



# The Discipleship Letters

Rev. Kevin Rähälä

1. Getting right with God: The spiritual foundation
2. The first days: "How did I get here?"
3. Is my life significant and what is my identity?
4. Is our inheritance a reflection?
5. God's glory is a reflection of his love
6. Breaking from the past
7. How to build a refuge: "Why me Lord?"

## About the author:

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**Created with the help of God's Holy Spirit, The Gospel Trail Hosts and the inspirational teachings of my friends Chaplain Bob Bliss and Pastor Bob Aspling.**

**NOTE: These letters are notes and not yet complete. They are very much a work in progress. Check back as we go through this series and these writings become polished and complete. Rough Draft - Rough Draft - Rough Draft**



## **Discipleship Letter No. 1**

### **Getting right with God: The spiritual foundation**

**After being reborn I had (and still have)** a burning desire to learn more about Jesus. After a direct encounter with the Holy Spirit I was compelled to tell others. I found a church where the people brought their Bibles, the ministers talked about Jesus, and the community worshiped in spirit and truth. I pray you have or will find such a place, because there is much resistance in some churches to Jesus finding and restoring the lost. He has asked us to imitate him in this respect until He returns.

**I was sent, more than once, to minister** to individuals in their homes, in jails, hospitals, a psychiatric ward or even intensive care. With the exception of homes, I would hold up my Bible to the slender safety glass window and they would buzz me in. Each time I witnessed the Holy Spirit at work. Each time I sensed a warming of my soul as well as those in the room. We need not fear, for He equips those He sends. Recognize those He has sent to minister with you.

**After doing this for several years** I was asked to lunch by a Lutheran minister and a Catholic priest who were chaplains at a medical center [where I worked?]. They wanted to know what I believed and where I was credentialed. At that time I did not have what they were asking for. Then they wanted to know what distinctive doctrines I embraced. I did not really know what a distinctive was but I knew it was something that separated ministers into different groups. This was confusing to me because when I went to one of the community ministerial gatherings I was not asked to come back and no one said why. However, I have a feeling it was that I shared what the Holy Spirit has done in my life. Thankfully these chaplains were not there to ask me to leave.

**My answer to the two chaplain ministers** was this. I had not carved my theological views in stone, and did not expect to (paraphrasing Charles Finney). I was sent by the man on the middle cross—Jesus—to tell people about Him. Today, twenty-five years later my answer is the same.

**Create in me a clean heart, oh God.** “We refuse to resort to cunning trickery or distorting the Word of God. Instead we present the truth in the sight and presence of God. Even if our gospel message is veiled, it is only veiled to those who are perishing, for their minds have been blinded by the god of this age” (adapted from II Corinthians 4:3 from The Passion Translation). Finney added, “Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; revive me in Your ways, so I long for Your precepts. Revive me in Your righteousness. Revive in me your loving kindness so that I may keep the instruction of Your Word. Fill me again with your Holy Spirit.” II Corinthians continues, “Let brilliant light shine out of darkness” (4:6).



**This is my prayer each day** as I rise to battle demonic powers that perpetuate the veil, blinding the lost—those who do not believe! However, this same veil covers the spiritual eyes of many people in the Church whose hearts have grown cold.

**Examine yourself and ask His Spirit to guide you.** What is the spiritual temperature of your heart? Has yours grown cold? My first exposure to cold-hearted prejudice was evident when visiting the ministerial groups and various church cultures in my area. They frequently felt reprovved and annoyed by the warmth of genuine revival.

**Prejudice or pride, a form of control**, or envy, worldliness, or other chains of satan constrain feelings and blind the human spirit, reflecting the condition of the heart. Some object to things of little or no significance, and overlook the hungry soul. “They are hungry for You, Lord. If, as a minister sent by You, Lord, I am pressured to conform and unable to minister the sacraments in certain places, how closed that door must seem to the lost! How confusing it must be to have so many different Church cultures that fight over doctrine or discount one’s personal experience with Jesus Christ.

**Many ministers and Christians** do not know how to effectively use their testimony to convert sinners. Therefore they may be incapable of discipling the soul in the way Jesus asked His followers to do. “Lord, send the lost to a place where your light is bright and the appointed gate keepers will let you in as you are. Open the doors, open the eyes, open the hearts. Let Your light shine and dispel the darkness that surrounds and restrains.”

**If the foundations are destroyed what shall the righteous do?** If the enemy can remove the rock on which the church is built (Jesus), there will be no kingdom. Where there is no kingdom there is no safety or protection. Find a church that will teach you more about Jesus, one that will grow with you. Remember your foundation is in one savior, Jesus, and him alone.

**So get right with Jesus, your spiritual foundation.** Once established, it can become a relationship that will not be shaken. “How do I keep going?” you ask? Remember the first things. Remember the first time you came to your spiritual senses and realized Jesus is the Savior of your soul. Recall the time you realized that death is not the end but the beginning. Recall that an alternative decision would mean eternal separation from your creator. The God of the universe made a way for you personally, to live with, commune with, and share desires with him. Remember these the first things you learned. He will never leave nor forsake you. Our God is an amazing God!

Have you spoken with Him today?

Rev. Kevin Räihälä

Pure Gospel Network



## Discipleship Letter No. 2

### The first days: “How did I get here?”

**Knowing that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins** is the most exciting news a person ever hears. To realize that the God of the whole universe was punished for you, is no doubt overwhelming! For the Bible says: “All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God!” (reference)

**One of the two sinners, on his own cross next to Jesus**, saw his Glory and humbly said, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom”. The other sinner challenged Jesus to save himself and both of them, to prove that he was the Messiah. Jesus immediately accepted true repentance and humility and gave the first man the assurance that he will be with him in paradise. This is an example of the decision each of us must make. The consequence is either to have eternal life in Heaven with Jesus, or spend eternity in hell with the demons.

**The Bible says that even the demons in hell believe** there is a God, yet they will not be saved. Jesus said, “Unless you repent you will also perish” (reference). “The wages of sin is death (eternal separation from God) but the gift of God is eternal life with Christ Jesus our Lord” (reference).

**Your spirit (the real you) never dies.** You were designed to live forever. But where you will go is your choice. He loves you so much that he would have died on the cross for just you. In reality, each one of us deserved to die on a cross for our own sins.

**Jesus did something unique.** He rose from the dead after three days in the tomb. Have you ever been to an open casket funeral? You know that person will not come back to life soon. But Jesus did and was seen fully alive by hundreds of witnesses. He is alive today because he overcame sin and death for us. You should meet this person!

**To start the conversation**, you might quote Romans 10: “If you confess to Jesus your sins, he will forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness” (reference). I know he actually made me a new creation. I can feel it. I was given a second chance; I had a second birth. Everything about Him and the Bible is true. I must tell you that he can change you. Non-believers are born once and die twice. Believers are born twice and die once.

**Have you made a decision about where you will spend eternity?** There were two men nailed to their crosses with Jesus. One spent eternity in Heaven and the other an eternity in Hell. Don't put it off another moment! “Today is the day of salvation” (reference). You can be set



free today. When you have made this greatest of all decisions please let us know so that we may pray with you and answer any questions you may have about what happened.

**Lesson in action.** Worship, Pray, Praise, Create a blessing journal. A blessing journal is . . .  
(brief explanation)

How did it go with you and Jesus?

Rev. Kevin Rähälä

Pure Gospel Network





### Discipleship Letter No. 3

#### Is my life significant and what is my identity?

**Both blessings and curses are passed on** to the next generation. For the righteous there is provision, mercy, blessings, justice and an inheritance.

Psalms 37 NLT

23 The Lord directs the steps of the godly.

He delights in every detail of their lives.

24 Though they stumble, they will never fall,  
for the Lord holds them by the hand.

25 Once I was young, and now I am old.

Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned  
or their children begging for bread.

26 The godly always give generous loans to others,  
and their children are a blessing.

27 Turn from evil and do good,  
and you will live in the land forever.

28 For the Lord loves justice,  
and he will never abandon the godly.

He will keep them safe forever,  
but the children of the wicked will die.

29 The godly will possess the land  
and will live there forever.

You are a child of God,,

Rev. Kevin Rähälä

Pure Gospel Network



## **Discipleship Letter No. 4**

### **Is our inheritance a reflection?**

The way I live will affect my children and the generations to come. Unfortunately the enemy (Satan) knows this too and desires to destroy our faith and inheritance in God. His desire is that the next generation not follow God. Yet God is merciful and just. He can help us withstand the fire and endure. Let us pray, and not be deceived, and then begin a self-evaluation.

Ever ask your child why he or she did something stupid? This does not make your child stupid but certainly the actions were. This is just part of growing up. Sometimes we make serious blunders because we did not stop to think or evaluate the situation. Once exposed or confronted with the truth the reaction we think, "I know better than that."

We do not stop to think, or get good counsel or we want to justify something so much that we, intentionally or not, decide to ignore the real truth, the full truth.

James tells us, "Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do" (James 1:23–25).

"The Word of the Lord is a revealer of secrets; it shows a man his life, his thoughts, his heart, his inmost self." – Charles Spurgeon

#### **1. Reflecting on God's grace**

- a. But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free. God offered him, so that by his blood[a] he should become the means by which people's sins are forgiven through their faith in him. God did this in order to demonstrate that he is righteous. In the past he was patient and overlooked people's sins; but in the present time he deals with their sins, in order to demonstrate his righteousness. In this way God shows that he himself is righteous and that he puts right everyone who believes in Jesus. (Romans 3:24-26 NLT)

#### **2. Reflecting on repentance**

- a. About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. "Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?" Jesus asked. "Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you



- c. repent of your sins and turn to God. And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too.” (Luke 13:1-5 NLT)
- 3. Reflecting on word and actions**
  - a. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Ephesians 4:14 NLT
  - b. So I said: “Woe is me, for I am [a]undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.” Isaiah 6:5 NKJV
  - c. Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool. (Proverbs 19:1 NKJV)
- 4. Reflecting on truth**
  - a. “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.” (Proverbs 12:22 NKJV)
  - b. “Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.” (Ephesians 4:25 NKJV)
  - c. “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32 NKJV)
- 5. Reflecting of “righteous” behavior**
  - a. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV)
- 6. Reflecting on being faithful**
  - a. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV)
- 7. Reflecting on being a good steward**
  - a. Self control?
  - b. Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labor increases it. (Proverbs 13:11)
  - c. The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them. (Proverbs 11:3)

Pass it on,  
Rev. Kevin Räihälä  
Pure Gospel Network



## Discipleship Letter No. 5

### God's glory is a reflection of his Love

Looking into the heavens and considering God's glory can bring you closer to and enable you to worship in a way you have never worshiped before. In worship we realize how God's glory is a reflection of his love.

The ancient Hebrew word for glory, Kavōd, reveal much about the Lord.

Kavōd is spelled kaf, beyt, vav and dalet. These are the names given to early pictograph symbols.

(Insert proper symbols here)

The word translated glory, Kavōd, is pronounced with a long o (ō).

Kough or kaf is the picture of the palm of the hand. It means to cover to open or to allow

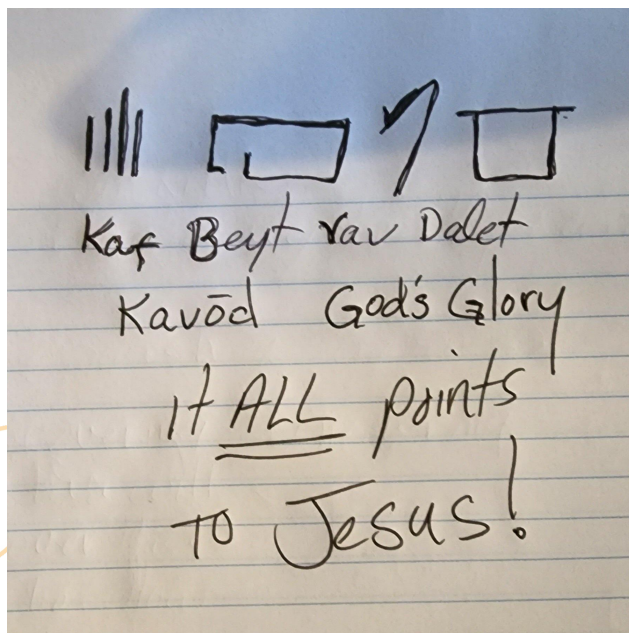
Vayet or beyt is the picture of the tent or a house, or the family. Also it is the first word in the Bible that identifies the son of God.

Vav is pictured as an iron nail or a wooden peg. It means to secure, to bind together or to connect two things separated from one another.

Dullet or dalet is a picture that indicates a doorway, an entrance to life or death, a place where change takes place.

Jesus is an expression of His Love.

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Hebrews 1:3 NKJV





Two separate Mysteries can be found in the letters.

The first mystery involves covering the other in uncovering the hand.

Jehovah will cover those in the family that have chosen to follow him in order to secure their pathway to life.

For example, in Exodus chapter 33, Moses inquires of Jehovah and in verse 18 he stated, "I beg you to show me your Glory." The glory of Jehovah here is Kavod.

The response from God was, "No one can see my face and live." And the Lord said, "Take note that there is a place by me and you will stand on a rock and my glory will pass by. I will put you in the ridge of The Rock and I will cover you with my hand while I pass by and I will take away my hand and you will see my back side. but you will not see my face.

The weight or the immensity of the kavod—the glory of the face of God—is death to sinful man. So he covers Moses with the Kough or hand to protect him and provide a path to life.

The second mystery to be discovered in the word Kough, Vayet, Vav, Dullet. The letters of Kavod reveal an uncovering, allowing us into the family of the son of God who hung by iron nails, which was a doorway to death for him. But it was a door of life for us.

The numbers these letters represent also reveal another level of spiritual reality.

Kough is the number 20 and means redemption.

Vayet is the number two and stands for God. This refers to the son or the Living Word.

Vav is the number six and describes man's state or enmity (spiritual separation) from God

Dullet is the number four and refers to God's creative works or to creation.

In the Kavod of God there will be redemption for fallen humanity and the creation cursed by human sin. It will happen through the Son of God dying on the cross. His name is Yeshua hamashiach, or Jesus the Christ.

Another example is found at the dedication of Solomon's Temple. "Now, when Solomon had made an end of praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering as well as the sacrifices, and then the glory of the Lord filled the house" (2 Chronicles 7:1). KJV



Again, the word Glory here is Kavod.

An interesting event takes place in the lives of the disciples of Yeshua (Jesus). After Yeshua returned to his father, the disciples are praying, then suddenly there came a sound from heaven of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared tongues like fire that sat upon each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4). This day marked the beginning of God's glory—the Church—on the earth.

The Apostle Paul explains this in his first letter to the Corinthians 6:19.

"What, don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which you have from God and you are not your own. This is by the presence of the holy spirit that kavod of God. Now dwells in the bodies of those who have put their faith and trust in his son, the son who uncovered the pathway to life when he was secured to the Cross."

Psalms 29 states to give to the Lord the glory due to his name:

Give unto the Lord, O you mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength.

2 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thunders: The Lord is upon many waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; yes, the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

6 He makes them skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.

7 The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire.

8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds calve, and discovers the forests: and in his temple everyone speaks of his glory.

10 The Lord sits upon the flood; yea, the Lord sits as king forever.



11 The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

Let your prayer be, Father God, Please show me your glory.”

Rev. Kevin Rähälä

Pure Gospel Network





## **Discipleship Letter No. 6**

### **Breaking From the Past**

"Breaking From the Past" is not so much looking for what caused curses as some may think, but focusing on what Jesus has done and is doing in our lives.

Pray for forgiveness first (Matthew 6:12-15 NLT)

12 and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. 13 And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. 14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

I counted forgiveness Seven times. If I say the Lord's prayer seven times am I forgiven?

2 Corinthians 2

10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

We forgive but in some cases wisdom says not to put ourselves in a place or position to commit the sin. This is one of the changes towards a healthy lifestyle.

Romans 6:11 (NKJV)

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reckon to establish by calculation to consider or regard in a specified way to be of the opinion to accept something as certain : place reliance on His Word..

With these scripture in mind let's take a close look at the Lord's prayer. It speaks to the topic of today "Breaking with the Past". Do we just say the words or do we live them? Let's ask the Holy Spirit to put life and revelation into these words. Jesus knew there would be struggles in our lives so He said when we meet with Him to discuss things. Here is a format that might help.



Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)

9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, trespasses, sins

As we forgive those who debtors, trespass, sin against us.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one. (who sends those temptations and distractions into our lives)

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

If His spirit helps us with those ungodly "temptations" and through Him we are "delivered" from and no more letting sin reign in our mortal bodies where lust has been our slave master. If the Son (Jesus) shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

"Breaking with the Past"

Jesus and Abraham (John 8:31-36 NLT)

31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

33 "But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?"

34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. 35 A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

Take out the garbage. We don't have to live with it.

Let my people go,  
Rev. Kevin Rähälä  
Pure Gospel Network



## **Discipleship Letter No. 7**

### **How To Build a Refuge**

This would include but not be limited to:

- A. How to build a refuge
  - a. Trust and Obey
  - b. He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."  
Luke 11:28
  - c. A shelter in the storm
  - d. Refuge is relationships
- B. Find a group of believers to fellowship with
  - a. Jesus is the ultimate Refuge however, sometimes we need to shelter the storms with friends.
- C. Find or make a place to worship
  - a.
- D. Create some boundaries in your life
  - a.
- E. set aside a specific time each day to meet with God
  - a.
- F. While you are waiting on the Lord, read Psalms and Proverbs
  - a. You will hear from God
  - b. You will gain wisdom
  - c. You will be blessed



**Liz and I call it Prayer, Praise & Prophecy.** When we get together on a prayer night she skillfully plays music while I pick verses from the Bible to speak, she may put those words to the music she hears. This combination starts as Prayer and Praise and ends in a reply from heaven. Listen to what the Spirit has to say which is prophecy.

And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “*See that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**” Revelation 19:10 NKJV

### Blessings & Wisdom for your journey

Day	Theme	Passages
1	Blessings	Psalm 67, 72, 84, 128
	Wisdom	Proverbs 1
2	Calling to God	Psalm 4, 5, 22
	Wisdom	Proverbs 2
3	Confidence	Psalm 27, 36, 71, 125
	Wisdom	Proverbs 3
4	Deeds of God	Psalm 9, 18, 118
	Wisdom	Proverbs 4
5	Doubt	Psalm 42, 73, 77
	Wisdom	Proverbs 5
6	Faithfulness of God	Psalm 105, 119: 137–144, 146
	Wisdom	Proverbs 6
7	Fear	Psalm 37, 49, 91
	Wisdom	Proverbs 7
8	Glory of God	Psalm 19, 24, 29
	Wisdom	Proverbs 8
9	God Is a Helper	Psalm 54, 115, 119:169–176
	Wisdom	Proverbs 9
10	Identity	Psalm 8, 139
	Wisdom	Proverbs 10



Day	Theme	Passages
11	Justice of God	Psalm 7, 26, 82
	Wisdom	Proverbs 11
12	Meditation	Psalm 119:9–16, 41–48
	Wisdom	Proverbs 12
13	Mercy	Psalm 13, 28, 86
	Wisdom	Proverbs 13
14	Music	Psalm 6, 149, 150
	Wisdom	Proverbs 14
15	Nature	Psalm 50, 104, 147, 148
	Wisdom	Proverbs 15
16	Peace	Psalm 23, 133, 119:161–168
	Wisdom	Proverbs 16
17	Power of God	Psalm 68, 93, 135
	Wisdom	Proverbs 17
18	Praise	Psalm, 65, 98, 138
	Wisdom	Proverbs 18
19	Prayer	Psalm 17, 20, 102
	Wisdom	Proverbs 19
20	Protection	Psalm 59, 62, 124
	Wisdom	Proverbs 20
21	Safety in God	Psalm 11, 16, 142, 46
	Wisdom	Proverbs 21
22	Rejoicing	Psalm 30, 47, 97
	Wisdom	Proverbs 22
23	Righteousness	Psalm 1, 15, 112
	Wisdom	Proverbs 23
24	Salvation	Psalm 3, 14, 121
	Wisdom	Proverbs 24
25	Repentance	Psalm 25, 32, 38, 51
	Wisdom	Proverbs 25
26	Thanksgiving	Psalm 75, 106, 136
	Wisdom	Proverbs 26



Day	Theme	Passages
27	Trust	Psalms 31, 40, 56
	Wisdom	Proverbs 27
28	Victory	Psalms 21, 76, 144
	Wisdom	Proverbs 28
29	Wisdom	Psalms 90, 107, 111
	Wisdom	Proverbs 29
30	Worship	Psalms 33, 34, 145
	Wisdom	Proverbs 30-31

Until we meet again blessings to you and the church that meets at your house,

Rev. Kevin Rähälä  
Pure Gospel Network

