

TAPESTRY



FAITH & FORGIVENESS

ADRIAN ROGERS

TAPESTRY: FAITH & FORGIVENESS

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If there was ever a time
for an earth-shaking, mountain-moving,
devil-defying, sin-destroying, revival-bringing
faith,
this is the time, this is the age, this is the hour.
And not only do we need to **possess a faith...**
we need to have **a faith**
that possesses us.

—ADRIAN ROGERS



WHY “TAPESTRY”?

“The Bible is like a garment. You pull a thread here, and it wrinkles way over there. It’s all tied together.”

—ADRIAN ROGERS

The inspiration for *Tapestry* came in part from Dr. Rogers’ own words about the unity of the Bible. Add to that what he taught about the Bible being the infallible, inspired, life-giving, life-changing Word of God. What you have is a focus on the importance of taking in His Word each day and drawing from it the things we need to live victoriously, grow closer to Jesus and learn to share His love with those around us. Indeed, God’s marvelous Word must become part of the very fabric of our being if we want these things to be true in our lives.

Pastor Rogers had a unique way of helping us take hold of the Bible’s truths and incorporate them into our lives. Featured in the front of *The Adrian Rogers Legacy Bible* is his simple yet effective outline for how to assimilate the Word of God. While researching materials to include in that special publication, we were re-energized as we examined so many powerful, biblical messages collected from a lifetime of serving the Lord. But there was so much more material we wished we could include!

Tapestry is the answer to that desire. Through what will become a series of devotional journals, we hope to present a more substantial portion of Dr. Rogers’ work, from which you can glean biblical truth to enrich your life. The format for these journals will utilize Dr. Rogers’ 5-step process for examining God’s Word.

WHY 5 STEPS?

We feel this wonderfully simple process Pastor Rogers shared is an ingenious way to get the most out of your time spent in God's Word! The principles are basic and memorable, and so effective for helping God's truths to become embedded in your heart and life.

Here's the basic outline for this powerful approach to studying God's Word:

When you get ready to read the Word of God, first **pray over it**. Ask God to teach you. Say, "Dear God, open my eyes. Move my heart. Give me understanding as I read Your Word."

Then **ponder it**. When looking at a passage, ask these six questions:

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a lesson to learn?
3. Is there a blessing to enjoy?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a sin to avoid?
6. Is there a new thought to carry with me?

Put it in writing. Have a pen and paper ready to write down the things God is showing you. Expect God to reveal essential truth to you and be ready to record it!

When God teaches you a truth, it is vitally important that you **practice it**. Be quick to obey what you are shown and find ways to implement that truth in your daily life.

Next, **proclaim it**. God doesn't just give you knowledge for your own edification, but to share with others. The more of the Bible you give away, the more it sticks to you!



We've taken these steps and incorporated them into the devotional studies you'll find beautifully presented within this journal.

HOW TO USE TAPESTRY

Each day of study in *Tapestry: Faith & Forgiveness* follows the helpful 5-step format for taking the Word of God into your life.

PRAY OVER IT

Before you begin each study, you'll be reminded to pause for a brief **prayer** asking for God's

Focus my heart and mind on what You want to reveal to me, Lord.

For I say, **through the grace given to me**, to everyone who is among

cleansing and for the ability to receive what He wants to teach you. You can use your own words; this is just a starting point to help you consecrate this time to Him.

For I say, **through the grace given to me**, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to **think soberly**, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

ROMANS 12:3

With a renewed mind, there are several ways we may think of ourselves. This verse gives us the dimensions of a healthy self-image. First we see that it's not wrong to think highly of ourselves... just

PONDER IT

Next is the featured Scripture with some words in bold to emphasize portions of the

verses which will be highlighted in that particular study. As you meditate on God's Word and read Dr. Rogers' insights, keep those six "Is there a..." questions in mind to help you **ponder** what message is there for you.

PUT IT IN WRITING

Now, get ready to **put into writing** what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you, personally! The first question on the facing page will always prompt you to record what you've discovered as you've pondered the Scripture and lesson, applying the six "Is there a..." questions.

PRACTICE IT

In the next space provided for writing, you'll be prompted to record ways you can incorporate the truths you've just been shown into your own life and begin to **practice** them. This is a great way to hold yourself accountable for

acting upon what God has revealed to you, purposing that you will respond with obedience to the truth you've received.

PROCLAIM IT

Lastly, you can contemplate ways to share the new knowledge God has given you. Anticipate how you can **proclaim** His truth to friends, co-workers, family members, loved ones—whomever God brings across your path!

We truly believe applying this simple yet powerful method to your Bible study times will make God's Word come alive in your heart and life!

What lessons did you find here today about genuine humility and the value of a proper self-image?

Do you ever find yourself wavering toward either false pride or false humility? What are some specific things you can do to avoid these faulty ways of thinking and think in a "sober" (mind-saving) way?

ABBREVIATIONS FOR THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE USED IN TAPESTRY: FAITH & FORGIVENESS

OLD TESTAMENT

Gen.	Genesis	Ecc.	Ecclesiastes
Exo.	Exodus	SOS	Song of Solomon
Lev.	Leviticus	Isa.	Isaiah
Num.	Numbers	Jer.	Jeremiah
Deu.	Deuteronomy	Lam.	Lamentations
Jos.	Joshua	Eze.	Ezekiel
Jdg.	Judges	Dan.	Daniel
Ruth	Ruth	Hos.	Hosea
1 Sam.	1 Samuel	Joel	Joel
2 Sam.	2 Samuel	Amos	Amos
1 Kng.	1 Kings	Oba.	Obadiah
2 Kng.	2 Kings	Jon.	Jonah
1 Chr.	1 Chronicles	Mic.	Micah
2 Chr.	2 Chronicles	Nah.	Nahum
Ezra	Ezra	Hab.	Habakkuk
Neh.	Nehemiah	Zep.	Zephaniah
Est.	Esther	Hag.	Haggai
Job	Job	Zec.	Zechariah
Psa.	Psalms	Mal.	Malachi
Pro.	Proverbs		

NEW TESTAMENT

Mat.	Matthew	1 Tim.	1 Timothy
Mark	Mark	2 Tim.	2 Timothy
Luke	Luke	Tts.	Titus
John	John	Phm.	Philemon
Acts	Acts	Heb.	Hebrews
Rom.	Romans	Jam.	James
1 Cor.	1 Corinthians	1 Ptr.	1 Peter
2 Cor.	2 Corinthians	2 Ptr.	2 Peter
Gal.	Galatians	1 John	1 John
Eph.	Ephesians	2 John	2 John
Php.	Philippians	3 John	3 John
Col.	Colossians	Jude	Jude
1 Ths.	1 Thessalonians	Rev.	Revelation
2 Ths.	2 Thessalonians		

WHY FAITH & FORGIVENESS?

Your faith is the measure of your victory, your success—all of the things that grace provides come to us by faith. So it is very, very, very, very important that you learn what faith is.

—ADRIAN ROGERS

Through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, we can lay hold of all the riches God's grace affords! (Eph. 2:4-9) Forgiveness is the greatest gift of grace because it removes that which separates us from God: our sin. When we come to Him in repentance and faith, and total cleansing is ours, we are free to live like forgiven saints.

This means we are empowered—and expected—to live the Christian life not by trying, but by trusting. Faith is not only how we receive salvation, it is how we walk, day by day, in grace. It's what allows us to enjoy fellowship with God and follow His plan for our lives unhindered by guilt, bitterness or uncertainty. Faith enables us to rest in God's promises in difficult times and look to a better future, confident of His ultimate purposes. Only by faith can we extend forgiveness to others, share God's truth, and leave a godly legacy.

These are just some of the essential truths Pastor Rogers sought to convey as he emphasized throughout his ministry the importance of learning to live by faith. He taught us that, *"The Word of God is translated into faith in our lives when we hear it, believe it, and act upon it."* And that's exactly what these studies are designed to help you do.

By exploring the "Foundations for Our Faith" in Romans, examining the "Champions of Faith" in Hebrews, and delving into many other Bible passages, Dr. Rogers presented invaluable insights on how to live by faith. We pray the selections we've provided here will help you learn about a way of life that lets you get to know your Savior intimately, teaches you to rely upon His specific promises and purposes for you, and prepares you to one day meet Him face to face! As the tapestry of your life unfolds, may you begin to see the wonders of living each day, moment by moment, a life of faith and forgiveness.

Show me, Lord, how to live each day like I've been forgiven.

But to him who...**believes on Him** Who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is accounted for righteousness**, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are **forgiven...to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.**"

ROMANS 4:5-8A

God has never imputed sin to one of His children...and He never will. Some people say, "If you sin after you get saved, won't you lose your salvation?" What do they mean, *if*? There's not one person who hasn't sinned after being saved. None of us should trust the best fifteen minutes we've ever lived to get us to heaven! Especially when we understand the Bible's definition of sin: "...whatever is not from faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23) and "Therefore to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (Jam. 4:17).

Every day, every one of us would have to admit we've failed in some way. But put this down big, plain and straight: if you've repented of your sin and trusted Jesus Christ to save you, you are righteous in God's sight and you are a saint of God! (2 Cor. 5:21) It's imperative to understand that—because until you see who you are, you're not going to live up to your title. Your behavior comes from your concept of who you are. And when you truly see that you're the righteousness of God in Christ, then you'll begin to behave that way.

You should take God's Word and get an accurate perspective of yourself: recognize your righteousness. And realize that your righteousness does not relate to your works at all. It relates to your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of sin, you're imputed righteousness. God puts it on your account and it comes to you through what Jesus did on the cross—it is grace all the way! By grace through faith you have become the righteousness of God. (Eph. 2:8-9) So *when* you fail, do confess your sin. But also remember to profess your righteousness. Learn to live every day like you've been forgiven and sainted...because you have!

What new thoughts did you find here about sin, righteousness and who you are in Christ?

Do you ever let your failures keep you from seeing yourself as God sees you? How can these truths help you to avoid such misconceptions?

How could recognizing your righteousness help you when sharing God's truth with others?

Thank You, Lord, for blessings passed on through faithful living!

*Behold, **thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD...may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Yes, **may you see your children's children.** Peace be upon Israel!***

PSALM 128:4-6

This psalm speaks of the lasting impact a person of faith can have—even leaving as part of their legacy a healthy nation. But perhaps even sweeter is the thought of a personal heritage. The delightful idea conveyed here is of children living in peace because of the legacy of a godly granddaddy.

Singer-songwriter Bill Gaither has a family story that illustrates this beautifully. As newly married school teachers in a small town, he and Gloria didn't have much money, but saved up hoping to buy a bit of land and build a house. They found the perfect spot, but it belonged to a retired banker known for holding onto his property. Though they took their young daughter and went to this man as a nice little family, he had no intention of selling. Until he took note of Bill's name and asked, "Was your granddad Grover Gaither?" When Bill affirmed he was, the old banker said: "He used to work for me. I've never seen a harder working, more faithful man. Son, you came from good stock. Let me think on it. Come back later."

The old man not only sold them the land, he gave them an incredible deal! The Gaithers built there and began planting trees, each year adding more. One day, Bill and his grown son were walking on the property, taking in its beauty. His son asked, "Dad, how did we ever get such a nice place?" Bill had the joy of telling him, "Son, it's because my granddad, your great-granddaddy, was a good and faithful man that we're walking out here today."

You too can leave a legacy, no matter what kind of home you came from. You can say, "By the grace of God, I'm going to be a godly parent and see my children's children loving, serving and praising the Lord!" How we need God-fearing, hard-working fathers and mothers—people of faith who will love each other and lovingly lead their children.

What did you find in Psalm 128 that might be a blessing for you to claim regarding your own family or your personal legacy?

Whether or not you are a parent, you can have a lasting impact on those around you. What could you be doing each day to enrich the legacy you'll leave?

The greatest thing you can pass on to someone else is a faithful testimony of Jesus Christ. Think specifically of a person you could share with today and how you can tell them what He's done in your life.

Thank You, Lord, for continual cleansing!

If we **confess** our sins, **He is faithful** and just **to forgive us** our sins and to **cleanse us** from **all** unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

God knows that when we're saved we don't become sinless—and He made provision for that reality! In the Greek this word *cleanse* means "continues to cleanse" or "continually cleanses." We know from observation, from what the Bible teaches and from personal experience that Christians can sin. Most of us probably sin far more than we even realize every day.

And sin in the life of a Christian causes suffering and great loss, which is why the Holy Spirit will convict you of sin so you can confess it, be made clean again and enjoy fellowship with God. Now the devil will try to drive a wedge of guilt between you and God by accusing you of sins that have already been forgiven and forgotten. (Heb. 8:12) But the Holy Spirit will never bring up sin that has already been dealt with. He only convicts legitimately and specifically in order to lead you to confession and forgiveness, joy and happiness.

When the Spirit speaks to your heart, pointing out things you did or failed to do, just bring those things to the Lord and He will cleanse you. But you must do more than admit your sin...you must confess it, which means agreeing with God about that sin. You view that sin as God views it—a wrong and hurtful thing which needs to be purged from your life—and take sides with Him against it.

This word *confess* is in the present tense. That means confession is to be our continual habit. We should just go through life, day by day, and the minute we're aware of any sin in our lives, confess it completely. Name your sins one by one as the Spirit convicts you and do so confidently. You don't have to beg or plead. Jesus died for you. And you can trust God will be faithful to His Word, continually forgiving any and **all** sins you confess, wiping the slate clean and leaving nothing but His righteousness in you!