

Open The Light

*For God, who commanded the light
to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 4:6

*Character Building
In A Relationship with God*

*He that believeth on me, **as the scripture hath said**, out
of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. **John 7:38***

Study 10

Getting to know God and His love for you, is what Bible study is about. Do as much as you can each day, with prayer.

Walking in God's Law

The 3rd Commandment.

Remember to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name each time you study God's word. At the start and end of your study, pray. Pray for the blessing of remembrance of His Word in a time of need and that you may meditate upon them throughout your days in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. [Exodus 20:7](#) and [Deuteronomy 5:11](#).

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain." {PP 306.5}

This commandment not only prohibits false oaths and common swearing, but it forbids us to use the name of God in a light or careless manner, without regard to its awful significance. By the thoughtless mention of God in common conversation, by appeals to Him in trivial matters, and by the frequent and (Page 307) thoughtless repetition of His name, we dishonor Him. "Holy and reverend is His name." Psalm 111:9. All should meditate upon His majesty, His purity and holiness, that the heart may be impressed with a sense of His exalted character; and His holy name should be uttered with reverence and solemnity. {PP 306.6} EGW

What does vain mean?

Vain

shawv, shav

in the sense of desolating; evil (as destructive), literally (ruin) or morally (especially guile); figuratively idolatry (as false, subjectively), uselessness (as deceptive, objectively; also adverbially in vain): - false (-ly), lie, lying, vain, vanity.

Vain

adjective

= 1, futile, useless, pointless, unsuccessful, empty, hollow, idle, trivial, worthless, trifling, senseless, unimportant, fruitless, unproductive, abortive, unprofitable, time-wasting, unavailing, nugatory

Opposites: successful, profitable, worthwhile, serious, useful, valid, worthy, fruitful

= 2, conceited, narcissistic, proud, arrogant, inflated, swaggering, stuck-up (informal), cocky, swanky (informal), ostentatious, egotistical, self-important, overweening, vainglorious, swollen-headed (informal), pleased with yourself, bigheaded (informal), peacockish

Opposites: modest, humble, meek, self-deprecating, bashful.

(References from the Strong's Concordance, Collins online Dictionary)

Most people have an understanding by using any name of holiness related to, or referring to, God or by using His name is taking God's name in vain. This also includes His Son's and Holy Spirits name, out of context, like cursing, is taking the LORD God's name in vain. This understanding is not wrong. However, there is more ways to "take the name of the LORD thy God in vain".

When we claim to be something, yet we do the opposite of what we claim, our words mean nothing, they are vain, and we deem ourselves untruthful, miss leading, we mock what we claim to be.

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This is the same when we claim to be with God. If we claim to be His child, believe in Him, and follow His ways, yet we walk not in the ways of the Lord, we are taking God's name in vain. People hear what we say and see what we do. If we are doing the opposite to what we claim to be, those people that don't know God, see, and hear us; we take the name of God in vain, we give an evil account that is not true of God. Even with those that know God, we can cause someone to stumble by our unfaithfulness in our own claims. Also, we mock God with those claims that we don't follow through with, in faithful belief. **"And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD."** Leviticus 19:12 "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. **But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts."** Malachi 2:7-8. "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. **Be not deceived; God is not mocked:** for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; **but** he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. Galatians 6:6-8. "Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same." Job 4:8.

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 1 Corinthians 15:33.

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. Ephesians 5:6-7.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22.

Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein. Hosea 14:9.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:7-10.

Look up the book of Job and read 13:1-17. Job rebukes his friend's responses regarding to what had happened to him. It is only part of what Job said to them in his response. We are looking at these words to help understand other ways we can take God's name in vain.

Now re-read the same text below and take note of the underlined words. Then answer the questions after it.

Lo, mine eye hath seen all this, mine ear hath heard and understood it. What ye know, the same do I know also: I am not inferior unto you. Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God. But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value. O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom. Hear now my reasoning, and hearken to the pleadings of my lips. Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him? Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God? Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocketh another, do ye so mock him? He will surely reprove you, if ye do secretly accept persons. Shall not his excellency make you afraid? and his dread fall upon you? Your remembrances are like unto ashes, your bodies to bodies of clay. Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what will. Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine hand? Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. **He also shall be my salvation:** for an hypocrite shall not come before him. Hear diligently my speech, and my declaration with your ears. Job 13:1-17.

Did Job and his friends know the word of God?
See verse 2 of Job13.

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Since they all knew the same, what gives us understanding in verses 4 to 9 that Job's friends were taking God's name in vain?

If ye know that he (Jesus) is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him. [1 John 2:29](#). Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he (Jesus) is righteous. [1 John 3:7](#).

When you keep God's Word and His love in your heart, mind, and soul, you revere and reverence Him. The Holy Spirit will burn within your heart, in awe, in love, in willingness to obey and honor Him.

When you don't love God and you take God's name in vain, you don't fear Him in reverence. Read verses 10 and 11 of Job13.

Read verses 13 to 17 of Job13.

Job is sure on his belief in God. But what did Job say about a hypocrite?

Read Verse 17 of Job13. Do you think we should hear diligently to God's words?

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. ... A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies. [Proverbs 14:12, 25](#).

[On the Sabbath day and in church we should follow the words of God](#), "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD." [Leviticus 19:30](#). We should not take God's name in vain by babblings and turning His church into an unholy gathering on the Sabbath day. "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." [Psalms 89:7](#).

By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and [by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil](#). When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. A man's heart deviseth his way: [but the LORD directeth his steps](#). [Proverbs 16:6-9](#).

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.** [1 John 3:2-3](#).

Remember to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name each time you study God's word. At the start and end of your study, pray.

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. [Galatians 6:6-10](#).

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Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain. Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty. Proverbs 30:8-10.

From the above verses in Proverbs, do you see that there are many ways we can “take the name of the LORD thy God in vain”?

Can you see in the following verse, that God’s name can be taken in vain if we are not living as we ought to live as God’s People? Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: 2 Corinthians 6:3.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Colossians 3:17.

Read Ezekiel 36:16-38. In this reading God’s name had been profaned by the children of Israel and for His name’s sake He did something remarkable not only for the children of Israel but also for us today that we know He is the LORD.

After reading Ezekiel 36:16-38, do you think God cares about His Holy Name and how we act and live? See verses 20-23

How should we feel once we have seen the sinfulness of our ways? See verses 31 and 32.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Romans 1:18-23.

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 2 Timothy 2:19.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21.

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O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever! [Deuteronomy 5:29](#).

Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever. [Deuteronomy 4:39-40](#).

[Read 1 John chapter 3](#) and “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God:” ... [1 John 3:1](#).

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. [Exodus 20:7](#).

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. [Deuteronomy 5:11](#).

And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good? [Deuteronomy 10:12-13](#).

[Reverence the Lord God in all that you do.](#) “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” [Psalms 46:10](#).

[Please read Psalms 100.](#)

O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing? Selah. But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call

unto him. **Stand in awe**, and sin not: **commune with your own heart upon your bed**, and **be still**. Selah. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD. There be many that say, Who will show us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety. [Psalms 4:2-8](#).

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. **Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name?** for **thou only art holy**: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. [Revelation 15: 3-4](#).

Fear

From [G5401](#); to *frighten*, that is, (passively) to **be alarmed**; by analogy to **be in awe of, that is, revere**: - be (+ sore) afraid, **fear** (exceedingly), **reverence**.

(References from the, Collins online Dictionary)

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. [Revelation 22:11](#).

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you. [Leviticus 20:7-8](#).

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. [1 Peter 1:16](#).

[Remember that on the SABBATH and in CHURCH we should do what the LORD hath said,](#) “Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.” [Leviticus 19:30](#). “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. The

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fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." **Psalms 111:9-10.** "Be still, and know that I am God:" **Psalms 46:10.**

He who has declared that His words are spirit and life, should have their faith in strong exercise that the Lord Jesus is an honored guest in their assemblies. "Where two or three are met together in My name, there am I in their midst." If He is there, it is to enlighten and bless. Therefore as we assemble together, we all have a solemn sense of the presence of God, and know that the angels of God are in the assembly. The messengers of the gospel know by experience its truth, power and excellence. It is the hours of the Sabbath that are sacred and sanctified and holy, and every true worshiper who keeps holy the Sabbath, should claim the promise, "That ye may know I am the Lord that doth sanctify you." -348- {4MR 347.2}

We should not take God's name in vain with our babblings and turning His Church into an unholy gathering. "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." **Psalms 89:7.**

The Lord will carry on this work of perfection for us if we will allow ourselves to be controlled by Him. He carries on this work for our good and His own name's glory. {4MR 348.3}

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. **Exodus 20:7.**

Dear Heavenly Father, teach me to walk in thee with Godly fear and not take your name in vain with unrighteousness. Guide me to always walk faithfully in thee, In the Name of Jesus.

*Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you that you will always remember "... whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. **Colossians 3:17.** be true like our Saviour "Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:" **Luke 24:19.** Pray for God's*

*Guidance through the day "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" **1 Peter 5:7-8.** Remember to pray for others for they need God's guidance too, Asking these things in the Name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour.*

*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. **1Timothy 1:17.***