

# ROMANS

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL



We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

**Romans 15:1–13**

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For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,

that together you may with one voice glorify  
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.



For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

and in order that the Gentiles might glorify  
God for his mercy. As it is written,  
“Therefore I will praise you among the  
Gentiles, and sing to your name.”

And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles,  
with his people."

And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him."

And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

- **Chapters 1-11**
  - **Our relationship with God**
- **Chapters 12-16**
  - **Our relationship with God being lived in relationship with other people**





We who are strong have an obligation  
to bear with the failings of the weak,  
and not to please ourselves.

**Romans 15:1–2**

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

- **Weak**: Not able to enjoy the freedoms that God allows.
- **Strong**: Able to enjoy the freedoms that God allows AND... also able to refrain from them for those who struggle.

**Obligation** = the right response for someone  
who has experienced the same in Christ.

You've been loved by God... so we love others

You've been forgiven by God... so forgive others

You've been welcomed by God... so welcome  
others

You've been served by Christ... so serve others

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

**Acts 2:42–47**

A deep sense of awe came over them all,  
and the apostles performed many  
miraculous signs and wonders.

And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.



They sold their property and possessions  
and shared the money with those in need.

They worshiped together at the Temple  
each day, met in homes for the Lord's  
Supper, and shared their meals with great  
joy and generosity—

all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

**Unity/togetherness... is mission critical and  
close to the heart of God.**

This passage isn't telling us to stand around and make notes as to what people are NOT doing for us... it's a charge for you to consider how you are walking with other believers.

We talked about how Christ-like love is a  
pillar of that transformed life...  
So is selflessness.

**Paul tells us it's about building others up:**

1. In their true identity as a Child of God
2. Within their family
3. Within the relationships
4. Within their struggles
5. Within their relationship with the risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."

**Romans 15:3–4**



For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Paul is telling us to treat each other the way  
Jesus treats us.

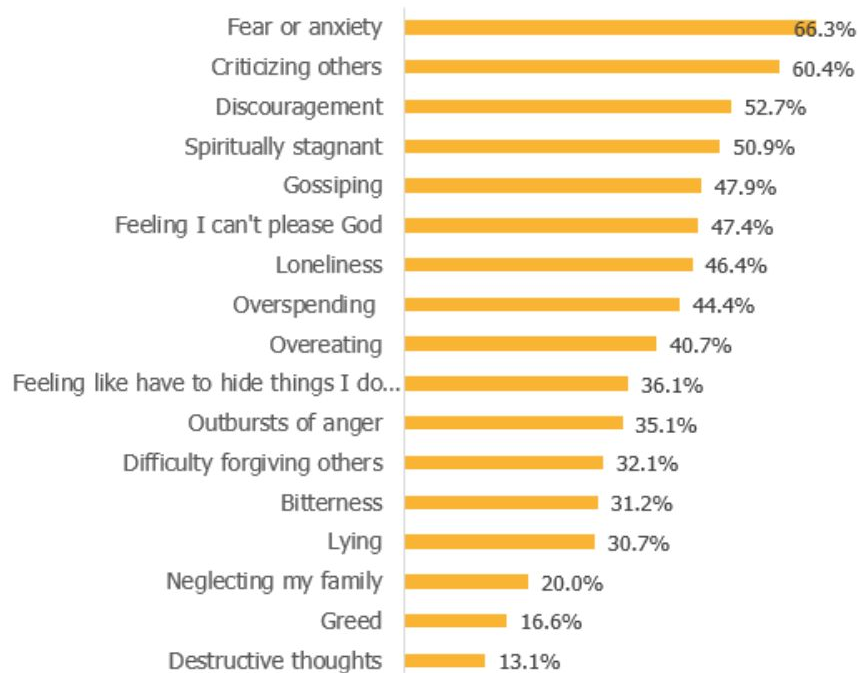
**Paul gives four incredibly valuable things that we find in  
God's word:**

1. Godly teaching/truth
2. Encouragement
3. Endurance
4. And Hope

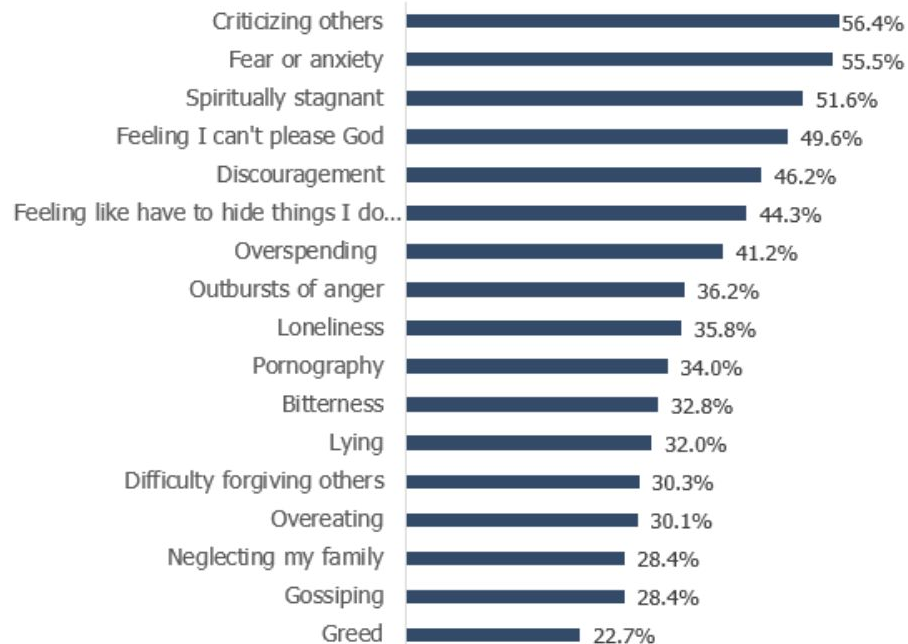
Looking at God's unfailing, perfect, and powerful faithfulness in the past should inform the way we face today and inspire hope for tomorrow.

## Struggles Among Christ-Followers Who Attend Church Monthly

### Women



### Men



Source: Center for Bible Engagement (CBE) White Paper,  
*Bible Engagement as the Key to Spiritual Growth: A Research Synthesis (2012)*

For those who spend 10-20 minutes in the Word four days a week or more (the moment it becomes the majority)... people saw significant change.



# THE POWER OF 4

Engaging in the Bible 4+ days per week is related to:



**218% to 416% increase in:**

- Sharing faith with others
- Charitable contributions
- Discipling others
- Memorizing Scripture

**PROACTIVE  
FAITH**



**14% to 60% reduction in:**

- Thinking destructively about self or others
- Thinking unkindly about others
- Feeling spiritually stagnant
- Feeling like one can't please God
- Loneliness
- Bitterness
- Difficulty forgiving self or others
- Feeling need to hide
- Discouragement
- Fear or anxiety

**FEWER  
STUGGLES**



**20% to 62% reduction in:**

- Overeating or mishandling food
- Extramarrital sex
- Pornography
- Family neglect
- Lying
- Lashing out in anger
- Drinking to excess
- Gossiping
- Overspending or mishandling money

**REDUCED RISKY  
BEHAVIORS**



There is NO substitute for the power of God's  
word in your life.

One of the reasons why the world is in the condition that it's in is because it has neglected and in some cases outright abandon the Word of God.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,

**Romans 15:5–12**

that together you may with one voice  
glorify the God and Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ.

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

and in order that the Gentiles might glorify  
God for his mercy. As it is written,  
“Therefore I will praise you among the  
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And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles,  
with his people."

And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him."

And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

For this I will praise you, O LORD,  
among the nations, and sing to  
your name.

**Psalm 18:49**

“Rejoice with him, you heavens, and let all of God’s angels worship him. Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles, and let all the angels be strengthened in him. For he will avenge the blood of his children; he will take revenge against his enemies. He will repay those who hate him and cleanse his people’s land.”

**Deuteronomy 32:43**

Praise the LORD, all you nations.  
Praise him, all you people of the  
earth.

**Psalm 117:1**

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**Isaiah 11:10**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**Romans 15:13**