

BEYOND TODAY

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Prayer's underlying goal

Numerous scriptures describe the need for us to leave our sinful nature behind and instead strive to conform to God's character and will.

God provides several tools to help align our will with His. An awareness of the prodding of His Holy Spirit within us is massive, but that only happens when we have been given that Spirit and are attuned to it. Reading the scriptures is one way this can happen, as is hearing and meditating on biblical teachings. Fellowship with those of a like mind is yet another.

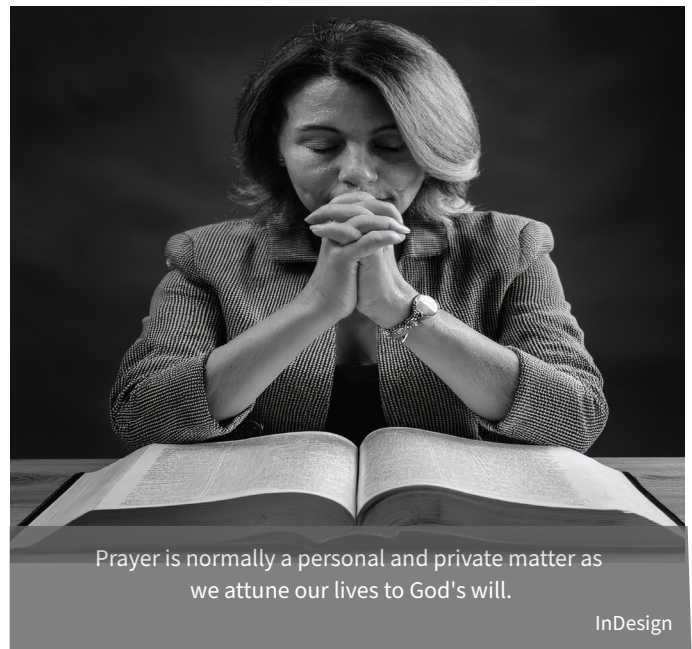
Perhaps the most valuable, however, providing us with the ability to truly align our will to God's, is prayer. Indeed, that may be the primary purpose of prayer. We eventually find that whatever else it does, prayer enhances our unity with God and His perfect will.

The apostle Paul wrote the congregation in Rome: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

One with the Father and Christ

Under the New Covenant, God has promised that He will put His law in our minds and write it on our hearts (Hebrews 8:10). Thus, we have the chance for our corrupt human nature to be transformed into the "image of Him who created [us]" (Colossians 3:10). Our aim is that we may be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect and "holy as He is holy" (Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:16). Committed Christians who desire for God's law to be etched deeply into their hearts must not neglect the tools available for that purpose.

This aim of prayer implies that it should be a private affair between an individual and God – akin to fasting. During His Sermon on the Mount Jesus explained: "And



Prayer is normally a personal and private matter as we attune our lives to God's will.

InDesign

when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:5-8).

Your will be done

In His outline prayer Jesus taught His listeners how to pray by giving them, in effect, subject headings to which they could pin the details of their personal praise, requests, petitions and confessions (Matthew 6, Luke 11).

Following “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come” comes the phrase “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). If the will of those who claim to be adherents of Christ isn’t aligned with God’s, the rest of the outline lacks sense. Upon concluding these topic headings, Jesus expanded on one teaching: “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (verses 14-15). Our Saviour crafted this prayer to focus our minds along godly lines and pretty much all of it serves to align our will with God’s.

Note that to receive what we ask for, action is required from us. For example, “Forgive us our debts.” God forgives, but for us to be forgiven, we must demonstrate God-like nature and forgive others. That is, we must demonstrate alignment with His will before we can expect to receive what we ask for. To understand more about forgiveness please request our booklet *Forgiveness Is Possible*.

“Give us our daily bread” is another example of reciprocal behaviour. This too requires effort. Those of us who are capable are expected to labour for our bread (2 Thessalonians 3:10: “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”), even though the blessings of our effort come from God. This, too, aligns with God’s example, and that of Christ, for They, too, in the context of “bringing many sons to glory” labour continually (John 5:17; Hebrews 2:10).

Persistence in prayer

In the Gospel of Luke immediately after Jesus recited the model prayer, another requirement is recorded: “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you?’ I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs” (Luke 11:5-13).

Jesus draws an analogy here of persistence in prayer but do not think, “Maybe if I keep asking God for the thing I want, He’ll eventually get tired of me and give it to me.” As with anything in the Bible it’s always pred-

icated on whatever we want being aligned with God’s will. The Almighty won’t grant requests that are purely self-indulgent.

The thought continues: “So, I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?”

Jesus develops the theme of persistence. He and the Father want us to regularly communicate with them. Again, we often perceive this as getting what we want if we ask long enough, but it is more than likely it is about the persistence of asking, seeking and knocking to pursue God’s will for us and less about getting what we want from an omnipotent being. The analogy used is a father giving good gifts to His children.

Our Saviour crafted His outline prayer to focus our minds along godly lines to align our will with God’s.

Imagine you’re a parent, and your child asks you for something that’s good for them – some fish, or bread, a good educational book to read. You would grant it to them. On the other hand, if your child asks for something that’s harmful for them, or that’s unsuitable for them now, a caring parent won’t grant it to them, but you explain to them why it’s not appropriate right now.

Even though the child may not be requesting what is acceptable our wish is for continued communication. We would want them to keep asking, seeking, and knocking, hoping that as time progressed, they would start asking for what is appropriate. Once they are aligned with what is beneficial, we can provide them with what they ask for, because their requests will be aligned with our will for them. In this analogy, God is the parent and we are the children.

The model prayer itself tells us something about God because it reveals what we should desire, and how we should seek it, especially in the context of the rest of scripture. It makes sense, then, that the primary purpose of prayer is to align our will with God’s. We want to reach the point where we want the same as Him, and we accept His decisions. At this stage we will indeed say, and mean, “Not our will, but Yours be done.”

Christopher Coser

Strong roots, good fruits

When the dreariness of winter and a cold spring recedes, gardeners look forward to warmer days and the growing season. A wonderful time of reset when trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables and fruits burst forth into a wondrous display of new life.

Throughout Spring, while rain falls and plants blossom and bud, there are abundant physical reminders of the spiritual fruit that should be evident in our lives. Watching a tree progress from buds to flowers to green fruit to late summer or autumnal boughs weighed down by juicy produce is analogous to the spiritual growth for which we strive.

A firm anchor

During summer storms, vegetation with a well-established root system will not be dislodged or uprooted, whilst plants that are shallowly rooted can be easily destroyed. Spiritually, this analogy reflects our Christian lives. Many proverbial storms are raging throughout the world. Worsening immorality and perversion, civil conflicts, wild weather patterns, social disturbances, and crimes of every kind. A reality that will only intensify in the near future. If solidly rooted, we will be able to withstand the fury of what swirls around us but if we lack deep spiritual roots, we will not stand much of a chance.

Plants are rooted in the soil to absorb water and nutrients to produce fruit. Followers of Christ likewise are to be grounded in God's word to grow in His character and bear fruits: "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you . . . may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19).

Moisture and nourishment

Plants and trees make every effort to send down roots as far as possible to get essential water and minerals. In like manner, we are to seek after the **eternal**, life-giving nutrients that our Creator provides in His Word. Christ explained: "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

More and more the world seeks to break God laws at every possible opportunity. Thus, if we choose to obey God, society will do all it can to uproot us. To remain firmly grounded and anchored in love, we must be thoroughly and solidly embedded in God's word. This is essential not only for our spiritual survival, but also in making a difference in the lives of others around us.

Society around us is full of all kinds of wrong beliefs generated by false religious systems and humanist

teachings. Those who have not built up a strong, healthy, spiritual root system will struggle to ward off these deadly attacks. There is only one time-tested way to grow healthy spiritual roots: we must exercise the Holy Spirit. This can be accomplished through daily prayer, diligent Bible study, meditation, and regular fasting. Furthermore, overcoming weaknesses, weathering trials, obeying God's commandments and fellowshiping with true Christians are ways to grow.

Are we praying and studying diligently? Or are we, perhaps, "too busy" with other things? If so, it will leave



Strong tree roots can survive the harshest conditions.

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us vulnerable to the many dangers around us. A psalmist wrote, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper" (Psalms 1:1-3). As we look forward to a glorious future, with God's help let us ensure our spiritual roots are in the best possible condition, so that we can bear abundant good fruits now and be there, to help others bear fruit in the Kingdom of God.

We will thrive if we remain rooted, grounded and nourished in God and His Word.

Ademola Adesupo

Our restless earth

Those who watch erupting volcanoes on live webcams can witness the power at work underground as it explodes onto the earth's surface. Earthquakes can also be deadly.

At the end of June 2026, twin earthquakes devastated the South American country of Venezuela. Registering magnitude 7.2 and 7.4 and followed by multiple strong aftershocks, the immediate aftermath recorded nearly 1,500 deaths and around 70,000 missing. Sadly, the human toll looks as if it is going to be particularly heavy.

Volcanic eruptions are often triggered or accompanied by earthquakes. The latter are directly mentioned in Bible prophecy. Jesus Christ included earthquakes in His Olivet Prophecy. He prophesied of “famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places” (Matthew 24:7).

The word here translated earthquake is “seismos” in Greek and refers to disturbances of air, as in a tempest (Matthew 8:24), or of the ground. Those who live in areas which are generally free of such hazards tend to forget that the ground under the feet of many is not as solid as they would like to believe.

Regions of instability

Some parts of the world are prone to both earthquakes and volcanoes. These include Iceland on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Indonesia and the Philippines on the Pacific “Ring of Fire”, and Hawaii, where the “hot-spot” volcano Kilauea has been erupting in episodic lava fountains since 23 December 2024. Even Europe does not escape, with seismic activity off the coast of Naples (near Vesuvius) where a Roman port submerged over 2,000 years ago appears to be gradually resurfacing as magma pushes upward once more in a nearby area called Campi Flegrei. Not far away on Sicily, Mount Etna began erupting again on 26 December 2025 and activity levels continue to fluctuate.

Volcanoes can influence the weather. Atmospheric ash from Tambora in Indonesia which erupted in April 1815 was blamed for the poor summer in Europe the following year, which led to crop failures, food shortages and many deaths. The term “year without a summer” recurs throughout history, often traced to a preceding volcanic event. Some readers may remember flights across the British Isles being disrupted in 2010 when Eyjafjallajökull on Iceland erupted, producing dangerous ash clouds.

At the end of June 2026, 42 volcanoes were erupting around the world, with another 38 listed with a warning and 28 declared to be in a state of unrest. By comparison



a further 1,353 were believed to be normal or dormant. (www.volcanodiscovery.com)

End-time prophecies

Prophetic passages in the Old Testament warn mankind of phenomena in terms similar to how we would describe a volcanic event today. “You will be punished by the Lord of hosts with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame of devouring fire” (Isaiah 29:6).

Such prophecies are often associated with catastrophic events leading up to Christ’s second coming. “Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming . . . a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness” (Joel 2:1-2).

The apostle John described major events leading to the second coming of Christ in the final book of the Bible. “I looked when He [Christ] opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood... And every mountain and island was moved out of its place” (Revelation 6:12-14).

Luke 21:25 reads: “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring.”

This last phrase could be describing a tsunami, a likely effect of an earthquake or an unstable coastal volcano collapsing into the sea.

Whether or not these prophecies specifically refer to volcanoes or only to earthquakes, they are all dire warnings of disasters resulting from humanity's sins and rejection of God.

Watch and pray

One can casually dismiss these biblical prophecies as mere metaphorical word pictures without real meaning for us today. Or we can take them as true representations of literal events yet to come, remembering the sobering words of Jesus Christ in His Olivet Prophecy: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to

stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

Scripture reveals that God is in control of nature and can intervene at will in the world He created. Be it sinkholes or earthquakes (Numbers 16:28-33; Revelation 12:12-17), whirlwinds or tempests (Job 38:1; Jonah 1:1-17; Matthew 8:23-27) or even a superheated furnace (Daniel chapter 3) our safety, security and protection rest in His capable hands. Those who obey Him can rely on Him for their ultimate salvation.

To understand much more about what the Bible teaches about the prophesied events before Christ's return and the power of our great God, please read our free Bible study aids *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* and *Are We Living in the Time of the End?*

Adapted from a blog by the late John Ross Schroeder – additional material researched by Barbara Fenney

God shows no partiality

In ancient Israel no one was intended to be above the law – not even the king.

During the time of the judges, post-Exodus Israelites considered God as their King but failed to follow the laws He had given them. The book of Judges concludes: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

When the people demanded a king like the nations around them, the elders of Israel told the early prophet Samuel; "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them" (1 Samuel 8:5-8).

In verses 11-18, Samuel outlined what it would mean to the Israelites if they established a monarchy. The people would come under the yoke of a king. They would serve this potentate at his pleasure and would be taxed heavily, but the Israelites wouldn't listen, and Saul from the tribe of Benjamin became Israel's first king.

God had foreseen this development and included a contingency within His law designed to rein in any ruler who sought absolute power. Kings were required to adhere to the laws of the land and not to rule dictatorially, "that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren." A king was to rule his people justly and with humility.

The prospective king was also required to "write for himself a copy of this law in a book." This was to remind him to rule the nation of Israel justly and with equity for all – he was expected to put his copy into practice. Self-glorification may have been the norm in other nations, but was not to be so in Israel. The king was not to consider himself above the law (Deuteronomy 17:14-20).

God remains impartial

Unfortunately, being partial in judgement and discarding the laws of God gained the upper hand. Kings began to rule to the disadvantage of the people, with the prophet Isaiah pleading with his people to "seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:17). There would have been no reason for the prophet to speak out if the rulers in Israel had been complying with God's laws on how to rule a people.

The very Book that both Jews and Christians believe to be divinely inspired proclaims a clear message: "You shall not show partiality in judgement. You shall hear the small as well as the great, you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgement is God's" (Deuteronomy 1:17).

This teaching is repeated in the New Testament (Acts 10:34 and James 2:1-13). God requires all to repent and practise righteousness regardless of status or rank. In this the Bible said it first.

Gerhard Marx

Truth as a way of life

It is nearly impossible nowadays to be certain who, if anyone, is telling the truth.

Almost everyone tries to balance the risk of being caught against the perceived benefits of lying. Some businesses display amazing creativity in camouflaging deceit when they advertise their products. Almost everywhere we can spot individuals, businesses and other organisations involved in a sophisticated game of seeing how deceptive they can be without attracting lawsuits or alienating potential customers.

Lying – an accepted way of life

Our world is accurately described by Isaiah's portrayal of ancient Israel: "No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity" (Isaiah 59:4).

How did God view the Israelites' epidemic of lies? "So you shall say to them, 'This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth'" (Jeremiah 7:28). "And like their bow they have bent their tongue for lies. They are not valiant for the truth on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me," says the Lord" (Jeremiah 9:3).

As it was then, people today routinely inject deceit into their relationships – personal, social, political, religious and economic. The dearth of honesty is so widely accepted that public censure no longer even discourages lying. That demand must come from within.

Truth is a choice

Temptations to lie never cease. As a quick and effortless way to gain an advantage over others, it appears to offer an escape from embarrassment, fear and guilt. This despite the Bible revealing that: "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Proverbs 12:22).

We face a fundamental choice. We follow God's example of truthfulness and honesty in our actions and communications, or we follow the example of the originator of lying, Satan. Jesus tells us that the devil is "... a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44).

He deceived Eve, and then she talked Adam into partaking of the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1-6, 17). This act

of disobedience brought suffering and death on our first parents. The devil has relentlessly misinformed and misled people ever since. Satan's malevolent influence is so great that he "deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). It is easy for us to follow his example in our dealings with others, especially when lying is so commonly practised all around us.

Human nature is deceitful

Learning to be firmly and consistently truthful requires self-discipline and courage that can only come from God. We often find ourselves doing things that we know are wrong. So why do we do them? The prophet Jeremiah gives us the answer. "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9-10, NASB).

The apostle Paul, described the timeless human struggle against sin, citing himself as an example: "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For

The dearth of honesty is so widely accepted that public censure no longer even discourages lying. That demand must come from within.

what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do" (Romans 7:14-15).

We can relate to Paul. We have experienced the same frustration and remorse. Paul continues: "For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (verses 22-24). Paul had learned that people need help to rise above the weaknesses of human nature.

Everything in the life of a Christian is anchored to truth. God wants us, as His children, to commit ourselves to truth and reflect it in everything we do.

To study this subject further please request or download our booklets *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion* and *The Ten Commandments*.



are engaged with, but are evil spirits (demons) posing as righteous angels to gain influence in people's lives.

The apostle John recorded an encounter with an angel who pointed him toward God alone and cautioned about bowing down to or giving more credit to angels (or anyone else) than is due: "Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he [the angel] said to me, 'See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant . . . Worship God'" (Revelation 22:6-9; see also Revelation 19:10).

We are not to worship angels. We are to only worship God and should direct our prayers only to Him, as Scripture instructs. To learn more of angels and their roles, please request or download our booklet *Angels: God's Messengers and Spirit Army*.

Q Should we pray to or worship angels? Does everyone have a personal angel with whom they can interact? FAQ

A Sometimes individuals seem to want a personal angel to do their bidding. They may even look to angelic aid without ever calling upon God for help. Christians are to diligently follow the Ten Commandments, and the first is very clear: "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3).

Whilst Jesus said of those who come to Him in child-like faith, "In heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven," this does not necessarily mean one angel per person (Matthew 18: 4-6, 10). It could mean a plurality of angels to each person or to the believers collectively.

If you wish to express thanks for miracles and answered prayer that you believe God's holy angels have done for you, give thanks to God. Angels act at His command. Never seek to thank or praise the angels directly.

Angel worship has been around for a long time. Gnosticism, a philosophical-religious movement that was beginning to infiltrate the Church in the first century, falsely taught that angels are necessary intermediaries between God and each of us. The apostle Paul referred to this in Colossians 2:18: "Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels . . ."

Jesus Christ is our sole Mediator with God (1 Timothy 2:5). Yet some think they can access God via an angel. A similar issue arises among those who pray to various dead saints. Praying to saints and angels is really an adoption of the pagan methodology of approaching the spirit realm through perceived lesser deities.

Holy messengers are careful not to develop a relationship with us because we might then start to rely on them rather than on God. Those claiming to be communing with angels may find these are not God's holy angels they

Q What does the reference to a "tutor" in Galatians 3:24-25 mean? FAQ

A Galatians 3:24-25 reads: "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

In referring to "tutor" in this passage, the centre reference margin in some New King James versions of the Bible says, "In a household, the guardian responsible for the care and discipline of the children." By way of analogy, the law of God cares for and guides us toward Christ. In Romans 7:7, Paul wrote similarly that the law teaches us the difference between right and wrong, and in verse 12 he called it "holy." Through the law, we learn what sin is, that we have lived contrary to God's way of life and that we need the forgiveness Christ's sacrifice makes possible. We then need to avoid sinning again.

God promises to write His law on the hearts of true believers (Jeremiah 31:33; 2 Corinthians 3:3). This is not so we can earn our salvation but that we can become more like our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Paul explains: "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Through the indwelling power of God's Holy Spirit following baptism and the laying on of hands of the elder, we can learn to choose what is right according to God's law (1 Timothy 4:14). To study further please request or download our booklet *The Ten Commandments*. You may also be interested in our study aid *The Power of the Holy Spirit*.



Letters From Our Readers

Truth revealed

Thank you so much for exposing the truth. Every Christian should know these truths. If it wasn't for your magazine I would know nothing, so may God bless you and above all increase you in knowledge and wisdom in Him. Why is this knowledge not shared or preached by pastors in Churches around, the world? Is it fear or pure ignorance?

Reader in London

Editor's comment: There could be many reasons but only God knows an individual's heart.

Subscribers renew

Can you please continue to send your excellent message *Beyond Today*.
Reader in Horley

Just a note to thank you so much for the back copies of the magazine. I was thrilled to get them. Thank you also for renewing my subscription.

From the Internet

Concerns about hellfire

Thank you for bringing up the topic of eternal hell fire ["Eternal Hellfire: The Question That Will Not Die", *Beyond Today* magazine, March April 2026]. I was very upset recently thinking an unsaved person would remain in torture forever. Salvation is the best answer for us all if we accept Jesus – the only way.

Reader in London

Editor's comment: Our study aid Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach? also covers this topic.

Bible still relevant

The world has become a very dark place, however I believe my faith has strengthened knowing God will return one day. I would love to study your Bible Course.

Reader in Arbroath

Editor's comment: Your first lesson has been sent.

The Bible is so relevant. It is the word of God, it heals and brings comfort. It reveals prophecy. It gives instructions to combat every negative problem that we are faced with.

Reader in Tipton

Beyond Today is an amazing way of knowing God and how He loves us and wants us to follow Him at all times. Thank you.

Reader in Corsham

Bibles requested

Editor's comment: Occasionally, we receive requests for us to send a Bible to readers. Many second-hand bookshops sell these at reasonable prices. We recommend the New King James Version. Alternatively, the Blue Letter Bible app is available online and is free to download.

Our literature can be downloaded from our website at www.ucg.org or requested from the address at the bottom of the front page.

How you can help

The outreach work of the United Church of God in the British Isles, including the production of this Supplement to *Beyond Today* magazine, is carried out by a small team of part-time employees, together with the efforts of unpaid volunteers.

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Jesus Christ instructed His disciples that as they had freely received they were to freely give (Matthew

10:8), so we supply our literature free of charge, making Christ's message available to all. Our gratitude goes to those who assist financially in this aspect of the Church's work.

Donations may be sent to *Beyond Today* or United Church of God, PO Box 705, Watford WD19 6FZ, United Kingdom; or online at www.ucg.org.uk/donate.html through PayPal. Donations can also be made directly to our bank account. Please contact us for details.

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