goals and desires before we can stop them from ruling us. What would your ultimate day for God look like - your most holy, righteous day - one that you could sustain for several months?
2. ***Prayerfully*** construct this list - because we can otherwise have some whacko ideas of what pleases God.
3. Try to review it daily and repurpose to live your "Best Day For God." Then get-up and do it again tomorrow.

Example . . .




Do not forget
My teaching
But let your heart
keep My commandments
Bind them
around your neck
Write them
on the tablet of your heart
Proverbs 3

TOOL 6 - Renew and Reload Our "Life" Verses

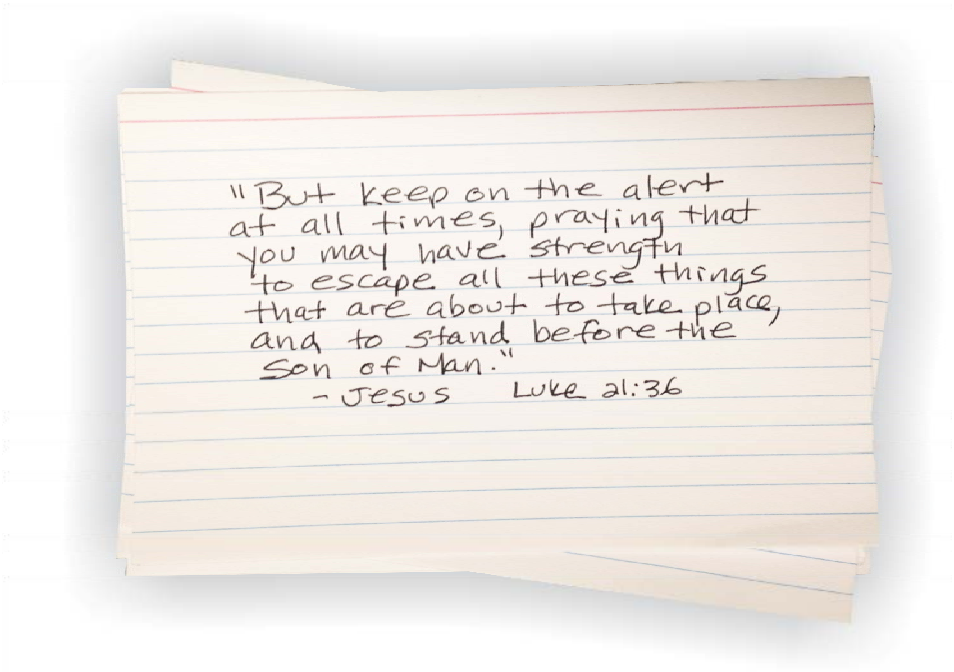
"My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments . . . Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."
(Proverbs 3)

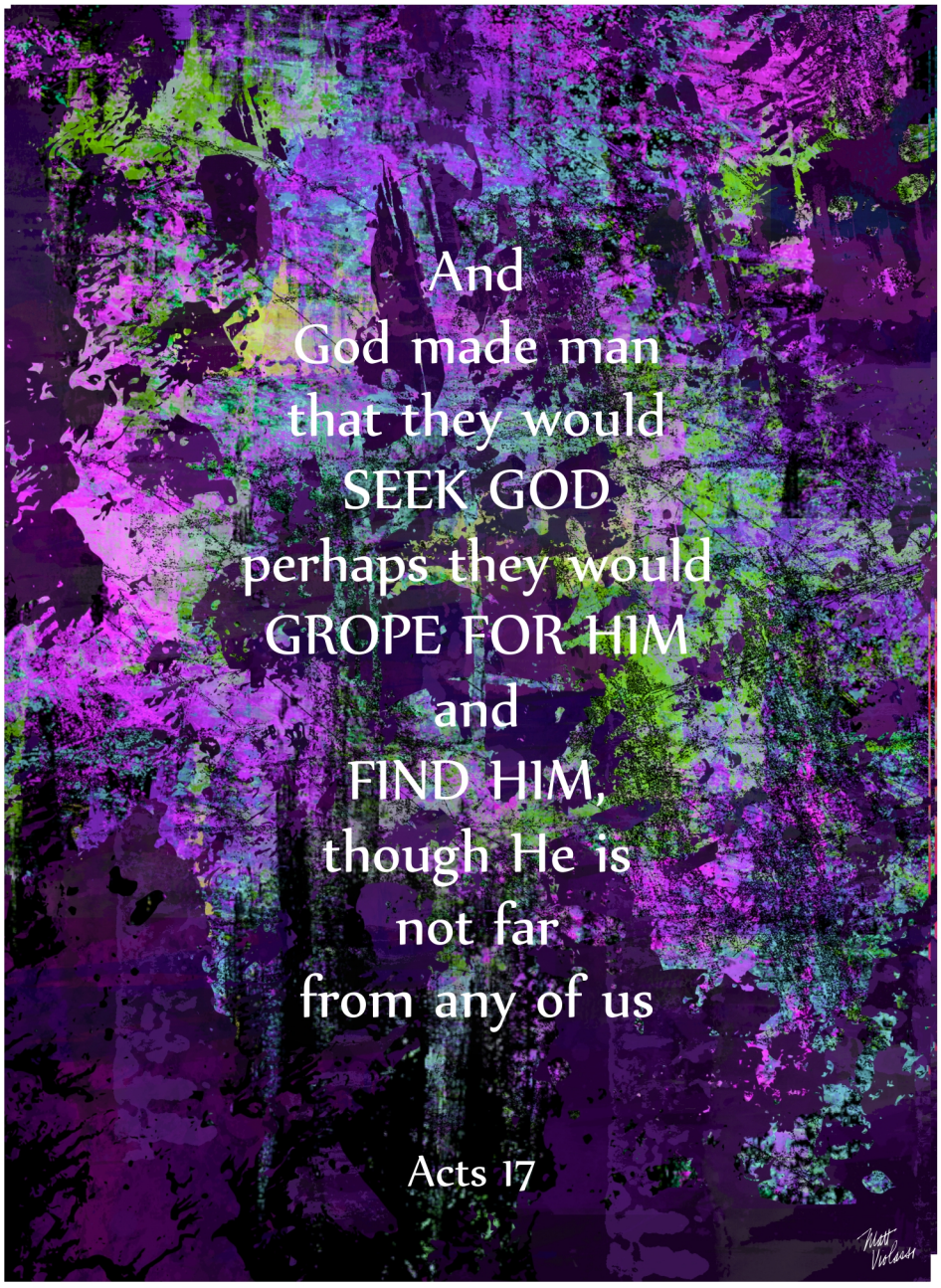
Benefits of This Tool:

- This tool is a list of your current top life verses. These are truths that you want to better hold on to, verses that you want to reload into your mind. (We can easily and quickly lose truths.) These could be verses that God wants you to particularly concentrate on and "know." These could merely be your favorite or meaningful Bible verses or truths. They could be part of your spiritual calling, spiritual gifting, or individual particular Spiritual DNA that you should deeply hold on to. They could simply be verses you saw in past times, but want to keep reminding yourself of.

Directions for Use of this Tool:

1. Construct a list of your most meaningful verses/life verses that you want to remind yourself of and be exhilarated with once again. You could also write these in a notebook or could also write one verse per index card.
2. Go through each verse, one at a time. Speak the verse to your soul. Speak the verse to God. **ASK GOD TO SPEAK THE VERSE TO YOU AGAIN**! Seek its full revelation and meaning again. Re-experience it. Savor it. Memorize it as best you can. Review it.
3. Move to the next verse and do the same.
4. Periodically edit the list of verses.




And
God made man
that they would
SEEK GOD
perhaps they would
GROPE FOR HIM
and
FIND HIM,
though He is
not far
from any of us
Acts 17


YOU WILL
FIND ME
WHEN YOU
SEEK ME
WITH ALL
YOUR HEART
Almighty God
Jeremiah 29:13
matt violassi

TOOL 7 - WAYS TO FIND GOD

"You will FIND ME when you SEEK ME with all your heart"

- God the Father (Jeremiah 29:13)

Purpose of this tool:

● To help us better and more easily "find God." (that experience when we know He is listening to us at a particular moment). **"*And if we know that He hears us* in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."** (1 John 5:15)

Although there are several ways to find God and His presence, these methods do not "work" every time. God is God, and He chooses when, where, how much, and how often He decides to reveal Himself to us.

At times, God "hides" Himself from us for a variety of reasons. Sometimes He hides Himself from us so that we "dial-up" our intensity of seeking Him - so we pay closer attention to what He is saying to us. Sometimes He hides Himself so we just don't take Him for granted - take our relationship and friendship with Him for granted - and begin to treat Him casually.

How to Find God? In many ways, He leaves this part of the journey up to us. I believe this part is His greatest joy . . . . to see who will: 1) Seek Him . . 2) Find Him . .. and 3) Talk to Him about stuff!

---

1. SEEK GOD WITH YOUR *WHOLE* HEART

God the Father Himself spoke,

"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

2. DRAW NEAR TO GOD

"Draw near to God and *He will* draw near to you" (James 4:8)

If we just sit for a protracted period of time and concentrate on the person of God, with the purpose of perceiving and experiencing His presence, we will begin to sense His presence coming closer and closer to us. This promise works.

3. GO BEFORE HIS THRONE

In the book of Hebrews, we are told to come boldly before God's throne when we need Him.

"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

If we are told to come before His throne (and therefore to come before Him), then it is implied that we can somehow perceive that we are *actually before God* and we are *actually before His very throne*. We can come before His throne and know we are "there," sensing His presence. We can grow in this experience if we want to.

4. THANK AND PRAISE HIM FOR A WHILE

Another way of "finding" God is to thank and praise Him for an extended amount of time (See Tool 2.) He instructs us to come to Him doing this:

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm 100:4 NIV).

Many times our attitude is far from being thankful for all God has done, and far from the realization of who God is. This activity will correct our thinking and attitude, and invite His interaction. It is a privilege to be able to come into His presence; however, He wants us to come to Him with the right attitude.

5. "LOVE-ON" GOD FOR A WHILE

One way to "find" the Lord is to "love on" the Lord. If we start telling God how much we love Him and how much He means to us (over and over for awhile), many times God's presence comes closer to us. It might seem cold, mechanical, and even sterile at first, but many times God seems to quickly come to meet with people who want to re-"fall in love" with Him again. This is because that is what He is all about - having a loving relationship with mankind! ***He searches for people who want to come into this love relationship with Him - not just one of obedience - but a relationship that contains emotion and passion!*** I believe God is very *quick* to come and visit with anyone who is seeking to rekindle their emotional love for Him! . . . And you don't have to have music around to do it!

6. GO TO A PRIVATE ROOM TO PRAY, CLOSE THE DOOR

A great way to ***know*** that the God of the Universe is actually watching us ***that moment*** is to go to a private room to pray and seek God, and shut the door. Jesus said that God is watching you the moment you turn the final doorknob. He also promises that you will be rewarded for going to pray and seek Him. (Matt 6:6)

7. START FASTING

Start fasting. Fast until you find Him. God really likes this.

8. PRAY IN THE SPIRIT FOR A WHILE

9. HIS INTERESTS FIRST

One of the easiest ways to find God is by asking Him this question: **"Lord, communicate to me 1 thing (or 3 things) you want me to do today or to accomplish today?"** Or put, **"Lord, tell me Your one priority (for me) today?"** This invites His interaction. He *loves* when people ask Him this question. When we start asking Him these kinds of questions, we better enter ***His World*** (what He is interested in). He is interested in people serving Him and His interests in ***His World***. . . Our flesh is determined to stay in ***our world***. We need to keep entering ***His World.***

10. CHECK OUR OBEDIENCE (See Tool 3)

This is a journal of the things we are to obey in - things to do or believe. Disobedience or laxness can kill God's presence.

11. GIVE GOD YOUR ULTIMATE DAY (See Tool 5)

12 . MAKE SURE YOU ARE GIVING ENOUGH OF YOUR MONEY TO GOD

Jesus said we cannot serve God and serve money. Sometimes we can find ourselves serving money. God instructs us to give Him the first of our income/money - a good amount - even when we think we can't afford to. Doing this cuts the tie to the god of money, and lets us know - and God know - who we serve. This brings His pleasure and presence.

13. CRY OUT TO GOD

Here is another way to find God. God has got a promise. If you cry out to Him, He will help you, and deliver you from your trouble (of not being able to find God). This works. You have to do it *His way*, however. You have to ***cry out***. In urban settings, I suggest you muffle your mouth with a pillow, so as not to unnecessarily alarm or frighten other people. The promise is,

"The righteous *cry out*, and the *Lord hears* them; *he delivers* them *from all* their troubles."

(Psalm 34:17 NIV)

14. HAVE CHRISTIANS LAY HANDS ON YOU, AND TOGETHER PRAY HARD

There can be tremendous power that can only be found in group prayer. Sometimes God requires us to humble ourselves before others to help us receive something from Him. If you can't find God for a while, have some trusted Christians pray and believe with you to feel and sense God's love and pleasure over your life.

Encouraging Note: God rewards us for diligently seeking Him - whether we "find" Him or not: **"And 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 seek Him."** (Hebrew 11:6)