



Church Family

A MESSAGE SERIES

Rehoboth
CHURCH FAMILY

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Dear Rehoboth Family,

I love this Church Family!

One of the most wonderful blessings of my life is to be part of this amazing, generous, loving, devoted Church Family. You are a beautiful body of Christ.

I am most grateful that this grand church understands that we are not an educational institution. We are not a religious organization. We are not a social organization. We are a Church Family! The gospel of Jesus Christ through the Spirit of God is our bond with one another, and the Bible is our guide for faith and life.

This series, Church Family, will help us see God's design that we live out the gospel in covenant relationship with one another as a Church Family.

*Your Pastor,
Troy Bush*

"Christians in community must again show the world, not merely family values, but the bond of the love of Christ." - Edmund Clowne

REHOBOTH CHURCH
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Covenant of the Church and Membership

COVENANT OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we do now enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of RBC in biblical knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of RBC, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel to all the peoples of the world.

We engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagement and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all gossip, tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the abuse of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; and to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and forgiveness through the practice of biblical discipline.



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“The church is not the way to heaven; the church is the sign that points to heaven.” —Adrian Rogers

COVENANT OF THE CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS

It shall be the duty of the members, insofar as each is able, to attend RBC's regular worship services; to participate in a Bible Fellowship group of the church; to cultivate personal holiness; to practice family devotion; to sustain the public ordinances of the Gospel; to contribute to the needful expenditures of RBC; to spread the Gospel to all peoples; to relieve the poor; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to strive for the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge and holiness; and to govern their actions, conversation and hearts by the precepts of God's Word.

Prayer: A Disciple's Renewal

O MY SAVIOUR,

Help me.

I am so slow to learn,
so prone to forget,
so weak to climb;

I am in the foothills when I should be
on the heights;

I am pained by my graceless heart,
my prayerless days,
my poverty of love,
my sloth in the heavenly race,
my sullied conscience,
my wasted hours,
my unspent opportunities.

I am blind while light shines around me:
take the scales from my eyes,
grind to dust the evil heart of unbelief.

Make it my chiefest joy to study thee,
meditate on thee,
gaze on thee,
sit like Mary at thy feet,
lean like John on thy breast,
appeal like Peter to thy love,
count like Paul all things dung.

Give me increase and progress in grace

so that there may be
more decision in my character,
more vigour in my purposes,
more elevation in my life,
more fervour in my devotion,
more constancy in my zeal.

As I have a position in the world,
keep me from making the world my position;

May I never seek in the creature
what can be found only in the Creator;

Let not faith cease from seeking thee
until it vanishes into sight.

Ride forth in me, thou King of kings

and Lord of lords,
that I may live victoriously,
and in victory attain my end.

From The Valley of Vision

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***"In our manner of speech, our plans of living,
our dealings with others, our conduct and
walk in the church and out of it—all should
be done as becomes the gospel (Phil. 1:27)."***

—Albert Barnes
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Prayer: Worship

GLORIOUS GOD,

It is the flame of my life to worship thee,
 the crown and glory of my soul to adore thee,
 heavenly pleasure to approach thee.
 Give me power by thy Spirit to help me
 worship now,
 that I may forget the world,
 be brought into fullness of life,
 be refreshed, comforted, blessed.
 Give me knowledge of thy goodness
 that I might not be over-awed by thy greatness;
 Give me Jesus, Son of Man, Son of God,
 that I might not be terrified,
 but be drawn near with filial love,
 with holy boldness;
 He is my Mediator, Brother, Interpreter,
 Branch, Daysman, Lamb;
 him I glorify,
 in him I am set on high.
 Crowns to give I have none,
 but what thou hast given I return,
 content to feel that everything is mine
 when it is thine,
 and the more fully mine when I have yielded it to thee.

Let me live wholly to my Saviour,
 free from distractions,
 from carking care,
 from hindrances to the pursuit
 of the narrow way.
 I am pardoned through the blood of Jesus —
 give me a new sense of it,
 continue to pardon me by it,
 may I come every day to the fountain,
 and every day be washed anew,
 that I may worship thee always
 in spirit and truth.

From The Valley of Vision

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***“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice
 can be too great for me to make for Him.” —C.T. Studd***

Church Family Responsibilities: Praying for Your Church Family

WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE REHOBOTH CHURCH FAMILY

1. That we would have unity amid diversity—loving those with whom we have nothing in common but the gospel.
2. That a culture of discipling would form in which making disciples is viewed as an ordinary part of the Christian life.
3. That faithful pastors would use Scripture to train members to do the work of ministry.
4. That a hunger for studying the gospel would form among members so that they can guide and guard one another in it.
5. That transparent, meaningful relationships would become normal and remaining anonymous strange.
6. The preaching of God's Word—that it would be biblically careful and Holy Spirit imbued.
7. That pastors would remain above reproach, kept from temptation, complacency, idols, and worldliness.
8. That the church's songs would teach members to biblically confess, lament, and praise.
9. That the church's prayers would be infused with biblical ambitions, honesty, and humility.
10. That adult members would work to disciple teenagers and not just leave it to programming.
11. That the church's primary teachers grow in dedication to God's Word even when no one's watching.
12. That the church would grow in being distinct from the world in love and holiness, even as it engages outsiders.
13. That members would share the gospel this week—and see more conversions!

“The carnal person fears man, not God. The strong Christian fears God, not man. The weak Christian fears man too much, and God too little.” —John Flavel

14. That members would be prepared for persecution, remembering to love, not curse, their persecutors.
15. That hopes for political change would be outstretched by the hope of heaven.
16. That giving would be faithful, as well as joyful, consistent, and sacrificial.
17. That more members would use their careers to take the gospel to places it's never been.
18. That members would be good and do good in their workplaces this week.

18 Things to Pray for Your Church, Jonathan Leeman
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/18-things-to-pray-for-your-church/>

“What the soul is to the body of man, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ: which the Church is. What the soul does in all the members of one body, this the Holy Spirit does throughout the Church. . . .” —St. Augustine

Church Family Responsibilities: Praying for Your Pastors

Father,

Please protect my pastors from the attacks of Satan. Give them the strength to endure temptation and stand firm against the accusations Satan loves to whisper in their ear. Help them stand firm in your service, always fighting for the faith and for your people.

Protect my pastors from the deceitfulness of sin that we all are so prone to. Guard them from sin. Keep their conscience tender and fresh. Keep them close to you and close to your word.

Encourage my pastors by the power of your Spirit. Let their souls be refreshed with the love of Christ. Let them have faith for the future. Help them to keep pressing forward even when the way is littered with landmines. Let them be refreshed by the fact that your grace is sufficient for them.

Give my pastors your wisdom. Help them know the way to go even when the way is not clear. Give them discernment to know good from evil, even when evil is dressed as good. Help them apply your word to even the most confusing situations.

Help them hold fast to Scripture, even when everyone else tells them to let go. Help them stand on your word and only your word. Protect them from the temptation to abandon the precious truths laid out in Scripture.

Help them hold fast to Scripture, even when everyone else tells them to let go. Help them stand on your word and only your word. Protect them from the temptation to abandon the precious truths laid out in Scripture.

Lead my pastors and their wives to walk in a righteous and healthy marriage. Strengthen the bonds between them and their wives. Encourage them both in ministry. Give both of them wisdom to manage their family and to keep you at the center, not ministry. I also pray for their children, that they would know you and follow Jesus.

Give my pastors true, deep, sustaining friendships. Give them friends that stick closer than brothers, brothers that uphold them when they are weary and help carry their burdens.

*Adapted from 8 Prayers You Should DESPERATELY
Pray for Your Pastor, Stephen Altrogge,
<https://theblazingcenter.com/2017/03/pray-for-your-pastor.html>*

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“But you are blessed, who by faith are in the Church, dwell upon the foundations of the faith, and have full satisfaction, even the highest degree of faith which remains among you unshaken. For it has come down to you from apostolic tradition, and frequently accursed envy has wished to unsettle it, but has not been able.”
— Athanasius

Church Family Responsibilities: “One Another” Instructions

1. “...be at peace with each other.” (Mark 9:50)
2. “...wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14)
3. “...love one another...” (John 13:34)
4. “...love one another...” (John 13:34)
5. “...love one another...” (John 13:35)
6. “...love one another...” (John 15:12)
7. “...love one another” (John 15:17)
8. “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love...” (Romans 12:10)
9. “...honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)
10. “Live in harmony with one another...” (Romans 12:16)
11. “...love one another...” (Romans 13:8)
12. “...stop passing judgment on one another.” (Romans 14:13)
13. “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you...” (Romans 15:7)
14. “...instruct one another.” (Romans 15:14)
15. “Greet one another with a holy kiss...” (Romans 16:16)
16. “...when you come together to eat, wait for each other.” (I Cor. 11:33)
17. “...have equal concern for each other.” (I Corinthians 12:25)
18. “...greet one another with a holy kiss.” (I Corinthians 16:20)
19. “Greet one another with a holy kiss.” (II Corinthians 13:12)
20. “...serve one another in love.” (Galatians 5:13)
21. “If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other.” (Galatians 5:15)
22. “Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.” (Galatians 5:26)
23. “Carry each other’s burdens...” (Galatians 6:2)
24. “...be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2)
25. “Be kind and compassionate to one another...” (Ephesians 4:32)
26. “...Forgiving each other...” (Ephesians 4:32)
27. “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.” (Ephesians 5:19)
28. “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)
29. “...in humility consider others better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)
30. “Do not lie to each other...” (Colossians 3:9)

31. “Bear with each other...” (Colossians 3:13)
32. “...forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.” (Colossians 3:13)
33. “Teach...[one another]” (Colossians 3:16)
34. “...admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
35. “...make your love increase and overflow for each other.” (I Thessalonians 3:12)
36. “...love each other.” (I Thessalonians 4:9)
37. “...encourage each other...” (I Thessalonians 4:18)
38. “...encourage each other...” (I Thessalonians 5:11)
39. “...build each other up...” (I Thessalonians 5:11)
40. “Encourage one another daily...” (Hebrews 3:13)
41. “...spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24)
42. “...encourage one another.” (Hebrews 10:25)
43. “...do not slander one another.” (James 4:11)
44. “Don’t grumble against each other...” (James 5:9)
45. “Confess your sins to each other...” (James 5:16)
46. “...pray for each other.” (James 5:16)
47. “...love one another deeply, from the heart.” (I Peter 3:8)
48. “...live in harmony with one another...” (I Peter 3:8)
49. “...love each other deeply...” (I Peter 4:8)
50. “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (I Peter 4:9)
51. “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...” (I Peter 4:10)
52. “...clothe yourselves with humility toward one another...” (I Peter 5:5)
53. “Greet one another with a kiss of love.” (I Peter 5:14)
54. “...love one another.” (I John 3:11)
55. “...love one another.” (I John 3:23)
56. “...love one another.” (I John 4:7)
57. “...love one another.” (I John 4:11)
58. “...love one another.” (I John 4:12)
59. “...love one another.” (II John 5)

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“The church which is not a missionary church will be a missing church when Jesus comes.” — F.B. Meyer

Church Family Responsibilities: Spiritual Restoration

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“We are members of the world and of the church, and must labour to do good to many; and therefore we have greater work to do on earth, than merely securing our own salvation. We are intrusted with our Master’s talents for his service, to do our best in our places, to propagate his truth and grace, to edify his church, honour his cause, and promote the salvation of as many souls as we can. All this is to be done on earth, if we would secure the end of all in heaven.”

— Richard Baxter

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Matthew 18:15-20

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Matthew 5:23-25

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.

Galatians 6:1

1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Hebrews 10:23-25

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

James 5:19-20

19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Church Family Responsibilities: Relating to Pastors

Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Galatians 6:6-7 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Ephesians 4:11-14 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Philippians 3:17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

1 Thessalonians 5:25 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, pray for us.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.

1 Timothy 5:17-20 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Church Family Responsibilities: Instructions to Pastors

Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Acts 20:28-31 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

Romans 1:9-10 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 6:3-5 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

2 Timothy 2:2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 4:5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Church Family Responsibilities: Qualifications of Pastors & Deacons

PASTORS

1 Timothy 3:1-7 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5-11 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.

DEACONS

1 Timothy 3:8-13 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

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"It is within the power of all, in every church, who may wish to see the truth, to contemplate clearly the Tradition of the apostles manifested throughout the whole world; and we are in a position to reckon up those who were instituted bishops in the churches by the apostles, and [to demonstrate] the succession of these men to our own times; those who neither taught nor knew anything these [heretics] rave about."

—Irenaeus

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***“When Protestants
speak of going to
church... they are not
thinking of a building
but of a congregation.
The congregation,
not the building is
holy... The church
is holy because the
congregation is
the house of God.”
—Edmund Clowney***
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“Servanthood does not nullify leadership; it defines it. Jesus does not cease to be the Lion of Judah when He becomes the lamblike servant of the church.”
—John Piper
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***“Prayer must carry on our work as much
as preaching; he preacheth not heartily
to his people that will not pray for them.”***

—Richard Baxter
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***“But you are
blessed, who by
faith are in the
Church, dwell upon
the foundations
of the faith,
and have full
satisfaction, even
the highest degree
of faith which
remains among
you unshaken.
For it has come
down to you from
apostolic tradition,
and frequently
accursed envy
has wished to
unsettle it, but has
not been able.”
—Athanasius***
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I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.” —Charles Spurgeon
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"The chief danger of the Church today is that it is trying to get on the same side as the world, instead of turning the world upside down. Our Master expects us to accomplish results, even if they bring opposition and conflict. Anything is better than compromise, apathy, and paralysis. God, give to us an intense cry for the old-time power of the Gospel and the Holy Ghost!"
—A.B. Simpsons
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"It is not enough to hear a sermon, but you must eat it down, take in what it commands, and then it will purge your hear... Take the word and digest it, squeeze the juice of it into thy heart, and it will purge thee from all contrary corruption." —Thomas Goodwin
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"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference." —A.W. Tozer
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*"The person who understands the evil in his own heart is the only person who is useful, fruitful, and solid in his beliefs and obedience. Others only delude themselves and thus upset families, churches, and all other relationships. In their self-pride and judgement of others, they show great inconsistency."
—John Owen*
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